**CORE STUDY #7**

**Passage:** James 4:13-5:12

In this week’s study, the first four questions focus on the end of Chapter 4 and the rest of the questions focus on Chapter 5. There are more questions in this study than can be discussed in one night. Given the thematic variation between 4 and 5, we give you freedom to focus the study how you as leaders discern—you could also extend this study into the subsequent week (there is a lot of rich material here).

**Chapter 4**

1. James compares our lives to a mist. How does a sudden death, especially that of a famous person, help us to realize this?
2. How does knowing that your life is a mist affect the way you think about your future?
3. Is James saying it is wrong to plan for the future? Explain.
4. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, how would your attitude toward life today be different?

**Chapter 5**

James encourages us in 5:1-11 to wait for God, to be patient, and warns against us wanting it all now.

1. Into what two sections is this passage divided, and who is addressed in each?
2. James declares that misery awaits rich people. What crimes have they committed (vv.1-6)?
3. Is James condemning all rich people? Explain. Do you consider your rich? Why or Why not?
4. Look at verses 7-11. How is piling up riches the opposite of patience that waits in faith for God to provide?
5. When are you tempted to hoard rather than to give and wait on God?
6. Why do you think James begins the second section in verse 7 with “Be patient”?
7. The Lord’s coming provides a backdrop for James’s word to the rich and to those who suffer. What different reactions would you expect each group to have to the prospect of the Lord’s return (vv.7-9)?
8. How can Christ’s return affect such practical matters as our use of wealth and emotional matters as our response to suffering?

**Now or Later**

**Think about your life and journal on the following questions. What in life is most important to me? How does the way I live demonstrate that importance? What is most satisfying to me? How much of my time is spent on that which satisfies? What are my greatest fears? How does the way I live speak to those fears? How does the way I give demonstrate my trust (or lack of trust) of God?**

**Reflect on your journaling. Ask God to show you how you sin in hoarding possessions. Ask him to help you know and trust him enough to be willing to wait for him and to give freely.**