

# James: Practical Discipleship for Everyone

## 5. James 5

**Aim:** To challenge our attitudes toward wealth and to reveal the grace available to us to repent and change.

1. James doesn't hold back on his admonishment! What have we learned or worked out already (from chapters 1-4) about the churches he is writing to and their attitudes and behaviours?
2. Read James 5.1-6.
  - a. What attitudes and behaviours does he uncover here?
  - b. In what ways does he seem to expect the believers to change?
  - c. Hand out pieces of paper for individuals to 'journal' their thoughts, prayers etc and ask two questions.
    - i. In what ways are his rebukes relevant to you?
    - ii. What are you going to do to change your attitudes and behaviours?
    - iii. Keep those thoughts to yourself just while we look at the final passage for encouragement.
3. The believers seem to be and feel weak, in various ways, but James offers them encouragement about where to find strength and how to endure.
  - a. Read James 5.7-20 and list all the ways that they have access to power and strength God's way.
  - b. Which of these do you need to grasp on to in your times of weakness?
  - c. Which of these could you use more than you do to encourage one another/other believers who feel weak?
4. Wisdom round up (perhaps in single sex groups?). James 5.16 commands us to confess our sins to one another and

pray so we might be healed. (Richard Foster's book 'Celebration of Discipline' has a good chapter on Confession and how to do it).

- a. Share with one another some of the ways in which God has challenged you today and in this series.
- b. Talk about how others in cell could help you to live a life of wisdom and godliness in those areas.
- c. Pray for one another.
- d. Help people to receive God's grace by playing a song and reading Hebrews 4.14-16 (or similar).