



Week 12 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 5:13-20 ESV

Opening: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Introduce the theme: As we close the book of James, we see one final picture of mature faith. When real life happens, God’s people do not hide. We bring everything to God, we bring our struggles to God’s people, and we pursue those who are wandering.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When life changes quickly, what is usually your first response: pray, process alone, fix it, distract yourself, or talk to someone? Why do you think that is your default?
- The sermon described real-life seasons like suffering, joy, sickness, sin, and drifting. Which of those seasons feels most familiar to you right now?

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 5:13-20 together.

Initial observations + Interpreting Scripture:

- Initial Thoughts: What stood out to you from this passage or from the sermon?
 - James mentions suffering, cheerfulness, sickness, confession, prayer, and wandering. What does this tell us about the kind of church family James is describing?
 - Verse 13 says, “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.” Why do you think both pain and joy need to be brought to God?
 - The message said, “Prayer and praise aren’t our last resort, they’re our first response.” What would change in your life if that became more true of you?
 - In verses 14-15, James calls the sick person to reach out and the elders to respond in prayer. What does this show us about dependence on God and dependence on the church family?
 - The sermon made clear that James is not giving a formula that guarantees immediate physical healing. How does it help you to know that our faith is not in a particular result, but in a faithful God?
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APPLY – Pray. Confess. Pursue.

- **Bring Everything to God:**
 - What is one thing you have been carrying that you need to bring honestly to God in prayer?
 - Where are you tempted to treat prayer as a last resort instead of a first response?

 - **Bring Your Struggles to God’s People**
 - The sermon said, “Healing often begins where hiding ends.” Why is hiding so tempting, even in Christian community?
 - James 5:16 says to “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.” What does healthy confession look like? What would be unhealthy or unwise?
 - Who really knows what is going on in your life? Who knows where you are discouraged, tempted, hurting, or drifting?
 - What is one step you could take toward being more known in trusted Christian community?

 - **Bring Wandering People Back to Jesus**
 - James ends by talking about someone who wanders from the truth. Why do you think mature faith includes pursuing people, not just managing our own spiritual life?
 - Who is someone in your life who may be drifting, discouraged, skeptical, or far from Jesus? What would it look like to pursue them with prayer, love, and humility?
 - The sermon asked, “Who is one invitation away from meeting Jesus?” Who comes to mind for you?
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GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Dependence:** Ask God to make prayer and praise your first response in every situation.
 - **Healing:** Pray boldly for those who are sick, hurting, anxious, or exhausted while trusting God with the outcome.
 - **Honesty:** Ask God to make your group a safe place for confession, grace, and growth
 - **Wanderers:** Pray by name for people who need to come home to Jesus.
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CLOSING

Close by reminding the group that the church is not a place for people who have it all together. The church is a family of people learning to stay close to Jesus and helping others do the same. For the record, mature faith is not about having it all together. It is about continually turning toward Jesus and helping others do the same.