

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, August 15, 2021

**How to Plan in Uncertain Times
A Study of James 4:13-15**

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In your life, what personal or business plans have been disrupted during the last 16 months of pandemic restrictions?

Have someone read James 4:13-15, then answer these questions:

From verse 13, list the elements of the “business plan.”

In verse 14, what was James’ evaluation of this plan?

In verse 15, what did James tell us to say as we plan for the future?

“If the Lord wills” means (pick one and explain your answer):

“Knock on wood”

God will bless your plans if they have a religious purpose

God will bless your plans if you seek his approval first

We don’t control the future but God does

Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks below.

First: The wise plan with c_____.

Do insurance policies and contingency funds betray a lack of faith in God's ability to take care of us? Why or why not?

Have someone read Proverbs 22:3. How can this verse help us understand cautious planning?

Second: The wise plan with c_____.

Pastor Tom said our values are more important than our vision. What does this mean?

What are some values of our church?

Third: The wise plan with c_____.

Have someone read Proverbs 27:17.

How have relationships helped you better deal with difficult times?

Fourth: The wise plan with c_____.

Have someone read 2 Timothy 1:7. What are the three things God gives us to replace our fears?

Pastor Tom said we need to be a “thermostat” instead of a “thermometer.” What does this mean?

Fifth: The wise plan with c_____.

How does faith in God help us remain confident as we head into our uncertain future?

Concluding Question

At the beginning of the sermon, Pastor Tom quoted a 31-year-old audiovisual technician named Sean who has given up on planning: “At some point another catastrophe beyond my ability to predict or control is going to occur and upend all my plans. So, why bother long-term planning when this is how the world works?” Based on what we’ve learned today, what would you say to Sean?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests.