

**TAKING IT HOME:**

Considering this past week, is your “bank” on earth or in heaven? Who has been your master lately? Why? *Higher risk, but a great question to walk through with one another.*

**LIFE GROUP TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER**

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group, but it can also be intimidating. We find that group prayer goes better when we follow four simple guidelines:

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME-** Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE-** Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during prayer for topics they feel most led to pray about.

**NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO PRAY-**There is no expectation that you personally pray out loud in groups if you'd rather not.

**KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE-** Group prayer goes better then members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for members to stay focused and it tends to intimidate those who may just be learning to pray out loud in a group setting. Remember, no one is required to pray.

SOCIALS

Grab your group for an enjoyable evening. The entire family is invited. If you are still thinking about what to do for your 'Social' event, go to [www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups](http://www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups).

SERVICE

Be sure to start thinking about what service project you and your friends want to get involved in! Go to [www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups](http://www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups) for more information.



**LIFE GROUP SERMON GUIDE**

For the week of: November 5-November 11 (WEEK 8)

**JAMES- "FAITH/WORKS" SERIES**

PASTOR JUSTIN CARRUTHERS

**"A WARNING TO THE RICH"**

James 5:1-6

**THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF WEALTH:**

- GOD WANTS ME WEALTHY VERSUS GOD WANTS ME POOR.
- MONEY IS GOOD VERSUS MONEY IS EVIL.

**THE REALITY:**

- GOD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT OUR NET WORTH.
- HE DOES CARE ABOUT HOW WE GET IT & HOW WE USE IT.

**THE PASSAGE – WRITTEN TO RICH OPPRESSORS WHO WERE:**

- HOARDING THEIR WEALTH.
- RIPPING OFF THEIR WORKERS
- WEALTHY WITHOUT GENEROSITY
- CRUSHING THE WEAK & INNOCENT

**HOW TO HANDLE WEALTH WITHOUT BEING DESTROYED BY IT:**

- CULTIVATE IT, DON'T TREASURE IT!
- VISA... IT'S "ALL YOU NEED!"
- BE GENEROUS WITH WHAT BELONGS TO \_\_\_\_\_...



**LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK**For the week of: November 5-November 11 (WEEK 8)**QUICK REVIEW:**

1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**GOD'S STORY/ MY STORY:***Read James 5:1-6*

1. If this passage is true, what is my calling as a Christian?
2. What does this passage say about humanity and culture?
3. What does this passage say about who God is?

*This text challenges us to be mindful of the trap that money sets. It reminds us that human nature and our culture tend to value and hoard things that do not have lasting value. This passage reveals that not only is God interested in what we "do" with our money, but that we find out value in Him.*

**MY STORY:**

1. What models of generosity were you raised with: a) "Give unto others as they give unto you"? (b) "Neither a borrower, nor a lender be"? c) "You can't out give God"? *How do you try to emulate or not emulate your childhood examples? Has this been easy or hard for you?*

2. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Matthew 6:25-26, & Philippians 4:19. This weekend's sermon cautioned us to not be consumed by wealth and to trust God over money. What comfort could the following verses give to someone who has trouble trusting God in the area of finances?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

1. Read Hebrews 13:5 & Matthew 6:33. Many of us have a natural tendency to think acquiring more things will help us feel better and more complete. God frequently challenges this sort of thinking by challenging us to be content with what we have. How could the following verses help us when we find ourselves continuously thinking life would be better "if I only had \_\_\_\_\_ [fill in the blank]?" *In both of these scriptures we are reassured that when we have God we have all that we truly need and that our provision is found in Him alone. How does our life change when our focus changes?*

2. What is the closest you have come to experiencing: Rebounding from loss of freedom? Loss of some physical ability/skill? Loss of some vocational opportunity? Loss of a partner in your life? Or loss of financial security? *What did you learn from that experience? (Higher risk)*

3. Read Philippians 4:10-17. What is Paul's secret to contentment? *Where do you think he learned this: from devotional books? Going to church? Graduating from the school of hard knocks? What do we learn from Paul about both giving and receiving? He receives for their benefit and not just his own (vs.17).*

