

#9 Who's the Boss of You?

Introduction: There would be few who claim to be God. Those that do, are sadly living out their lives in mental institutions!! Yet most of us at some time - maybe way too often - play God. We meddle in the lives of others as if we know everything about them and that we are powerful enough to change them. We make arrogant promises about what we will do in our lives (as if they are our own 1 Corinthians 6:19-20) without giving a thought to God, nor praying about our decisions. James faces this head on, and encourages us to come under the will of God and include Him in our plans.

Play and listen to... “Build my Life” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE

Pray: for the outpouring the Spirit of God on your meeting together.

Read: James 4:11-17

Play video: <https://youtu.be/YKYRsvjHZmk>

Share for 1 min each what your “take away” thought is from this video

Thoughts to share:

- Have you ever made a significant choice in your life without asking God first? Share. (For example - new job choice, moving house, financial investment, church ministry, school for kids etc)
- Read Matthew 7:1-6. Have you been guilty of judging another person (even in your thinking) without knowing the full story or doing some self awareness reflection and confession?
- Discuss the potential consequences of playing God in people's lives (vv 11-12) and playing God with your decision making process (vv13-17).
- “ Sometimes we live as if God does not exist. We conduct our business day to day without thinking a lot about what God wants. We make our plans based on our hopes and dreams, not God's. We may have a rather moral code of conduct, but we're not responding to God's daily guidance.” Is this true of you? How so?
- Why should we be careful about speaking the name of “the Lord” (see v15) and what should we have done before we even utter His name?

Consider... God wants to be included in every single aspect of our lives... in fact... He demands it! What would it look like for you this week if you were to bring everything under His Lordship, asking Him about the decisions that you will make about your resources, the practice of your faith, your family, your work, and your relationships (to name a few). ? To be submissive to our Heavenly Father who loves us and only desires the best for us, requires that we say with confidence and conviction: There is no area in my life, that God doesn't get to say “MINE”!!

Pray... commit in a fresh way to bring every thought captive and make it obedient to Jesus (2 Corinthians 10:5, listen to what He says, and be obedient to His answer.