

OF JAMES

James - Part 7
This is How We Do It
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Three Ways We're Instructed to Pray

1. We Pray First

James 5:13-14

Are any of you suffering hardships (afflictions, troubles, pains) You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 6:31-34 (NKJV)

*"**Therefore do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ...For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.*

Philippians 4:6-7 (CEV)

***Don't worry** about anything, **but pray** about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.*

Matthew 6:9 (MSG)

Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.

2. We Pray Together

James 5:14-16

*Are any of you sick? **You should call** for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of the righteous man can accomplish much.*

3. We Pray Until or (We Pray Again!)

James 5:17-18

Elijah was a man just like us, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Read James 5:13-18 and Phil. 4:6-7 together. What are the two primary commands found in these verses? Do you tend to be a worrier or a pray-er? Maybe both? Is prayer hard for you, or does it come naturally?
2. What are some common hinderances to prayer?

3. When people experience disappointment they may be tempted to remove themselves from the gathering of believers. Why? Have you ever felt that God has been slow or negligent to answer your prayer? What does James instruct us to do in verses 14-16?
4. Speaking to the believers, James writes in 5:16 that the effective prayer of the righteous man can accomplish much. Who are the righteous? Do you believe your prayers can accomplish much? How can we renew our perspective on prayer?
5. James 5:17 says that Elijah was as human as we are. Review the story of Elijah (1 Kings 18:18-19:18). In what ways are you personally like Elijah? (How can you relate to his emotions in these passages?) How does this encourage you in your own prayer life?
6. What are some answered prayers you've experienced in your life?
7. What is the "small cloud" you have been praying for? Take time as a group to encourage one another through prayer.