

Study Group Questions
Care for One Another – Season Finale!
Pray for One Another
James 5:13-20

Getting to Know You

1. When you're going through something hard, what's your usual first instinct – to pray, withdraw, seek help, power through, etc.?
2. Read James 5:13–20. What stood out to you first when you read this passage?
3. Who, if anyone, taught you to pray? How has their impact shaped your prayer life?
4. When was a time where you saw prayer orchestrate an extraordinary event that made a discernable difference in the life of another?

Digging Deeper

5. What does James 5:13-20 teach us about the relationship between prayer and healing?
6. Scripture does not back away from the realities of life. It assumes that there is a connected integration of our emotions and a healthy spiritual walk. Our text gently urges us to pray when we are suffering hardship and to sing praise when we are cheerful. What does the integration of healthy emotional life and spiritual life reveal about one's maturity? What have you learned from others about spiritual maturity particularly as it relates to godly responses amid dire circumstances?
7. Elijah is given as an example — an ordinary human who prayed and it did not rain. This example is from 1 Kings 17:1. This prayer by Elijah is a polemic against Ba'al, a Canaanite god who is a god of storm and fertility. In the myths of Ugarit, Ba'al waters the ground, provides bread, and defeats the forces of death and famine. How does this background to 1 Kings 17–18 encourage you to have energetic prayer? Consider how the Lord demonstrated his power over Ba'al when he heard the prayer of Elijah. How does this give you confidence that prayer will conquer the dark forces the surround your life? How can the example of Elijah's prayer life inspire our own prayers today?

Living It Out

8. How might our suffering (through distraction, denial, self-sufficiency, etc.) contrast with James' invitation to prayer?
9. In what ways can we actively participate in bringing back those who wander away from the truth, as mentioned in James 5:19-20?
10. How might God be inviting you to become more available to care for others in their pain or sickness?

Applying James 5:13–20, personally. Take this question home and ponder on it throughout the week.