

Life Group Homework

JAMES 5:13-18

Let's Get Started:

This passage calls upon us to respond to life's circumstances in ways that are pleasing to God. Below are the circumstances listed in the passage. Read each one and discuss what sort of responses we might more naturally have rather than the response our passage for this week calls upon us to have.

1. What is our typical response to suffering other than praying?

2. What is our typical response to being cheerful other than singing praise?

3. What is our typical response to being sick other than seeking compassion from the church?

Let's Dig In:

Read **James 5:13-18**: *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 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. 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. 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. 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. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."*

Reacting to Changing Circumstances

1. What is the purpose of praying when we are in times of trouble? Should our main desire be to have our circumstances changed or for our hearts to be changed by our circumstances?

2. Look up and discuss the following passages in light of James's exhortation to pray during times of trouble:

A. Philippians 4:6-8

B. Romans 5:3-5

3. Why is it important that we sing praise when we are happy?

Reacting to Sickness

1. Why is it important for the sick person to request for prayer?

2. Why are the elders called to be involved in the process of praying for healing?

3. Why are the sick commanded to confess their sins?

4. What was the significance of anointing the sick with oil?

5. Why is it important to understand that the anointing is done “in the name of the Lord?”

6. What does it mean for the prayer to be offered “in faith?”

(See James 1:6-7)

Let's Live It Out:

Go around the group and share which instruction in the passage of James is the most difficult for you to put into practice and why.

Go around the group and share which instruction in the passage God has graciously used in your life in the past.