



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Seven
James 5:13-20

MAIN POINT

Prayer is an amazing resource for every believer and should be the first place we turn. Members of the Body of Christ can be an amazing source of support and accountability that we all need and shouldn't take for granted.

PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

INTRODUCTION

Use this section to get the group warmed up a bit. You can use one of these questions, or you could write your own based on this week's text.

What things do you most often pray about? Why do these things tend to raise to the top?

In times of difficulty, are you more likely or less likely to pray? What about times of joy? Why is this the case?

READ JAMES 5:13-18

When you have a tough situation that you're facing, what is your usual first response? Do you try and handle things yourself or do you look for help from God? Others?

How often do you offer up praise to God when you are happy or when things are going well?

What does the "prayer of faith" refer to?

What examples does James give to demonstrate the power of prayer in the life of a faithful believer?

Why do you think prayer is often difficult even for people who believe in the power of prayer?

READ JAMES 5:19-20

Why do you think James discusses prayer so heavily before moving into verses 19-20? Do you think there is a connection? If so, what might it be?

Why did God give the church the unique responsibility to pursue people who wander from the truth?

How do the actions of pursuing those who have wandered from the truth echo the heart of God?

PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK

In what areas of your life do you need to become more dependent upon God in your life instead of relying on your own strength?

What are some things that you could put into practice so that you turn to prayer first with the situations you face each day?

What are some things you can put into practice to make offering up praise to God something that you do more regularly?

Who are some people in your life that either don't know Christ, or have wandered from their relationship with Him that you will commit to praying consistently for?



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PRAY

As you close your time together, take turns praying for one another. Do so by having the rest of the group lay hands on a specific individual and praying over them and the requests and needs that they have. Continue until each person in the group has been prayed over. Remember to include prayers for those who are lost and wandering who need to come to salvation in Christ.

** If your group is larger, consider breaking into several small groups so everyone is prayed for. **