

Pray in Despair and Delight – James 5:13-20 – January 2, 2022

Big Idea: Pray in every circumstance.

Three reminders of our responsibility to pray:

1. Pray if your day is _____ or _____.
2. Pray for specific needs of each _____.
3. Pray resting in God's _____.

Theological Question: What is prayer?

- Prayer is speaking to God. It is having a conversation with our Heavenly Father.
- Everyone can pray to God because of the work Christ has done on the cross (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- In many of the Gospel accounts we see Jesus pray. This shows us how vitally important prayer is for us.
- There are two different words for prayer used in James 5. In James 5:13 it is a general prayer and is the most common in the NT. In James 5:15 it is a fervent wish, petitioning, or entreating of God (Douglas Moo, 242).

Connect Cards:

1. What can you do in 2022 to improve your prayer life?
2. How can we pray for you?

Further Reading:

For Kids: *Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer* By. Laura Wifler and Catalina Echeverri

<https://www.thegoodbook.com/series/tales-that-tell-the-truth/any-time-any-place-any-prayer-storybook>

A Hunger For God: Desiring God through fasting and prayer. By. John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/books/a-hunger-for-god>

Pray because God is Sovereign By. Marshall Segall <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/pray-because-god-is-sovereign>

Table Talk

Warm-Up: Start your time in prayer, even if you normally finish with prayer. Take time to listen to each other's prayer requests and a few people pray for the specific requests after its made.

1. Why is prayer so hard?
2. In what circumstances does James call the dispersed believers to pray? Why do you think this matters?
3. Why do you think it matters we see singing as a way to pray to God? What does sing praises to God remind us of? Why is it an important part of the worship service at church?
4. How should we be praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ? In order to pray for one another, we need to have relationships built with each other so that we can pray more fervently for each other. This means we dig below the surface and ask meaningful questions and listen. Why do you think it can be hard to ask and answer meaningful questions?
5. If God is sovereign why do we have to pray? What do you think is the point in prayer? Prayer helps align our thoughts and will with God's will. God wants to hear our requests and know what we are struggling with, how does making these things known to God help us?
6. How can others in your group pray for you regarding prayer and reading God's Word in 2022?

*Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the front of the auditorium at the conclusion of each service or send us your request (front page of fbcwaterville.org website by clicking on the DIRECT connection tab), and we will lift them up throughout the week

