

## **Bible Study Group Notes**

James 4.11–5.6

### **THE BIG PICTURE**

James has been calling believers to whole-hearted discipleship marked by humility, obedience, and wisdom from above. In this section, he continues to expose attitudes that fracture Christian community and distort our relationship with God: careless speech, self-confident planning, and the misuse of wealth and power. Throughout, James insists that the Lord, not the self, must remain at the centre of Christian life.

*Read James 3.1-18.*

### **JAMES 4.11-12 – SPEAKING AND JUDGING**

1. What command does James give in 4.11 regarding speech about one another?
2. How does James link speaking against others with judging the law itself?
3. What does 4.12 remind us about who alone has the authority to judge and save?
4. How might these verses challenge subtle or socially acceptable forms of judgment?

### **JAMES 4.13-17 – PLANNING AND PRESUMPTION**

5. What attitude does James critique in 4.13-14? What assumptions are being made?
6. How does James describe human life in 4.14, and what effect should that have on our planning?
7. What alternative posture does James commend in 4.15?
8. According to 4.16-17, why is confident self-reliance spiritually dangerous?

## **JAMES 5.1-6 – WEALTH, POWER, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

9. Who is James addressing in 5.1, and what tone does he adopt?
  
10. What accusations are brought against the rich in 5.2-5? What behaviours stand out?
  
11. How does James describe the cries of the oppressed in 5.4, and who hears them?
  
12. What does 5.6 reveal about the misuse of power and its consequences?

### **REFLECT**

13. What common thread do you see running through James's warnings about speech, planning, and wealth?
  
14. How do these passages together challenge self-centred or self-secure ways of living?

### **APPLY**

15. Where might James be calling us to greater humility—in how we speak, plan, or use what we have?
  
16. What would it look like to live more consciously “under the Lord’s will” in everyday decisions?
  
17. How might this passage shape the way we think about responsibility toward others, especially the vulnerable?

### **PRAY**

- Ask God for humble hearts that submit to His authority.
- Pray for grace to speak carefully, plan wisely, and use resources justly.
- Bring before the Lord any areas where repentance, restraint, or renewed trust are needed.