

REAL FAITH IN THE REAL WORLD

Practical Wisdom From the Book of James

SMALL GROUP LESSON 8

James 5:7-20

This is our last study of the great book of James! After going through the questions below for the final section, **take a few moments as a group to reflect on the entire book.** How has it spoken to you? What lasting lessons are you taking away from it? Let us not be like the man who “looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” (James 1:24). Let’s remember what God has shown us and encourage each other to walk in it!

Read James 5:7-12

In verses 7 through 11, James provides a number of illustrations from everyday life that he applies to those who are suffering.

Question: What are these examples and what do they teach us?

Question: Why is it so hard to be patient in the face of suffering and difficulty? What helps you to do this?

Read James 5:13-18

In verses 13 through 18, James offers a numbers of insights about prayer. Count up the number of times the words “pray” or “prayer” are used.

Question: What is the point James is making about prayer?

Given the exhortations provided in Scriptures and the insights provided by James, we would expect prayer to be at the very center of every Christian’s life today.

Question: Is that the reality for us? If not, why do we tend to neglect prayer in our lives individually and communally?

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This passage deals specifically with the topic of healing. It says that we should have the elders pray over us when we are sick. In verse 15, James says that the “prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.” Finally it says, “confess your sins to each another and pray for each other and you will be healed.”

Question: Do you believe that God can heal us today?

Question: What is this passage teaching us regarding how to be healed?

Question: What is the right response when we don’t see the healing right away?

Read James 5:19-20

Question: (Without giving names) Is there anyone you know who has wandered or is starting to wander from the faith? How can you help bring them back?

Question: When you have been tempted to wander from the faith, what has helped to bring you back?

FOR PRAYER

Possible areas to ask for prayer:

- Either pray for yourself or someone you know who is struggling and possibly wandering from the faith
- Pray for one another for healing of mind, body, or spirit, and believe God can do it!