

Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James

"Whole People Trust God"

November 13-14, 2021

This provides about one hour of discussion, music and readings. Use the portions you find most valuable.
This is designed as a springboard for discussion and further study.

1. Trusting God is a **frame of mind**.

- Read **James 4:13-17** and **Proverbs 27:1**.
- Author Francis Chan examines this idea: The example James uses specifically refers to "business." But isn't it essential for businesses to do planning? According to this teaching from James, how could a businessperson run a business?
- Have each person **choose one** of these questions to talk about:
 - How did you begin to trust God?
 - How has God shown his trustworthiness to you?
 - Think of a time when you **felt that** God had let you down, though you believed you were only trying to follow "his" plan.
 - What examples come to mind in scripture of people who tried to accomplish God's plan using their own methods?

2. Trusting God means holding my **plans loosely**.

- How does "holding my plans loosely" teach me to trust in God?
- When have I held on to my own plan too tightly? What were the results of that approach?
- Chan suggests that we consider this: What **value** do we get from reminding ourselves that **our plans ultimately depend** on God?

3. Trusting God means living in **God's timeline**.

- Read **James 4:14-15**, **2 Peter 3:8-9**, and **James 5:7-11**.
- Without mechanically needing to say the words, "If the Lord wills," how can we earnestly develop that attitude about our plans?

4. Trusting God means living with **humility**.

- Read **Matthew 5:36-48**. How do these passages reveal our motives and character in ordinary situations? What does this have to do with the words of James?
- Read **James 4:16**, **Psalms 39:4-7**, **Psalms 90:12**, and **Psalms 144:3-4**. When we are compared to a "mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes," how does this impact you? Why do you think James uses that illustration/metaphor?

5. Trusting God is responding to the **knowledge you have**.

- Read **James 4:17**. How are you learning to obey God when he "nudges" you?

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.

Close with reading **Proverbs 3:3-7** and listen to the theme-related song:

- ***"I Will Trust My Savior Jesus"***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEfN8A4wpbM>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.