



MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE
Don't live for what you can lose	James 5:1-6
<p>Students will see that James gives a serious warning to people who build their lives around money, comfort, and getting more for themselves. This lesson will help students understand that real faith changes what we value, how we treat people, and what we live for.</p>	
<p>Teaching Script / Guide</p>	

LET'S BREAK THE ICE

Leader Note: *Pick one of these to get the group talking. Keep it fun!*

- What's something you really wanted — a toy, a game, shoes, whatever — and then when you got it, it wasn't as great as you thought it would be?
- What's one thing that everyone at your school seems to really want or care about right now?

BIBLE STUDY/ Read Together: James 5:1–6

- In verses 1–3, James describes riches that are rotting and falling apart. What do you think he's trying to show us about stuff we own?
- In verse 4, what did these rich people do to others? How does James say God felt about it?
- Based on this passage, does James think money is always bad? What is he actually warning against?
- The teaching said greed isn't just about money — it can show up in how we use our time, attention, and friendships. What do you think that looks like for someone your age?
- What's the difference between enjoying something you have and building your whole life around it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Leader Note: *These connect the teaching to everyday middle school life. Keep it conversational and low pressure.*

- Have you ever gotten something you really wanted and then quickly stopped caring about it? What was it? What happened?
- The teaching said greed can show up when we care more about getting attention than loving others, or being included instead of including others. Can you think of a time you've seen that — or felt it yourself?
- Is there something you think you "need" to be happy or okay right now? What is it?

- The teaching said: “People matter more than possessions.” What do you think it looks like to treat people that way at your school or in your friend group?

MAKE IT REAL

Leader Note: *These are more personal. Share your own answer first and give students time to think. It's okay if it gets a little quiet.*

The teaching gave us three challenges: Pay attention to what you think will make you happy. Use what you have to love others. Live for what lasts.

- If you're honest, what's one thing that has too much control over you right now? (Could be stuff, attention, popularity, comfort...)
- You might not have money, but you have something — time, kindness, attention, words. What's one way you could use what you have to bless someone else this week?
- The teaching asked: “What are you living for that you could lose?” What's your honest answer?

THE GOSPEL CONNECTION

Leader Note: *Bring it back to Jesus simply. This is also a great moment to explain the gospel if you have students who are newer to faith.*

Jesus didn't come to take from us — He came to give Himself for us. He had everything in heaven, but He gave it up, came to earth, and died on the cross for our greed, our selfishness, and the times we loved stuff more than God. Then He rose again so we can be forgiven and made new. Jesus is the one thing we can't lose.

- The teaching said: “Jesus is the treasure that cannot be taken away.” What do you think it means to make Jesus your greatest treasure?
- Has anyone here ever decided to trust Jesus with their life? If not, this is a great time to ask questions!

THIS WEEK / PRAYER

Leader Note: *Close in prayer. Keep it warm and simple. Ask if anyone wants to share something before you pray.*

Pick one of these to try before you meet again:

- Once a day this week, ask yourself: “What am I living for that I could lose?”
 - Find one way to use what you have — time, kindness, attention — to love someone else.
 - When you catch yourself chasing something this week, pause and pray: “God, help me want You more than this.”
 - Take prayer requests from the group.
 - Pray especially for anything students feel like they're chasing or holding on to too tightly.
 - Thank God for anything good He's done since you last met.
-