

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Payer, Not Prayerlessness****APPLY // JAMES 5:12**

Main Idea: Delight in the truth for this is where real freedom is found.

1. Read James 5:7-12.
2. Recall the ways James has addressed our words/speech in his letter? Why are our words so important?
3. What are we tempted to lie about? Why are we tempted to lie and deceive? What forms might this take in our daily lives?
4. How does the gospel compel and enable us to “let our ‘yes’ be yes and our ‘no’ be no”?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 5:13-18

Main Idea: God’s people should pray together and care for each other as we remain steadfast.

1. Read James 5:13-18.
2. What repetitions and themes do you see in this passage? Identify them in the text.
3. Summarize the point of this passage in a sentence or two. How does the main point of this passage fit into the overall context / theme of James?
 - a. How does prayer help us remain steadfast and endure with patience?
4. What circumstances of life does James address? What response does he offer in each circumstance? What does this tell us about the importance of prayer? What does this tell us about the character of God?
5. What do you notice about the life of a church together in these verses? What does James imply about how the church should be functioning?
 - a. Suffering together
 - b. Rejoicing together
 - c. Elders praying/shepherding
 - d. Praying with one another
 - e. Confessing sins to each other
6. The specific activities:
 - a. James says to call the elders to pray for the sick. Who are the elders? Why are they to be called on to pray?
 - b. Notice the prayer for the sick and anointing of oil is “in the name of the Lord.” How does this inform the practice?
 - c. What does it mean “the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up”?
 - d. Does James equate sickness and sin? (Notice the “if” in verse 15).
 - e. What does James mean when he says we will “be healed” if we confess our sins and pray for one another?
7. What’s the point of the example of Elijah in verses 17-18?
 - a. Notice it says “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...”
8. How does the gospel serve as the foundation for all James calls us to in these verses?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Follow up from previous weeks.