

# James Small Group Guide 9

*James 4:13–5:6 (ESV)*

*13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. 1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

## Questions for Discussion:

How can you consciously take account of who you are and who God is in your planning?

Are there ways in which your plans don't really reflect God's will? What needs to change?

Why is it great news that God is in control of the future?

Do you see yourself in any of the description of the "worldly wealthy" in these verses?

Are there ways in which you aim to have things for yourself, rather than to use things for others? If so, how do you now have an opportunity to change your attitude and actions?

How does the wisdom of this Proverb give us a better understanding of wealth? ***Proverbs 30:8–9 (ESV)*** <sup>8</sup> *Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,* <sup>9</sup> *lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.*