

Sermon: The Power of Prayer.
Series: James: Real Wisdom Real Faith.

Scripture: James 5:13-20.
Date: April 3, 2022

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Is prayer your first response to the situations and trials of your life? Do you believe that prayer has power to change things? Why or why not?
- b) Is there a prayer that God has recently answered “yes” for you? Is there a prayer that you’ve been waiting on God’s answer? Can you share these with the group?
- c) How would you explain the connection between sickness and sin to someone?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Pastor Mark said, “God delights to answer the fervent prayers of his children.” When you pray do you think of God as a father? What makes this easy/difficult?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Read Romans 8:34. How does knowing that Jesus is praying for you help you to pray to the Father? How does it bring courage and freedom to your heart?
- b) How does James 5:20 point to the ultimate work of Christ on the cross?

APPLICATION

- a) What is a specific way that you might seek to strengthen your prayer life?
- b) How does the example of Elijah encourage you to pray?
- c) Read verses 16 and 20 again. How do these two verses relate to our small group? In what ways might we do a better job of confessing to one another? How can we keep each other from wandering spiritually?

FIGHTER VERSES: Isaiah 53:4-6.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his answered prayer according to his providential will.
- Confess ways that you have failed to pray and seek God in times of both suffering and success.
- Thank Jesus for bringing back wandering sinners and for covering our sins with his blood.
- Ask God to grant you the faith to take everything to him in prayer.