

## BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

### 10.4/5.08 // OUT OF CONTROL FUTURE? Trust God for Your Future.

#### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

Option 1: What predictions could you make for 10 years from now? It could be about world conditions, technology, inventions; or it could be about your own life — what do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

Option 2: If you had only one month to live, what are some things you would do? What have you always “intended” to do, but have never gotten around to?

#### // Questions \_\_\_\_\_

Would you say you are more of a pessimist or an optimist? Why?

Read James 4:13-16

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.” 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. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

What are some everyday examples of living as a “practical atheist,” of leaving God out of our planning?

Are you assuming anything about your future that may be presumptuous? How does thinking about the fact that you are not guaranteed a tomorrow affect your priorities?

Read these Proverbs:

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:21

We can make our own plans, but the LORD gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives. Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:1-3

You can make many plans, but the LORD’s purpose will prevail. Proverbs 19:21

What are the conditions of success? How do our ideas of success differ from God’s?

Who do you seek out for Godly wisdom, and why?

Read James 4:17

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.

What are some examples of sins of omission — not doing the good we ought?

What are some things you may be putting off until “tomorrow” that you really need to

do "now"?

Read Matthew 6:31-34 (NLT)

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

How do we balance the need to plan for the future, and to not worry about the future? What's the difference between "worry" and "concern"?  
What about the future is causing some concern for you right now?

**// Prayer**\_\_\_\_\_

We're told in Scripture that instead of worrying, we should pray about everything. Pray for the troubles you are facing today. Pray for one another's concerns.