

# Small Group Guide



## Icebreaker

Share one area of life where what you *thought* was true turned out to be completely different when you gained a new perspective.

## Key Takeaways

1. **We all live in echo chambers** - We tend to surround ourselves with voices that affirm what we already believe rather than challenging us with truth.
2. **Wealth is deceptive** - What appears to be security and success may actually be corrosion and poison when it replaces trust in God.
3. **God hears the cries of the oppressed** - The Lord Almighty is attentive to injustice and will bring judgment.
4. **We need revelation, not just information** - Transformation comes when God opens our eyes to see from His perspective.

## Discussion Questions

1. James addresses wealthy people who aren't actually reading his letter. Why do you think he does this? What is he trying to accomplish for his actual audience?
2. The sermon mentioned two Exodus stories (manna in the wilderness and the Israelites' cries in Egypt). How do these Old Testament references help us understand James's message?
3. What does James mean when he says the unpaid wages are "crying out" and the corrosion will "testify against" the wealthy?
4. Jeff pointed out that if we have climate-controlled homes with indoor plumbing and more food than we need, we are wealthy. How does this reframe your understanding of wealth? Does it change how you read this passage?

5. Where in your life do you find yourself in an "echo chamber" - only listening to voices that affirm what you already believe? (This could be news sources, social media, friends, entertainment, etc.)
6. The sermon asks: "Where do you feel like you're losing because of being faithful to God?" How would you answer that question?
7. James describes people who "hoarded wealth" versus those who became "conduits of life and blessing." What does it look like practically to be a conduit rather than a hoarder?
8. The passage says the wealthy "fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter" - they thought they were winning but were actually being prepared for judgment. What are some modern examples of things our culture says are "winning" that might actually be destructive?
9. Is your lifestyle creating life or death? Are there ways your comfort or choices might be coming "at the expense of others"?
10. The sermon ends by asking, "Where do you need God to open your eyes?" Take a moment of silence, then share (if comfortable): In what area of life do you need God to heal your blindness and help you see from His perspective?