

# GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word

*Leader Edition*



Week of Sunday March 2, 2025

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# Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

## **Introduction**

James 5:13-20 focuses on how we can apply the biblical principles of prayer in times of suffering, illness, and hardship. As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to pray for wisdom in our trials, seek prayer support from others, and trust God's perfect will in our lives. We will explore how confession, community prayer, and faith can lead to healing and spiritual growth.

## **Disciple Measure**

**Intentional Friend:** How am I intentionally praying for others and who is praying for me?

# Discussion Questions

Notes:

## A Prayer Prescription For Those Who Are Sick

1. **Opening Question:** Share a time when you or someone close to you faced a serious illness. How did you respond emotionally and spiritually?

### HIGHLIGHT

*Have someone read aloud...*

[James 5:13-20](#)

### EXPLAIN

*Discuss the following questions...*

1. James 5:13 says, "Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray." How can prayer help us during times of suffering, even if our circumstances don't immediately change?
2. How do you reconcile the idea that "the prayer of faith will save the sick person" with the reality that not everyone is physically healed?
3. How can we cultivate trust that God knows best, especially in difficult circumstances?

*Have someone read aloud [Philippians 4:6-7](#)*

4. How should we approach prayer, especially when dealing with anxiety and suffering? How is this similar or different from the approach described in James 5:13-20?



# Questions for Families

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*Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.*

## **James 5:13-20**

**According to this passage, what do you think God wants us to do when we are feeling sad or having a tough time?**

Encourage younger children to think about how they talk to God when they're upset, like praying or telling Him what's bothering them. For older children, discuss the importance of sharing their feelings with God and how prayer can be comforting during difficult times.

**How does this passage say we should help each other when someone is feeling sick or hurt?**

For younger children, focus on simple actions like praying for friends and family who are not feeling well. With older children, discuss the importance of community and support, such as praying together and being there for one another.

**What can we learn about trusting God when things don't go the way we hope?**

Help younger children understand that sometimes answers to prayers are different than expected, and that's okay. For older children, discuss trust and faith in God's bigger plan, even when we don't fully understand it.

# NT 260

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## **WEEK: 10**

- Galatians 1
- Galatians 2
- Galatians 3
- Galatians 4
- Galatians 5

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:19-20

# Resources

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## Resources to Listen To

### The Bible Recap - James 1-5



Tara-Leigh Cobble gives an overview of the book of James. Scan the QR code or click [here](#).  
(8 min)

## Resources to Watch

### Bible Project - Galatians



Bible Project dives into what the book of Galatians is about and explains its major themes and its place in the biblical story. click [here](#).  
(9 minutes)

### Bible Project - Acts 13-28



Bible Project dives into the second part of Acts and explains its major themes and its place in the biblical story. click [here](#).  
(8 minutes)

## Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at [groups@longhollow.com](mailto:groups@longhollow.com).

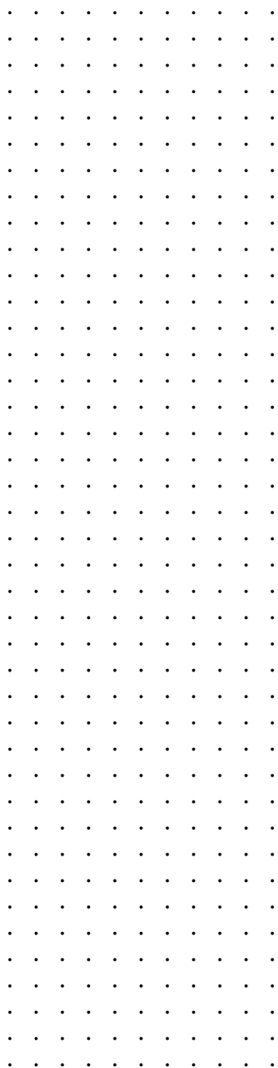
## D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



# Commentary

Notes:



## What's Going On?

James 5:13-20 is a powerful passage packed with practical advice for believers facing life's ups and downs. In these verses, James provides guidance on how to respond to various situations through prayer. The passage covers a range of human experiences: suffering, cheerfulness, and sickness. James emphasizes the importance of prayer and faith, suggesting specific actions like calling on the elders to pray and anointing the sick with oil. This shows the communal nature of faith and highlights how believers should support each other in need.

James uses simple and direct language to get his point across, making it easily understandable for his audience. He gives clear instructions and includes a promise that "the prayer of faith will save the sick," stressing the power and effectiveness of prayer. The passage also references Elijah, a prophet known for his powerful prayers, as an example that righteous people's prayers are very effective.

Biblical Timeline





Notes:

### A Bit of Background

To understand this passage from the book of James, it's helpful to learn a little about the author and the times he lived in. James, who wrote this book, is often believed to be the half-brother of Jesus and a key leader in the early Christian church in Jerusalem. He was writing to Jewish Christians scattered outside their homeland who were facing various trials and challenges.

The early Christian church was going through tough times. Believers faced persecution and had to navigate living in societies that were often hostile to their new faith. Illness was common, and they didn't have the medical knowledge we have today. This made dealing with sickness and suffering a crucial part of their daily lives, not just in a physical sense but spiritually as well.

James's instructions would have been comforting and practical for these early Christians. They needed support and guidance, much like how the sermon suggests using this passage as a "prayer prescription" for facing illnesses and trials today. The concept of praying over the sick with the elders and using anointing oil comes from Jewish traditions. Anointing with oil was often used for healing and setting someone apart for God's special attention.

Grid of dots for notes

James 5:13-20

Today's highlighted passage and other related passages



# Sermon Notes

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## **James 5:13-20 CSB**

Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit. My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, let that person know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.



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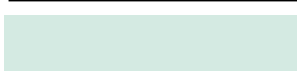
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## Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

### *Spirit-Led Follower*

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

### *Intentional Friend*

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

### *Humble Guide*

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

### *Force For Good*

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



**LONG HOLLOW**  
CHURCH