



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

March 11, 2018 – James 4:11-5:9 – “How Not to Be a Functional Atheist”

QUESTIONS

(*potential* discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)

1. **Icebreaker:** Give an example of a time when you made plans regarding your future and they completely fell apart? What good came out of that? How did you grow through that experience? What was hard about it?
2. People have historically found it easy to think and talk about God on Sundays, but not so much during the week. *What are some ways you can intentionally submit to the Lordship of Christ in your vocation?*
3. Tony asks and answers—So how do we work in a way that glorifies God and blesses the world? The faithful Christian goes about his or her job *humbly, ethically, and eschatologically.*—*Give specific examples of how you can work in a way that glorifies God and blesses the world?*
4. Why is it so easy to separate God and work? How are you most inclined to live as a functional atheist?
5. How does the realization that your life is a mist (v. 14b) affect the way you plan or how should it affect the way you plan? How does this reality change the way you view small tasks?
6. Sometimes that anger is expressed when plans are changed. What does your common reaction to changed plans reveal about your heart? What eternal realities must we remind ourselves of when our plans change?
7. Tony said, "You may not be oppressing the poor, but are you ignoring the poor?" What concrete way can you advocate for justice/care for the poor in a wise and loving way?
8. (v. 5:3b) What is at the root of hoarding resources? What lies do we functionally believe when we hoard resources?
9. James reminds those who are suffering or those who see suffering that in the end, Jesus wins. What are some of the appropriate responses to this truth? Do you find it easy or difficult to believe it, and why?

(*Special thanks to **Rachel Lane** for her help in compiling these questions.)