

# True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

## Jeff Bucknam

### Acts 1:1-11

**NOTE:** As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

#### ICE BREAKER:

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

James has a certain group of 'the rich' in mind. They are not just all the people with wealth, but people who are using that wealth in wicked ways. For more on this group, read James 1:9-11 and 2:1-7. This is not the first time the people of God have misused wealth. Describe the similarities in James with Isaiah's description in Is 13:6 and Jesus' in Luke 6:24-25.

How do James' vivid descriptions – of the miseries of money – help drive home his warning in James 5:1-6?

#### CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Jesus gives a helpful diagnostic about wealth: our 'treasure' points to what our heart most values (Luke 12:34). How is that illustrated by 'the young man' in Matt 19:16-30, by Zachaeus in Luke 19:1-10, and by the woman in Luke 7:36-50?

#### LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

James highlights four ways the rich abuse their wealth: hoarding (v. 4), defrauding (v.5), self-indulgence (v. 5), and leveraging power (v. 5). Are you prone to any of these in particular? Why? Since our treasure is an indication of where our heart is, what does that say about our heart? (Matthew 6:21)?

Read Matthew 6:19-24. What specific action this week will give evidence that you serve God, not money?

Pray for one another: that Christ and His Kingdom will be our greatest treasure.

#### PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Read the passage together. Spend some time with your spouse and/or kids talking about the joys and dangers of money. Ask each other how we are to steward what God has given us whether in plenty or not.

#### FURTHER STUDY:

From Desiring God ministries ([DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)) read 'Giving in the Greatest Wealth.'

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Briefly look back on the recent themes in James (about trials, partiality, the tongue, true religion, etc.).

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