

James 4:13-17

- Making plans without consulting God is risky business - 4:13
- Minimizing the peril of life's shortness is a radical blunder - 4:14
- Moving forward in pursuit of God's will is the right bearing for life - 4:15
- Missing out by disobeying God's purpose is rebel behavior (sin) - 4:16

A LIFE ILLUSTRATION

- The certainty of God's call
- The complexity of God's call
- The confirmation of God's call
- The consequences of God's call

I CANNOT FORGET...

I've been commissioned to go!

I've been called to be Christ's ambassador.

I am compelled to share!

THE CHALLENGE FOR EVERY BELIEVER: Moving from Mental Assent to Meaningful Action James 4:13-17 November 22, 2015

Definition of "missional": the adoption of the posture, thinking and practices of a missionary in order to engage others with the gospel message.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT EVERY BELIEVER BEING "MISSIONAL" IN ATTITUDE?

- Matthew 28:18-20: I've been I've been commissioned to go.
- II Corinthians 5:17-20: I've been called to be Christ's ambassador.
- I John 3:16-17: I am compelled to share.

HOW DOES THE BIBLE STIR US TO 'MISSIONAL' ACTION?

James 2:17 "...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by works is dead."

We do not do works to merit salvation or to maintain salvation; authentic faith is manifested in and by our works.

Philippians 2:13 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

**THE CHALLENGE FOR EVERY BELIEVER:
Moving from Mental Assent to Meaningful Action
James 4:13-17 November 22, 2015**

CONNECTING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

Take some time in your group for a few people to share their stories of participating on short or long term mission trips. How did you see God at work?

GRAPPLING WITH THE WORD TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

1. Think about what being “missional” means to you. In what ways does this idea affect your mindset and lifestyle?
2. In the Great Commission we are given a huge task. Discuss our job description and what resources we are provided to accomplish it.
3. II Corinthians 5:17-20 says “we are Christ’s ambassadors”. In evaluating that distinction, what does it mean to you? Discuss its implications for the kingdom of Christ in this world.
4. I John 3:16-18 refers to the “love of God” in us. How should that impact our choices and actions?

5. James 4:13-17 makes at least four significant statements about life. Which one is most meaningful to you? Tell how thinking about it affects your approach to life. Does it compel any re-evaluations?
6. In what ways does Jesus distinguish the wise from the foolish builders in Luke 6:46-49.
7. Dale’s illustration of the certainty, complexity, confirmation and consequences of God’s call are reflective of his work in Haiti. Do you have a story about a time when God may have called or impressed you to a certain “missional” activity in your life?

FAMILY FOCUS THIS WEEK

A way to apply God’s Word in our households together (roommates, housemates, families, couples)

Sometime this week, make an opportunity to share/discuss this question...

II Corinthians 5:17-20 says “we are Christ’s ambassadors”. In what ways can you be an ambassador for Christ over this holiday season to the people in your life who need Him?

PRAYING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

- Pray for one another that we might display the love of Christ from a missional mindset, seeking evermore to be ambassadors of Christ during this holiday season and beyond.
- Share prayer requests together and pray for one another in light of Philippians 4:6-7.