

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Read **James 5:1-6**. Who is this section addressed to? Based on the way you just spent the play money, would you qualify as one of the “rich people” here?



Read **verses 4-6** again. What are the abuses that the rich committed? How do these injustices happen in the world today? How should Christians respond and be involved? Should we care? Why or why not?

Find **Micah 6:8** in the Old Testament. What does it mean to “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly” with God? Be specific.

Now read James 5:7-12. We’re getting near the end of James, and he brings up the call to patience and perseverance, just like he did in chapter 1:2-4.

Why do you think James brought up patience in the face of suffering again?

As Christians, what are we waiting for? Look at **verses 7-8**.

LEADERS' GUIDE

Make sure you spend time going over this study before you study it with the students. **Please don't show them this leader's guide, or have them download the study ahead of time from the website, since this guide is included in the lesson.**

THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION:

Before you hand out the worksheets, do an opening game.

Go to a store like Sav-On and buy some play money. Hand it out. (You can also plug in "Play Money" into the Google "IMAGE" section, and make some copies, if you have access to a copier. Or you can put dollars on a copier, and put your photo over Washington's photo and have some fun.)

Hand out the play money – preferably a large amount – and ask them, *How would you spend this money if you really had it?* Obviously, don't help them. Let them figure it out on their own.

DISCUSS: How did you spend your money? Was it all for yourself? Why or why not? Was anything given to ministry or to the church? Why or why not?

In regard to the second question pertaining to **verses 4-6**, try to have something relatively current from the news that could serve as an example of oppression by the rich. The students will most likely be very unaware of examples. Look for articles on sweatshop labor, or how little illegal immigrants are paid to work picking their fruits and vegetables. (They will most likely argue that they "deserve" to be paid poorly since they entered the country illegally. Remind them that illegals keep coming because there are plenty of employers that are willing to hire them and not have to pay them a living wage in order to keep prices down, because we don't want to pay a lot for the food we eat.)

In regard to **patience and perseverance**, remind them of the context in which the Book of James was written:

1. Look at 1:1 – the early believing church had been scattered due to persecution both from the Jews and then from the Roman Empire.
2. Remind them that James himself was put to death by the Romans because of his faith.

Have the students come up with ways to pray for Christians who are suffering right now. Come up with ways that we will "suffer" for being Christians right here in the US. (They won't believe you right now, but tell them as they get older, they will find themselves yearning more and more for heaven. Life here is a lot of work, and often a lot of pain, and they'll just be ready to be with Jesus!)