

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / SEP. 25

## TO APPLY—NOT REHASH—THE SERMON

### Read

Read James 5:13–20 and consider making some observations about the passage.

### Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- When facing suffering, struggles with sin, and lostness among friends and family, we should “*look up*” to God in prayer.
- The “prayer of faith” which heals is not doubt-free, but trusts in the strength and wisdom of God.
- Anointing someone with oil in prayer may symbolize the Holy Spirit’s presence and/or refer to medicine. God may answer our prayers apart from or through provisions like medical treatment.
- Sickness may point us to unconfessed sin or be the natural consequence of sin. We need physical *and* spiritual healing!
- The prophet Elijah exemplified praying fervently, in faith, based on God’s promises (of covenant blessings and curses; see Deuteronomy 28:12, 20).

### Group Discussion

1. Recall some of the common misconceptions about prayer that Pastor J.D. discussed. Which of these have you believed? How has that misunderstanding affected your prayer life?
2. What are your thoughts on the connection between sickness and sin in verses 15–16?
3. Looking back, what prayers are you thankful God said “no” to? What prayers are you struggling to persist in?
4. James acknowledges joys *and* struggles among the church (v. 13). What is one thing that makes you “cheerful” that we can praise God for and one pain or temptation that we can pray for?

### WEEKLY RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Reflect:** Meditate on Jesus’ intercession for us and the Holy Spirit’s prayers on our behalf when we don’t know what to pray (Romans 8:26–27).
- Respond:** Choose one promise God has made to his people and memorize the verse that tells you about it. Pray it back to God every day this week.
- Reach:** Who in your life is wandering from or rejecting Jesus? Pray for opportunities to point them to the truth of God’s Word, and for their salvation.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will point out any sin we have not recognized and give us the courage to confess it, so our brothers and sisters may pray for us.
- Pray that our group would be characterized by persistent prayer for one another and those who are far from God.