

## **Truth as seen in the book of James- Small group guide**

Small Group Guide: "The Heart of Wealth"

Opening Prayer:

Begin by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His Word, and for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. James 5:1-6 is a wake-up call about the misuse of wealth and its eternal consequences.
2. How we handle wealth is fundamentally about trust in God versus trust in material possessions.
3. God takes seriously how we steward our finances, especially in relation to those in need around us.
4. Wealth itself isn't evil, but worshiping it and using it selfishly is.
5. God hears the cries of the oppressed and will act justly.

Discussion Questions:

1. James uses strong language in this passage. What was your initial reaction to reading/hearing these verses?
2. The sermon suggests that James might be addressing Christians who have become complacent. How can wealth lead to spiritual complacency in our lives?
3. How does our culture's view of wealth and success differ from the biblical perspective presented in this passage?

4. The sermon mentions that "how we handle wealth is about trust." In what ways might our use of money reveal what we truly trust in?

5. James talks about wages "crying out" to God. How might this impact how we view our financial dealings with others, including employees, service workers, or businesses?

6. What does it mean to "fatten your hearts in a day of slaughter" (v.5)? How might this apply to our lives today?

7. The passage speaks of condemning and murdering the righteous. How might we unknowingly participate in systems that oppress others for our own gain?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Conduct a personal "audit" of your time, talents, and treasure. Where are your priorities reflected in how you use these resources?

2. Choose one way this week to use your resources (money, time, skills) to bless someone in need.

3. Examine your spending habits. Are there areas where you might be living in "luxury and self-indulgence"? Consider making a change to live more simply.

4. If you're not already, commit to regular tithing and giving as an act of trust in God's provision.

5. Research ethical investing or spending options to ensure your money isn't indirectly oppressing others.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His provision and ask for wisdom in stewarding resources for His kingdom.  
Pray for hearts that trust in God rather than wealth.