

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### Service, Not Self-Indulgence

#### APPLY // JAMES 4:13-17

**Main Idea:** Our vision of the good life causes us to live in prideful presumption upon God or compels us to live in humble submission to God.

1. Read James 4:1-17.
2. What's James' main point throughout this passage? What's his emphasis in verses 13-17?
3. What's evil with the plans being made in verse 13? How might we be tempted to plan our lives in the same way?
4. James reminds us we don't know what tomorrow brings and life is but a mist. How does this reality both provide humility and confidence?
5. What does verse 15 reveal about the Lord's character? How does his character compel us to live for his will and not our own? How does this affect our planning and decision making especially when deciding between things that are "permissible" and things that are "profitable"?

#### OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 5:1-6

**Main Idea:** Riches will fade and those who live by and trust in them will be judged.

1. Read James 5:1-6.
2. How does this passage connect to what we previously read in James 4:1-17?
3. James writes, "Come now, you rich..." Who are the rich people James is talking about?
4. James tells them to "weep and howl." What does this mean and why does James tell them to do this?
5. What does James say our material possessions will come to? What will this reveal on judgement day?
6. Is it merely the fact that we have comfort/material possessions/luxury that is bad? What makes them bad?
7. What does verse 4 reveal about God's character?
8. How do verses 4-5 connect to what James discusses in 3:13-18 regarding "self?" What is the fundamental issue with our interactions with people and/or things?
9. Verse 5 says, "you have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence." Is luxury inherently bad? What does James mean they have lived in self-indulgence?
10. Verse 5 says, "you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter." What does this mean? What is the implication?
11. What is the encouragement for the "righteous person?" Where is our true identity from (2:5)?
12. Skipping ahead to next week, what does verse 7 encourage us to do instead of live on earth in luxury and self-indulgence?
13. According to Matthew 6:19-34, where should we lay up treasure in the last days and why are we able to do so (vs. storing up earthly treasures)?
14. How does the gospel compel us to live in sacrificial service not self-indulgence?

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in

the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** How are you doing? How's your love for Jesus? Follow up from previous weeks.