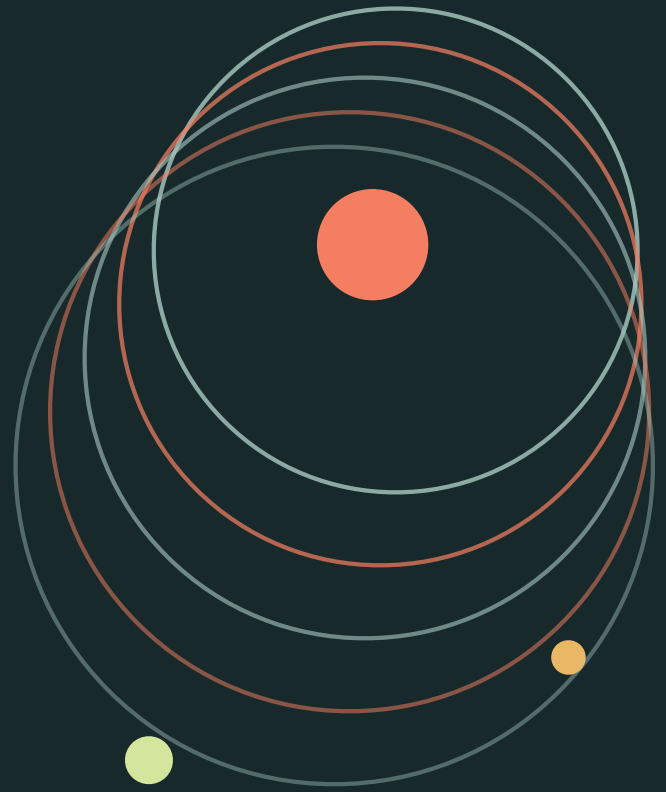
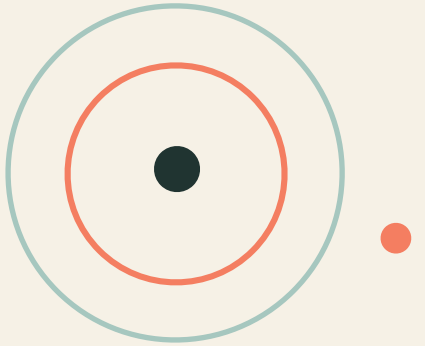
GOD ADJACENT



WHEN JESUS IS NEAR OUR LIVES BUT NOT AT THE CENTER

JAMES 4:13–17 / 5:1–11



Can God be present in our language...

and absent from our decisions?

A question about allegiance, not religious vocabulary

THREE REVEALING POSTURES

01 — 02 — 03

THE FUTURE

What I can control

THE WEALTH

What I can keep

THE WAITING

Whom I will trust

James 4:13–17 → James 5:1–6 → James 5:7–11

"Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

JAMES 4:13 · NIV

"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."

JAMES 4:14 · NIV

“If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

JAMES 4:15 · NIV

Not a phrase we attach
to our plans.

A posture that can CHANGE them.

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

It is possible to be busy doing good things while avoiding the good we already know.

JAMES 4:17 · NIV

What are you protecting that obedience to Jesus might interrupt?

A plan? A reputation? A relationship? A version of success?

Discuss in pairs · 3 minutes



"Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty."

JAMES 5:4 · NIV

God hears what power tries to silence.

The wages cry out.
The workers cry out.
The Lord hears.

Read alongside Deuteronomy 24:14–15 and the prophets

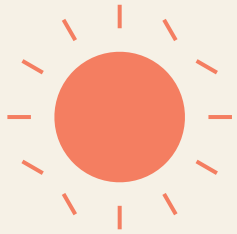
"You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter."

What have we learned to call a "blessing" that Jesus might call a compromise?

JAMES 5:5 · NIV

"See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

JAMES 5:7-8 · NIV



The farmer can plant.

The farmer cannot command the rain.

When outcomes are beyond your control,
what does faithfulness still ask of you?

James 5:9 also warns us not to turn our pain against each other



“The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

The center of our faith is not our ability to control life, but the character of God.

JAMES 5:11 · NIV



IS JESUS THE CENTER...

OR JUST CLOSE ENOUGH?

Surrender a plan. Repair an injustice. Practice patient trust.

James 4:17 · What good do you already know to do?