

Week of September 25 - "Financial Challenges!?" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 3

Connect

If every athlete at the Olympics games got the gold medal just for participating, would you watch it? Would anyone watch it? What do you think would happen to the games?

Verses - James 1:9-12 (CSB)

9 Let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his exaltation, 10 but let the rich boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field. 11 For the sun rises and, together with the scorching wind, dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance perishes. In the same way, the rich person will wither away while pursuing his activities. 12 Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Study

1. Why do you think James is mentioning the poor and rich, right after he commanded us to ask without doubting in v.6? (James 4:3; Philippians 4:11)

2. What is the problem with the rich people that James mentions in the latter part of v.11 (as opposed to the ones mentioned in 1 Timothy 6:17-18)?

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What *should* we "spend" our money on as Christians? (2 Corinthians 9:8; 1 Corinthians 16:14; 2 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are commanded to give cheerfully. Why do you think the Bible tells us to do so? What and *where* is the problem if we do not, and what does it mean if we are not able to? (Matthew 6:24; Matthew 22:37)

3. What is the crown of life, and how do we receive it? What is the scope of how much we are to endure in order to *stand the test*? What does that look like? (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 9:25)

🏃 **APPLY 2:** What is the key to persevering in the faith? (1 Chronicles 16:11) What other Bible verses that encourage us with our Hope? (Hebrews 10:36; Galatians 6:9)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** Have you ever felt the burden of persevering in faith ("hint: We all do!"). What did Jesus say to us when this happens? (Matthew 11:28-30)

What would you say to a non-believer who says, "I'm too tired to go to church on my day off! What's in it for me? (Colossians 1:11-12)

Share

How does one pass the test to receive the crown of life? What does this have to do with the expectation of what heaven will be like, and especially who will be there? (Would it be heaven if people who did not bow their knees to Jesus Christ as Lord, are there? Why not?)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for each other, to persevere in the Faith. (Ephesians 6:18)
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel.
- Pray for the Lord to reveal how we can serve Him.