



STUDY GUIDE ELEVEN – FROM SERMON ON DECEMBER 7

Prayer is the heartbeat of faith. In this passage, James reminds us that prayer belongs in every circumstance—when we’re suffering, rejoicing, sick, or in need of forgiveness. He shows us the power of prayer offered in faith and the beauty of praying together as a community. Through the example of Elijah, we’re reminded that God hears and responds to the prayers of ordinary people who trust Him. As we bring our study in James to a close, let’s rediscover the privilege of talking to our Father in heaven.

READ JAMES 5:13-16 TOGETHER

Why does James encourage believers to pray when they are in trouble or suffering? How does this shape your response to hardship?

How can praising God in times of joy strengthen our faith and perspective?

What does James teach about calling the elders to pray over the sick? How does this reflect the importance of community in our faith?

What does James mean by saying “the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well”? How should we understand this promise in light of God’s will?

Why does James connect confession of sins with healing? How does unconfessed sin impact our spiritual health?

What does “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” teach us about the role of integrity in prayer?

READ JAMES 5:17-18 TOGETHER

Why do you think James highlights Elijah’s prayer life? What does his example teach us about persistent, believing prayer?

How does knowing Elijah was “a human being, even as we are” encourage you in your own prayer life?

How often do you turn to prayer as your first response rather than your last resort?

READ JAMES 5:19-20 TOGETHER

James ends with a call to restore those who wander from the truth (vv. 19–20). What does this reveal about the importance of community and accountability in the Christian life?

How can you personally take steps to encourage or gently bring back someone who is drifting from faith?

WRAPPING UP OUR STUDY OF JAMES

Which theme from James impacted you the most—trials, faith and works, controlling the tongue, wisdom, humility, prayer, etc—and why?

If you had to summarize James’ call to believers in one sentence, what would it be?

Close your time together by praying for one another.