

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.

MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shĕlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of James

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION SIX

James 5:1-20

Questions for Session Six

1. To whom is James speaking in 5:1? What is James foretelling will happen to them, and how does James tell them they will react to what is coming in their lives? Why do you suppose James addresses the rich people in this verse?
2. In vv. 2-3 James teaches what happens to our stored-up wealth *of* this world and our fine clothes *of* this world. Compare these two verses to Matthew 6:19-21. Explain your thoughts on the similarities of the two lessons.
3. In v. 4 James tells us that there are persons, who suffered at the hands of some of the wealthy. Whom does James describe as the ones, who are suffering? How have they been treated by their employers? What can we learn from this?

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9. James teaches in v. 12 that we should never swear by anything, lest we get caught up in judgment. He says that our simple response of *yes* or *no* is always sufficient. Why does James write this in his letter?

10. Vv. 13-20 revolve around our personal relationships with God. With prayer as the primary focus in that relationship, we learn that praying to God is essential to our spiritual well-being. Look up the example from the story of Elijah in the Old Testament. How can you explain this teaching on the prayer of the righteous?

Bonus Question: The reference by James in vv. 19-20 to those, who inevitably wander from God's truth, is an important lesson for us. How are we viewed if we are to positively influence someone, who has wandered from the truth? Why is this an essential lesson for us—as *followers of Christ*?

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