

review it *(Revisit the weekly rituals and follow-up on the last gathering)*

- Look over the last session's Action Step Journal and ask how it went. Share as honestly as you can. It's not meant to cause shame or guilt, rather, a community of care.
- Try to recite last week's memory verse.
- Try to recite the series memory verse, James 1:22.

hear it *(Slow down and hear the Word)*

Read James 5:1-6 aloud (twice if possible, using two different translations).

- ASK: What word, phrase, or image stands out to you and why?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about God?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about humanity?

check the mirror *(Help the group examine themselves honestly by asking questions)*

- **starting easy:**
 - If money was no object, what is the first thing you get?
 - What's the most wild "rich person" thing you've ever seen (or secretly wanted), and why was that... compelling enough to make it your answer?
- **a look at the book:**
 - In the sermon, we heard this is James speaking *like* an Old Testament prophet in a way—someone who's calling out a mighty injustice purveyed by wealthy oppressors... surely to non-believers because followers of Christ would have it figured out, right? We know who he's talking to: Jewish Christians. So we're listening in on a curious perspective, letting this warning teach us something.
 - What words or images in verses 1-3 hit you the hardest and what do they reveal about what time does to "stored up" treasure?
 - In verse 4, what exactly is the sin, and what does it mean that unpaid wages and the workers' cries "reach the ears of the Lord?"

- Verses 5-6 describe luxury, self-indulgence, and crushing of the innocent. What kinds of power does James assume these people have, and how are they using it? (*Look at things like money, position, influence, leverage*).
- **wading further in:**
 - The passage targets oppressors. Are you one? How can you “glean” from this passage? Do you have even the slightest of tendencies? What are they?
 - Where do you see the “hoarding” impulse show up most easily today? (*money, time, possessions, emotional energy, opportunities*),
 - What does it do to your soul over time?
 - Practical question: when have you been tempted to justify being “shrewd” at someone else’s expense, and what would repentance look like there?
 - The sermon contrasted trust in wealth versus trust in God. What are the signs that your hope has quietly shifted from God to your “number on a page”?
Cross reference: 1 Timothy 6

wisdom in action (*Apply wisdom principles to life situations.*)

- How to “live rich” without getting ruined. A big warning from the text (and sermon besides) is that wealth has unique spiritual dangers, but God “richly provides... for our enjoyment,” and also calls us to generosity, humility, and grounded hope in Him.
- Which is the bigger temptation for you right now?
 - Arrogance (feeling superior)
 - False security (trusting money)
 - Self-indulgence (using it all on yourself)
- ...why?
- What would it look like for you to create “margin” this month so you can respond to need and opportunity without panic or slavery to debt?
- If you asked Jesus, “Am I rich toward God?” (*look at the Luke 12 language from the sermon*), what evidence would you point to and what evidence would challenge you?

put it to work (*Move from talk to action*)

This week’s practice: **give**.

Generosity is one of the simplest ways God loosens money’s grip on our hearts and retrains us to trust Him.

- What is one specific, concrete “off the top” gift you can make this week that may cost something (or even nothing), but reminds you God is your hope?

weekly rituals

(Do these in whatever order—be sure to move through them)

- Weekly Memory Verse:

“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.” James 5:1

Action Step Journal: *Be sure to take some notes here.*

- Series memory verse:

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

pray

Confess and repent where money has become my security, comfort, or identity.

Ask Him for integrity and compassion.

Ask God for contentment and generosity.