



LIVE IT!
GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 11

Faith Under Pressure

The Case Against the Rich

Live It Guides are not just a “study” we do to fill our heads with information about God. Possessing information doesn’t make us disciples. It’s what we do with it that counts! This looks like **listening, believing and living**. The purpose of this guide is to: (1) foster learning & listening with one another around God’s Word, (2) allow God’s Word to shape what we are believing and (3) encourage one another to live it out in the context of our daily lives. If you find your group not asking “believing” and “living” questions, please adjust your time to allow for this vital part of discipleship.

Listening to God’s Word...

Read James 5:1-3

What does James say about riches? What do you think these people are hoping to accomplish by “laying up treasure”? Why won’t this work out for them?

Read James 5:4-6

What have the rich done that has gotten the attention of God? How does James communicate the severity of their actions and/or inaction? What are they to expect as a result of their actions?

Read I Timothy 6:17-19

According to this passage, what specific actions result in our storing up treasure as a foundation for the future? How does this contrast with how the people James is addressing were living?

Believing What It Says...

As we hear God speak through His Word, we must take what we are learning and consider how we see ourselves actually living our lives. Many times, we may say we believe something but in fact find that a different belief is influencing our actions. This provides an opportunity to repent and believe the Gospel.

Do I believe that material possessions are ultimately unable to provide me with hope and security? Rather, should I put my hope and trust in God? (I Tim 6:17, James 5:2-3). In what way(s) are my possessions at risk of becoming a source of hope or security for me right now?

Do I believe that God is a God who fights for those who are being oppressed and are not able to fight for themselves? (James 5:4) How would someone know that I believed this by observing my actions?

Living it out...

Let’s put what we are hearing from God’s Word into practice...this week! We long to be a people who live an active faith, not only hearing from God, but also responding in obedience to Him!

Spend some time thanking God for His care and provision. I Timothy 6:17 reminds us that God richly provides. Thank Him for some specific ways He has done this in your life. Repent for times in which you have not trusted Him to provide or have taken His blessings for granted.

Prayerfully consider one way in which you are currently finding hope or security in material things. How might you strive to redirect that hope towards God in the coming week? Ask God to forgive you for your misplaced trust and improper view of possessions.

Think of one person or people group that you know who are currently experiencing injustice. Prayerfully consider what it might look like to join God in fighting for those people and their cause. Come up with one tangible step you can take in the coming week to stand up and get involved in standing with those who are being oppressed.

Notes...

Record what you hear God saying through His Word and some tangible ways you are desiring to live it out in the next week...