

James 5:1-6

1. Opening Act of Worship (3 min)

This could be a prayer, song, dance or poem. It could be said out loud by a participant (or two) or could be shared via video. We encourage groups to pray in more than one language.

2. Contextual Introductions (5 mins each group)

A participant from each group says something about the economic context of their region. This could include what life is like for those who are poor, levels of unemployment, disparities in income and / or wealth, as well as an indication of the numbers living in poverty.

3. Scripture Reading (5 mins)

Read James 5:1-6, possibly in two languages.

4a. Group Discussion 1 (15 mins)

In breakout rooms, which will probably be monocultural, discuss these questions:

1. What is your response to the introduction by the other group? Did anything surprise you?
2. What leaps off the page for you in this passage? Which part shocks, surprises, annoys, or especially pleases you?

It can sometimes help to put the questions in the chat box.

4b. Plenary Dialogue 1 (10 mins)

Gather in plenary to hear from each group. During this time, try to encourage not just feedback from both groups, but actual dialogue between the groups.



Nurse Judith Lassie prays before going to work at the health clinic in Sawula village, Pujehun district, Sierra Leone. Credit: Tom Pilston

5. Group Discussion and Plenary Dialogue 2 (25 mins)

The same as for the previous group discussion and plenary dialogue, but with these questions:

3. Describe the characters and relationships in this passage?
4. Do you identify with any of the people in the passage? If so, who and why?
5. Why do you think James is so angry with the wealthy?

6. Group Discussion and Plenary Dialogue 3 (20 mins)

As before, but with these questions and only allowing 10 mins for the group discussion:

6. In what ways is the context in James similar to your own context?
7. How would God want us to respond to the economic injustice around us?

7. Closing Act of Worship (3 min)

Perhaps a liturgical prayer with different parts read out by different participants