

JESUS' BROTHER, CHALLENGES OUR HEARTS

Talk 6 – Who is calling the shots? – James 4:11-17

Small group questions

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

1. Have you ever considered who is truly in control of your decisions and plans?
2. How does acknowledging God's sovereignty impact the way you approach your daily life?

When we humble ourselves before God:

We won't put others down (James 4:11-12)

3. Have you ever been a victim of slander or gossip? How did it feel?
4. Reflect on instances where you may have spoken against others. How does this align with the concept of humility?
5. In what ways do we judge others without knowing their true motives or circumstances?
6. Share experiences where you've seen judgmental attitudes damage relationships in your church or community.
7. Under what circumstances is it appropriate – even necessary – to judge others? What must first take place?

And we won't push God aside (James 4:13-17)

8. How often do you make plans without considering God's will? Why is it easy to overlook God in our plans?
9. Reflect on past experiences where your plans didn't unfold as expected. How did it impact your perspective on life?
10. How does the analogy of life being a mist impact your perspective on the brevity of life? Share personal stories or examples of situations that reminded you of the unpredictability of life.
11. DV & WP! - Do you think incorporating "if the Lord wills" into your daily language help shift your mindset? (Mark suggested something else is needed!)
12. Share personal experiences where surrendering to God's will, led to positive outcomes.

Prayer idea – Heavenly Father, we humbly bow before you, recognizing your sovereignty over our lives. We confess any instances of slander or judgmental attitudes, seeking your forgiveness and grace to transform our speech. Lord, we acknowledge that our plans are in Your hands. Grant us the wisdom to make decisions with a heart surrendered to Your will. May the phrase "if the Lord wills" become a constant reminder in our conversations, guiding our steps and shaping our expectations. Give us grace dear Lord, to humble ourselves before you, so that we won't put others down and we don't push you aside. In Jesus' name. Amen.