

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### James 4:11-17

#### For Starting

- What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten when on holiday?
- Which celebrity do you follow in the news? Why?
- When did God become real to you?
- What is your most fervent, impassioned prayer?
- What stood out for you when you read this Bible passage?

#### For Reviewing

- What does James say is the consequence of slander (v.11)?
- How many Lawgivers / Judges are there (v.12)?
- What activity is James focusing on in v.13?
- What picture does James use to describe the frailty of life (v.14)? Do you think this is a good description?
- Who does James say should be fully included in our planning processes (v.15)? What phrase does he recommend?
- Does James consider boast a good or a bad thing (v.16)? Suggest other words for "boasting".
- How does James define "sin" in v.17? What is your definition?

#### For Discussion

- If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, in what ways would your attitude towards life be different today?
- How do we tend to build ourselves up by criticising others?
- How can a proper attitude toward God (v.12) enable us to have a proper attitude towards others? (See also 1 John 4:7)
- How do you feel about your life being like a "mist" (v14)?
- "*God does not reveal His will to the curious or the careless, but to those who are ready and willing to obey Him.*" Do you agree? Why or why not? What are the consequences of this statement?
- How easy is for Christians to criticise/defame each other? How can you avoid this pitfall?
- You could end by reading together James 4:14

## **James 4:11-17 (NIVUK)**

<sup>11</sup> Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbour?

### **Boasting about tomorrow**

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.