

Prayer Discussion Guide

Week 1—Jan 8th

Prayers of the Faithful—James 5:13-18

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Response Questions

1. Do you ever ask people to pray for you? If yes, for what circumstances do you request prayer?
2. If the sick among us are prayed for, and/or anointed with oil, are they healed?
3. Read 1 Kings 17 & 18 to see the story of Elijah's prayer.
4. Look at the context of the text from James. What situations seems to be occurring in the church the letter is to?
5. What relationship does sin/forgiveness have to health?

Challenges for Groups

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." -James 5:16

1. Confess your sin to one another.
2. Share your joys and concerns with one another.
3. Pray for one another—go around the group, each person praying aloud for the person to their right. Then commit to praying for that same person throughout the week.

Practice this week—Prayers of Confession

Confess your sins to God. In what ways have you done something wrong or not done something good? If you're not sure what to pray, begin with this prayer of confession:

Merciful God, I confess that I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have failed to be obedient. I have not done your will, I have broken your law, I have rebelled against your love, I have not loved my neighbors, and I have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive me I pray. Free me for joyful obedience, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture teaches in 1 John 1:9 that *"if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Practice this week—Prayers of Faith

O God, the source of all I need: so fill my heart with faith and your love, that with great expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gratefully accept your healing for *<insert specific issues you want to offer to God in faith>*; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.