Efficiency Doesn’t Hold Water
‘Holy Buckets’

Note: You may find the Message Podcasts & Group Guides in this series at actschurchlakeway.com. This is all also found on the ACTS Lakeway smartphone app available for download in the app store of your phone or tablet today.

Group Connection Point
The seasons will officially change on September 22nd. What are you most looking forward to in leaving summer and heading into fall? What are you most upset about leaving behind?

Group Discussion Questions for ‘Efficiency Doesn’t Hold Water’

1. How would you define efficiency? What is an example where you see that work in your everyday life?

2. When was the last time in your life you were working towards a certain plan and then the plan fell apart? What was the cause of your plan not happening? What could you have done differently?

Read James 4:13-17

3. If we find in verse 14 that we do not know what will happen tomorrow, is that truth reflected in how we live? So does this make planning obsolete? How so?

4. There is the temptation for some of us to over plan our lives. This, like many things in life, is something that is good but could become bad and even an idol for us. How might this become idolatry for us?

5. Read verse 15. The opposite of the idol of efficiency is not chaos and no thought in your planning, it is what? What could that realistically look like for you?

6. As well meaning Christians, what is a good we ‘ought to do’ but sometimes do not do? Why does that go left undone if we know we are called for that specific task in our Christian walk?

Read Proverbs 16:9

7. When you read this verse, what comes to mind? How might this speak to you specifically this week?

8. Much of this issue comes down to control. We aim to be in control of our life and in turn the result. Read Philippians 4:6-7. These verses remind us about control in our relationship with Christ. Where should it lie? What does life look like when that is lived out?

Close in prayer
Individual Journaling and Reflection Questions for ‘Efficiency Doesn’t Hold Water’

Read Proverbs 16:18

• What comes to mind when you read this verse? How do you see this in your life right now?
• This verse is followed by verse 19 where we read that it is, ‘better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed then to share plunder with the proud.’ Why is pride so easy to associate with efficiency?
• Is it easy or hard for you to let go of control? Does your control always lead to success? What can be learned from this?

Prayer for The Story Continues ‘Efficiency Doesn’t Hold Water’

As you take time to pray in your small group or throughout the week on your own, here are some ideas and concepts to focus your time:

• Pray for calm and peace in your life. That your focus will be on God and not on the volume of your accomplishments.
• Ask for wisdom for God on how and when to plan. Pray for the boldness then to adjust when life does not work out how you thought.
• Pray with a joyful heart for the times that you do not have control because those are the moments where your trust and faith in God will grow by relying on Him.