

## REAL FAITH IN THE REAL WORLD

### *Practical Wisdom From the Book of James*

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#### SMALL GROUP LESSON 7

James 4:13-17, 5:1-6

#### Read James 4:13-17

**Question: Do you think of yourself more as a long-term planner or as a person who takes it one day at a time?**

**Question: In this passage, what is James' problem with people who make plans for the future?**

Read Proverbs 27:1 and Luke 12:18-21. Discuss how they shed more light on this passage.

**Question: In what way do we make an "idol" of the future rather than living in the present?**

**Question: How do you respond to James's observation about the fragility of life?**

**Question: Can you think of an example where you didn't bring God into your long-term plans? What happened?**

**Question: In practical terms, consider how our lives might be different if we fully grab hold of the attitude expressed in verse 15: "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."**

#### Read James 5:1-6

In this passage, James seems to be speaking in a prophetic voice against rich unbelievers who are taking advantage of the poor.

**Question: What are the specific sins of these wealthy people?**

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One sin appears to be the amount of wealth the rich have accumulated and are therefore living in luxury and self-indulgence.

**Question: As Christians, how would we know if we have accumulated too much wealth?**

**Question: Do we have an obligation to speak out about inequitable distribution of wealth in society?**

**Question: What warnings in this passage seem particularly relevant to you?**

## FOR PRAYER

Possible areas to ask for prayer:

- In what ways do you need to trust God with the future and live more in the present?
- How can you use your wealth to help others and not just for self-indulgence?