

(For the leader – I have covered the whole chapter even though the first part was not covered on Sunday. However, the questions, other than question 2, still apply).

JAMES 5

WARM-UP

Either: Ask the group to share ways in which they have been able to put their faith into action.

Or: How can we keep a focus on eternal things? Do you find it hard to see the supernatural (spiritual realities) in day-to-day things?

READ 5:1-20 or 7-20 as you have time.

1. What is the fact underlying the warnings of James to the rich and his counsel to the poor? (*Eternity – living for heaven not earth*). Do we, in whatever state we are, share this perspective? What reality should be ours in living?
2. *OPTIONAL* What warnings should we take from v 1-6 about wealth? How can we avoid being under this same judgement?

PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE

3. James was speaking to a church under persecution. Why does he emphasise being patient? Can patience be an active posture?
4. Why is the analogy of growing crops a good metaphor for being patient? (*Can't control the weather but actively nourishing the plants*). What harvest can we reap? (*character, faith, endurance - Look also at Rom 5:4, Eph 6:9, James 3:18*)

PRAYER

5. What are the conditions of effective prayer laid down here? Read also Hebrews 11:6, Matt 18:20 and John 15:7.
6. Elders prayer – is this something we should be doing in our church? How do you feel about anointing with oil? (*Oil is a symbol of being set apart for God.*)
7. Do we think that God hears all our prayers? How does this passage help us when prayers are not apparently answered? (*Our part is to pray, God's part is to answer, whether now or later*)
8. Following Elijah - What bold prayers could we be praying today? Eph 1: 19-20.
9. Looking at verses 19-20, are there people who have wandered from the truth that you could reach out to?

ACTION: PRAY TOGETHER OR IN SMALLER GROUPS REFLECTING ON THE POINTS BELOW

LIVE 37 40

TROUBLE: ask for prayer
JOY: share/pray in thanks
CONFESSION: write down on cross/ask for prayer
SICKNESS: prayer from our elders

“Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together.”
- Charles Finney

freedom