

Small Group Questions | How to Treat People | James 5:1-12



As James nears the end of his letter there is a noticeable shift in his writing style. James begins chapter 5 with a stern warning to those who are increasing their wealth by oppressing the poor. It seems that many of these verses are written directly to people who aren't connected to the local church who are taking advantage of others. James calls out their behavior. Then James shifts his focus again and writes to Christians in the church. He gives them a double reminder to be patient. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit and is a quality in which all believers should actively grow.

1. Neal started the sermon with a story about the President of North Macedonia. There was a girl in his country who was being bullied, and the President stepped in to show her value to others. Share about a time when you treated an oppressed person with dignity.
2. **Read James 5:1-6.** James condemns the people who are oppressing the poor and not paying the wages of their work. **Read Deuteronomy, 24:14-15, Leviticus 19:13, Jeremiah 22:13.** Talk about how you can honor people in all walks of life.
3. It appears that the wealthy people were taking advantage of day laborers and not paying them their wages. Read what Jesus taught in **Matthew 6:19-24.** Do you have an area in your life where you hoard material possessions that you can give away?
4. James isn't condemning material wealth; he is condemning wealth by unjust gains. **Read Matthew 20:1-6.** How can you have a balance in your life of saving for retirement, college and your future, while being generous to those around you? **See 2 Corinthians 12:14, 1 Timothy 5:8, and Matthew 25:27.**
5. James shifts his attention back to the early church. **Read James 5:7-9.** James uses the illustration of farming to exhort the church to be patient. **Read Galatians 5:22-23, 6:9, Mark 4:28-29, and Luke 8:11.** Where is God inviting you to be patient?
6. **Read James 5:10-12.** James continues the example of patience. **Read Acts 14:22, John 16:33, and 2 Timothy 3:12.** Share about how the faith of the saints who have gone before you is an encouragement to you to stand strong in your faith today.
7. What three examples of patience resonate most with you? Why do these resonate with your current stage of life today?
8. Close your time in prayer.