



## COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

# Mirrors: The Book of James - Part 7

## *God is in Control*

**LEADER REMINDER:** Starting Point is July 24. Please remind your group to sign up if they have not attended already! It's a great way for them to plug into serving, learn more about baptism opportunities, and covenant membership. Sign up at [mercycharlotte.com/startingpoint](https://mercycharlotte.com/startingpoint).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**LEADER NOTES:** *This is simply a guide to help discussion about the Scripture that was preached over the weekend. You are not bound to it. Ultimately, you know your group best and if God redirects your group's time away from the Community Group Guide that is great. Please do not abandon a fruitful conversation for the sake of getting all the questions answered.*

This weekend we talked about living our lives in light of God's sovereignty. We are quick to trust in ourselves and make plans as if we are in control. James points to the fact that our control is a false reality. God is the one who is in control of our lives. As Christians we are called to rest in the fact that our loving King orders our every step.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

**LEADER NOTES:** *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

## Scripture: Read James 4:13-17

### Observation

1. What is James rebuking his readers for?
  - a. They are making plans for their lives without acknowledging God.
  
2. What does James say is the ultimate sin that they are guilty of?
  - a. Arrogance

### Interpretation

1. Why is it foolish plan our lives as if we are in control?
  - a. Because we are finite, flawed beings. God is in control of everything, including our next breath.
  
2. As Christians, how should our perspective of life change?
  - a. We should see life from God's point of view, with an eternal perspective.
  
3. Why is it better for us to live knowing that God is the one in control?
  - a. It is true reality. Our good and loving God is the one making the decisions and controlling our lives. We can rest in the truth that He knows best and does what is best for us.

### Application

1. On a day to day level, how should an eternal perspective change how we see our lives?
  
2. How do you plan your life in light of God's will?

## **PRAYER**

*Psalm 37:23-24 - "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand."*

God is the one who is in control. This is not something to be upset about. In fact, this is great news for us. We are fickle and He is infinitely wise. His control should fill our hearts with joy. With this hope in mind pray:

1. That our perspectives to be changed to God's eternal point of view.
2. The future plans of Mercy Church to be made in light of God's sovereignty.
3. That we would find great joy and rest in God's control.