



# Discussion Guide

## March 8, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p><b>Welcome Those Untimely Change of Plans</b>            Cliff Barrows has served as Billy Graham's lifelong associate and crusade song leader. In 1945, before he met Billy Graham, Barrows and his fiancée, Billie, had scraped together enough funds for a simple wedding and two train tickets to a city with a resort hotel. Upon arrival, however, they found the hotel shut down. Stranded in an unfamiliar city with little money they thumbed a ride. A sympathetic driver took them to a grocery store owned by a woman he knew. The newlyweds spent their first night in a room above the store.</p> <p>The next day, when the lady overheard Cliff playing Christian songs on his trombone, she arranged for them to spend the rest of their honeymoon at a friend's house. Several days later the host invited them to attend a youth rally where a young evangelist was speaking. The song leader that night was sick, and Cliff was asked to take charge of the music for the service. The young evangelist, of course, was Billy Graham. The two have been partners ever since. When things don't go the way you plan, God may have plans for you of His own. Plans far greater than we could ever imagine!</p>	<p>Helpful Hint: Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.</p>
<p><b>Discussion Kick Off</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell of a time when a situation did not play out the way you had imagined (for the worse or better) and share with your group. Ex: Flight delayed or someone leaving Disney World gave you his or her extra tickets.</li> <li>2. What is your system of self-organization: Smart Phone, Daytimer, Piler or Filer?</li> </ol>	<p>If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Woody Allen</p>
<p><b>Evaluate It</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the attitude behind the quote in 4:13? When have you recently heard someone say something like this?</li> <li>2. What warning did James give to those who make plans for the future? What sinful actions often accompany making plans for the future?</li> <li>3. Why do we need to keep our plans submissive to God's will?</li> <li>4. What are some past decisions in either your personal life or that of your church where you now wonder if God was left out of the decision making process?</li> <li>5. Why is God not satisfied that we simply know to do good?</li> </ol>	<p>Read James 4:13-17. Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p>
<p><b>Make It Personal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much room is there within your plans and your will for His plans and His will if they happen to be different than yours?</li> <li>2. What are some things you can you do to place your plans and your future in God's hands? How do we plan and set goals for the future in such a way that God is pleased and honored?</li> </ol>	
<p>You may have wondered or often asked the age old question, "How do I know God's will?" This question may be best answered by these words from Warren Wiersbe. He wrote, "You start with the thing you know you ought to do and you do that. Then God opens the way for the next step." In other words if you want God's "custom" will for your life, first seek to carry out His "common" (His basic desires He has made known to everyone) will for your life.</p>	<p>At the end of the discussion, take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
  - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
  - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or [jason@fcctown.com](mailto:jason@fcctown.com).

If you would like to talk with a minister,  
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones [stuart@fcctown.com](mailto:stuart@fcctown.com) Senior Minister

Chris Kiger [chris@fcctown.com](mailto:chris@fcctown.com) Student Minister

Jason Fox [jason@fcctown.com](mailto:jason@fcctown.com) Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell [doug@fcctown.com](mailto:doug@fcctown.com) Connections Minister

Tim Hurd [tim@fcctown.com](mailto:tim@fcctown.com) Children's Minister

Shannon Smith [Shannon@fcctown.com](mailto:Shannon@fcctown.com) Assistant Children's Director