



3. The term “judge” or “judgment” is used frequently in this short passage. What does judging or judgment mean in this particular context? How is this different from other kinds of judgment that we are called to do, such as what is described in John 7: 24?
  
4. What does verse 12 say to a person who criticizes or accuses another Christian? What does the question at the end of this verse imply? Contrast this question with the question beginning James 3:13.
  
5. When you are ready to criticize or speak evil of someone, what should you remember? What can you say instead? (See Ephesians 4:29; 5:4 and Romans 14:19) A question to think about: How careful am I when speaking to or about others?

### **DAY 3 – James 4:13-14**

1. What presumptions or attitudes are reflected in a person who makes the statement described in verse 13?
  
2. Read Genesis 39:2-3 and 7-9. Contrast Joseph’s attitude with the attitude expressed in James 4: 13.
  
3. The people specifically being addressed by James were Christian Jewish business merchants who traveled throughout the world and carried on a lucrative trade. How were these Christians acting no differently from the rest of the world? Are there contemporary examples of this?
  
4. According to verse 14, what are these business people forgetting? What is this verse saying about the nature of human life? What is the main point of James’ answer?

## **DAY 4 – James 4:15-16**

1. In contrast to the attitude reflected in verse 13, what does verse 15 suggest about the attitude we should have when we consider the activities and responsibilities of our lives—both in our professional and business lives and in our day to day activities beyond our jobs or professions? How does Proverbs 3:5-6 contribute to our understanding of James 4:15?
2. Is James saying that we should constantly say this phrase about God’s will? If not, what is he saying?
3. In verse 16, James returns to the attitude reflected in verse 13. How does he describe it here? What does he say it is? If James is not condemning international business trading or planning our business dealings in these verses, what is he saying?

### *To Dig Deeper: God’s will*

“In the broadest sense, God’s will is expressed in all the commands and principles of Scripture” (*James* by John MacArthur, page 78). This includes that people be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), that we be Spirit-filled (Ephesians 5:17-18), and that we love the Lord with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37). How are we to do God’s will? See Ephesians 6:6, Colossians 1:9-10 and Hebrews 13:20-21. How does a concern for the will of God demonstrate our belief in His sovereignty? See Deuteronomy 32:39; Job 12:9-10; and Psalm 104:29.

## **DAY 5 – James 4:17**

1. We tend to think of sin as doing wrong. What is James telling us is also sin?
2. How does this verse relate to verses 13-16?

3. What connection does this verse have to what James has taught in James 4:1-10?

*To Dig Deeper:* How does James 4:17 relate to what James has taught so far in chapters 1-4?

## DAY 6

1. Identify a verse in this passage that is particularly meaningful to you, write it down, and memorize it. (perhaps verse 17 or 11)
2. Write down two or three things that this passage teaches us about what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus Christ.
3. Think about a song or hymn that relates to the ideas in this passage. Perhaps these words from “All For Jesus”

*All for Jesus, all for Jesus!  
All my being's ransomed pow'rs"  
All my tho'ts and words and doings,  
All my days and all my hours:  
All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
All my days and all my hours.*

*Let my hands perform His bidding,  
Let my feet run in His ways;  
Let my eyes see Jesus only,  
Let my lips speak forth His praise:*

or these words from “I Am Resolved”

*I am resolved to follow the Savior,  
Faithful and true each day;  
Hed what He sayeth, do what He willeth –  
He is the living way.*