

James 4:13-17  
Application Questions

1. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and consider the sustaining and loving nature of Yahweh in relation to his children. This section of Jesus' sermon highlights the nature of how circumstances can unravel our faith, but Jesus reminds us of our Heavenly Father who is not unraveled by circumstances, but the one who is in control of all things. As you read this passage, highlight all the activities of God (the verbs) and keep the question of v. 26 at the forefront of your mind (*Are you not of more value than they?*).
2. Read Luke 18:9-14 and consider your boastful heart. This is the story of a Pharisee and a Tax collector that Jesus uses to demonstrate the nature of humility. As you read this passage, consider your own heart in relation to a boastful, arrogant spirit? Who do you most resemble in the passage? The centerpiece of our pride and arrogance comes from the result of our spiritual dementia. We tend to forget the Gospel and the consequence of such dementia is a puffed up, arrogant, and selfish heart. Think about your life and ask yourself the question, "What have I contributed to the Gospel? Do you have any reason to boast before the Lord?"
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and consider the activity of God. What word appears over and over in this passage? What is the counterintuitive nature of this passage? What is Paul's ultimate driving force in these 5 verses and how does this relate to James 4:13-17?