



Sermon Discussion Guide

“A Love That Prays”

James 5:13-18

Summary

This week's sermon reminded us that the people of faith have always been a praying community, because we have a God who speaks and listens. Prayer is not a burden but an invitation – God has already spoken to us in His Word and through His Son, and we respond by continuing the conversation with Him. James 5 shows us that true faith prays, and the church is called to love one another through prayer. We learned that:

- **We pray as a community** – prayer is for every believer, not just a select few.
- **We pray in all circumstances** – from suffering to celebration, sickness to sin.
- **We pray for the Glory of God** – weak people leaning on to a strong God, so He gets the glory.
- **We pray for one another** – carry each other's burdens to the throne of grace.

Discussion Questions

In prayer, God invites us to continue the conversation he has started

- Read Psalm 27:8 in the ESV and NLT. How does thinking of prayer as a response to God's invitation change the way you view prayer?

Read James 5:13-18

1. We Pray as a Community

James calls you to pray, the elders to pray, and for us all to pray for one another. That's everyone in the community of faith.

- Why is it important to remember that prayer is the privilege of every child of God, not just pastors, elders, scholars, or “professionals”?
- What keeps you from praying with/in front of others?

2. We Pray in All Circumstances

James calls us to pray in times of suffering, celebration, sickness, and sin.

- Which season(s) is most natural for you to pray in? Which is hardest? Why?
- How would the idea of “continuing the conversation with God” help you pray in every circumstance of life?

3. We Pray for the Glory of God

We pray with oil “in the name of the Lord” (v14). We are to pray in faith (v15). The prayer of the righteous is effective (imputed → practical righteousness v15). And like Elijah, it isn’t because we are special or unique that God hears our prayers. All of this puts the focus on God, so He gets the glory.

- How does knowing that prayer depends on God’s power, not ours, give you confidence to pray?
- Elijah was an ordinary man with an extraordinary God. How does his example encourage you in your own prayer life?

4. We Pray for One Another

- What are some practical ways we can grow in praying for one another (e.g., praying in the moment, using NT prayers, index cards, following up)?
- How could our GCG become more intentional in carrying one another’s burdens to God in prayer?

Judy Askins

What stood out to you from what Judy shared? How was it helpful?