

3. In what ways might our own wealth as Australians be obtained through exploitation, or even murder, of the poor?

4. Is it inherently evil to have wealth? If not, what measures might you take to be wise in the light of the warnings of the Bible?

5. How can we encourage each other to ACT on the teaching of Jesus and the rest of the Bible about riches? (See Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 6:24-26; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Timothy 6:6-16)

Try to list practical ways to help each other in these matters:



This study was written by Denise Cooper-Clarke of St. Columb's Anglican Church Hawthorn (Vic. Australia) and may be reproduced for small group bible studies.

# The letter of James

## Quarrels in the Church

Introduction: 4: 1-12

Onward Christian soldiers?

1. How is this passage linked with James' previous thoughts in the letter?
2. What is the link between the internal "battle" and the fights and quarrels among people in the church? (v.1)
3. What is it that we should ask God for in order to prevent battles in the church? (See James 1:5)
4. What does v.4 remind you of in Jesus teaching?  
How would you explain this strong statement to someone reading the Bible for the 1st time?

5. What does it mean to be humble? How can we become more humble?  
(see vv.7-10)

6. Consider these texts regarding humility and godliness

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Luke 1:4-55
- Luke 4:1-13
- Matthew 11:29-30
- John 13:4-17
- Philippians 2:3-8
- Matthew 6:16-18
- John 15:5
- 1 Peter 1:18-25

Q. What are some of the common points of theology and common characteristics in these texts?

7. What role have slander and judging others had in church disputes you have been witnessed? What can we learn from past experience in these matters?

## Chapter 4:13-17 The best laid plans.....

1. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, how would your attitude to life today be different? List the things that you would do differently or attend to immediately. (See also Luke 12:15-21)
  
2. Life in the first century world of James' readers was much more insecure and fragile than ours. Or was it?
  
3. What is the connection between v.17 and the rest of this paragraph? (Hint: Consider those who boast about their own future- What "good" are they failing to do?)

## Chapter 5:1-6 Fat wallets, fat hearts

1. James declares that misery awaits rich people. Look closely at the text and discover what crimes they are accused of.
  
2. What warnings can you find in Jesus' teaching and in other parts of the Bible (e.g. Matthew 6:19-24; Proverbs 10:15; Amos 2:6) regarding those who trust in riches? (Use some bible search resources to help the group here)