

STUDYING THE BOOK OF JAMES
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 9 - Warning to Rich Oppressors - James 5:1-6

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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JAS 5:1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. [2] Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. [3] Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. [4] Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. [5] You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. [6] You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - Warning to Rich Oppressors - James 5:1-6

89. Whom did James address in this passage? Why? (5:1)
90. What warning did James give to rich people? (5:1-3)
91. What misfortune lies ahead for the wealthy? (5:1-3)
92. Who should "weep and wail"? Why? (5:1-6)
93. What will happen to all the possessions of the wealthy? (5:2-3)
94. What attitude does God have toward hoarding wealth? (5:3)
95. For what reasons will the rich be punished? (5:4-6)
96. Who have been the victims of rich people? (5:4-6)
97. How have rich people hurt others? (5:4-6)
98. What do luxury and self-indulgence have to do with the trouble that lies ahead for rich people? (5:5)

Lesson 10 - Patience in Suffering - James 5:7-12

JAS 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. [8] You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [9] Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

JAS 5:10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

JAS 5:12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 10 - Patience in Suffering - James 5:7-12

99. What do we need to do as we wait for the Lord's return to earth? (5:7)
100. What illustration did James use to describe the kind of patience we need? (5:7)
101. When will the Lord's coming occur? (5:8)
102. Why should we be patient about Christ's return? (5:8)
103. Why should we avoid judging others or grumbling against them? (5:9)
104. What will happen to Christians who grumble against their fellow believers? (5:9)
105. What people serve as good examples to us? How? (5:10-11)
106. In what ways does God help us when we must endure suffering? (5:11)
107. What warning did James give concerning swearing? (5:12)
108. What is the alternative to swearing? (5:12)

Lesson 11 - The Prayer of Faith - James 5:13-20

JAS 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for

each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

JAS 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

JAS 5:19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, [20] remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 11 - The Prayer of Faith - James 5:13-20

109. What should a person do when he or she is in trouble? Why? (5:13, 15)
110. What should a person do when he or she is happy? Why? (5:13, 15)
111. What should a person do when he or she is sick? Why? (5:14-15)
112. Why is prayer important? (5:15)
113. What are the elders of the church to do for someone who is sick? Why? (5:14-15)
114. How can prayer affect a person's health? (5:15)
115. How can a person have his or her sins forgiven? (5:15)
116. Why should we confess our sins to one another? (5:16)
117. What is the effect of a righteous person's prayers? (5:16)
118. Who is a good example of how God answers prayer? How? (5:17-18)
119. What is a Christian's responsibility toward a fellow believer who has wandered away from the truth? (5:19)
120. What is the benefit of helping a person get back into following the truth? (5:20)

Bibliography

New International Version
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