

Just Pray

Pastor Tommy Creutz | James 5:13–18

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

The Book of James covers many topics on how to live and reflect Christ. When it comes to words, wealth and wisdom, what has been your biggest takeaway from this series?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

What circumstances does James mention in verses 13–14, and what specific responses does he instruct for each one?

Why use Elijah as an example for prayer? Have someone read 1 Kings 17:1 and 1 Kings 18:41-45. What does his story show us about prayer?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

James ties forgiveness (v. 15) and confession (v. 16) directly to prayer. How does the gospel make confession safe rather than shameful?

Read Mark 11:22-25. What does Jesus command us to do when we pray? What similarities do you see in the Mark passage and the instructions in James 5:13-18?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

What area of your life do you need to take to the Lord in prayer? Take time to break out into groups and share.

Who in your life do you need to invite into honest confession and forgiveness? What does taking that step look like for you?

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

As a family, take time to go over the Lord's Prayer together: Matthew 6:9-13. Take the time to look at the passages and describe to your kids how we are to go to prayer in all circumstances (good and bad)! Remind your loved ones (spouse/children) that, just as we communicate with one another, we must be consistent in going to God in prayer. Take time to ask how you can pray for one another. Write out the prayer needs and set a time to read them together next week to see how God answered.

FURTHER STUDY:

Power Through Prayer by E. M. Bounds

Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God by Tim Keller

True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. Is there someone in your life who has been wandering from the Lord?**
- 2. From what you've seen across the book, what does "wandering" look like according to James? Why is restoring someone considered an act of love?**
- 3. James speaks about praying fervently for others and covering a multitude of sins. How does this connect to earlier passages about the dangers of sin? Take time to review a few passages: James 1:13-15; 3:5-6; 4:1-4.**
- 4. James emphasizes community throughout the letter. In what ways does the ending call us to take responsibility for one another's spiritual wellbeing?**
- 5. What in this text confuses you?**
- 6. What in this text compels you?**
- 7. Which teaching from James has challenged you most deeply? Which has encouraged you the most (steadfastness, controlling the tongue, doing the Word, humility, prayer)? Take time to pray and thank the Lord for what He has taught you. Ask for instruction on how to live in obedience to those commands.**