

As you do this study together please be careful not to limit wealth to your bank balance. Consider all the areas/assets of wealth you may have, regardless of whether they are easily accessible or not.

1) When you hear the word "rich," who or what comes to mind? Does the word "rich" ever feel like it applies to you?

Read James 5:1-6

2) James doesn't hold back here. What specific accusations does he level against the rich in these six verses, and who does he say is watching or listening?

Some think James may be describing wealthy people outside the church rather than believers in it. They may be the ones causing the suffering of Christians (v7-10). However, it also can still apply to how wealth is a spiritual danger to us.

3) Reading through the verses again how do they confront and challenge us in the way we seek and use wealth? *When discussing this try not to bring in examples of those who might seem far wealthier than you. Instead focus on your own circumstances of wealth.*

a) Hoarding/accumulating wealth (v2-3)

b) Oppressing others (v4, 6)

c) Self indulgence/Luxury (v5)

Read James 4:17.

4) This verse directly precedes James accusations against the rich. How do they connect with each other and guide us in how we should actually be considering our own wealth?

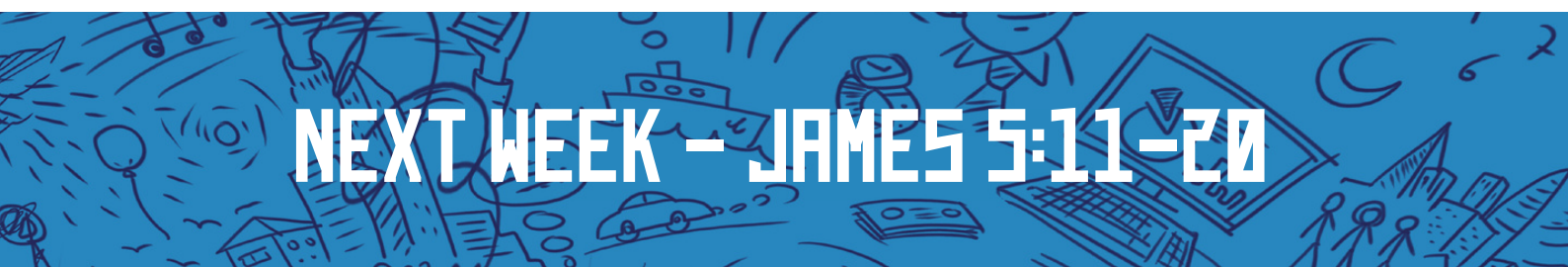
5) Take 5 minutes on your own and do an honest spiritual audit when it comes to your own wealth.

- *What am I making money for?*
- *What am I saving for?*
- *What am I spending on?*

While you might not share these things with the group, has it highlighted areas you might need to reconsider and seek God's wisdom?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6) How does this help guide your thinking and actions about wealth?



NEXT WEEK – JAMES 5:11-20