



Shorter Study

■ **Open the session with prayer**

■ **Read together James 4:13-17**

- What is this passage saying about making plans? Is it a hopeless cause for Christian leaders to make plans for their ministries?
- How does the instruction of James 4:13-17 compare with James 1:5-8? Does “seeking wisdom” and “making plans” clash? What is the shared source of “wisdom” and “plans” in both passages?
- How would you answer the objection “we shouldn’t have ‘vision or mission statements’ for a church” because a) we shouldn’t try to predict what God will do; or b) the church is not like a company that uses vision/mission statements? How should church eldership think about the idea of making plans for the church?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 6: Applying your Theological Vision”.**

When we want to apply a plan for our church, elders should:

1. Evaluate
2. Communicate
3. Initiate

Reflection Questions:

1. Does your current church culture align with your theological vision? What areas are you pleased with? What needs more attention?
2. Murray said, “it’s almost impossible to over-communicate”, do you agree? What are the most effective ways you can communicate with your congregation?
3. Can you list 2-3 of the most important changes you’d like to make to your church in the light of this eldership training program so far? How will you start with making these changes as an eldership team? Do you have a plan in place?

■ **Close in prayer**



Longer Study

■ **Open the session with prayer**

■ **Read together James 4:13-17**

- What is this passage saying about making plans? Is it a hopeless cause for Christian leaders to make plans for their ministries?
- How does the instruction of James 4:13-17 compare with James 1:5-8? Does “seeking wisdom” and “making plans” clash? What is the shared source of “wisdom” and “plans” in both passages?
- How would you answer the objection “we shouldn’t have ‘vision or mission statements’ for a church” because a) we shouldn’t try to predict what God will do; or b) the church is not like a company that uses vision/mission statements? How should church eldership think about the idea of making plans for the church?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 6: Applying your Theological Vision”.**

When we want to apply a plan for our church, elders should:

1. Evaluate
2. Communicate
3. Initiate

Evaluate:

1. What would the people in your church say is driving the church?
2. Are you starting to get a good grasp of your theological vision for ministry as an eldership team? What makes you say that?
3. Does your current church culture align with your theological vision? What areas are you pleased with? What needs more attention?

Communicate:

4. Does your eldership team “talk about the church you want to be” to your members? Is there a strategy in place about how you communicate these things?
5. Murray said, “it’s almost impossible to over-communicate”, do you agree? What are the most effective ways you can communicate with your congregation?
6. What are the things that are important to communicate to your church on a consistent basis?



Initiate:

7. Initiating change can be a painful thing. Can you think of a situation when this was done poorly? What about when it was done well? Describe the circumstances.
8. What are good principles to keep in mind when you want to start initiating change?
9. Can you list 2-3 of the most important changes you'd like to make to your church in the light of this eldership training program so far? How will you start with making these changes as an eldership team? Do you have a plan in place?

■ Close in prayer

Notes:
