

Water of Life Community Church
WHY PRAY?
UNDERSTANDING PRAYER AND OUR ROLE
WEEK 1
JAMES 5:13-18

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Thankfully, the Bible is not silent on this area of prayer where so many would like to see growth. James 5 offers some of the most practical advice on prayer found in all of Scripture. In order to grow in intimacy with God, we must have conversations with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ JAMES 5:13-14.

- a. When does James suggest that we need to go to God in prayer? How does James's advice on prayer compare to your practice of prayer?
- b. Should certain situations in our lives lead us to pray with greater frequency and intensity? Why or why not?
- c. Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. What do you learn about God in this verse? What do you learn about yourself? What does it mean, practically, to be "wholeheartedly devoted" to God?
- d. In what situations are you tempted to rely on yourself or the way of the world instead of on God? When you've made that choice to not seek the Lord, what has it cost you?
- e. Why do you think we so often settle for so much less than God showing "Himself strong" on our behalf? What does it say about how we view God and what we believe about Him?

2. READ JAMES 5:15-18.

- a. What three groups of people are mentioned in these verses? What does James promise about the sick (v. 15)?
- b. How are sin and sickness related? How does confessing sin function in a community? Why is this something we should pray for together, as well as individually?

c. What joy or relief have you experienced when you confess sin to another brother or sister in Christ?

d. What does the word “righteous” mean in the context of verse 16? Why would the prayer of a righteous person be more effective? James uses the example of Elijah. Who comes to your mind when you think of a righteous “prayer warrior”? What could you learn about prayer by observing their life?

e. Read 1 Timothy 2:5 and 1 John 2:1. What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?

f. What is John’s hope and expectation for believers? What assurance about God does John say we should have in relation to that hope and expectation?

g. What reason does a Christian have to be confident before God?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Do you feel comfortable expressing your prayer needs to this group? Why is prayer such an indispensable part of our life together as believers?
 - What would it look like to devote regular time to praying for specific people in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - In what ways do your prayers need to be coupled with actions? Explain.
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GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- Take a moment and reflect in your own life - does your everyday prayer life represent Jesus or yourself?

RESPOND

- Help build the discipline of prayer in your life and commit to praying for at least 15 minutes every day. If you’re already praying for at least 15 minutes each day, commit to praying more throughout the day as well.

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting “eDevotional” to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week’s theme.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Chronicles 16:9a (NLT)

"The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

NOTES