

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

JAMES

These questions are for the **September 20, 2015** sermon, "The Power of Prayer." Please read the sermon passage (James 5:13-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

8 LESSONS ABOUT PRAYER

1. **Personal Prayer (13)**
 - A. When you suffer, bring your petitions to the Lord.
 - B. When you are cheerful, sing songs of praise.
2. **Prayer in the church (14-15)**
 - A. If you are sick, call the elders to pray over you.
 - B. The greatest miracle of prayer: God forgives sinners who repent.
3. **Prayer for our friends (16)**
 - A. Pray for your friends (don't gossip about them--James 4:11)
 - B. Pray that your friends will joyfully submit to the divine plan ("in the name of the Lord")
4. **Pray for our "nation" (17-18)**
 - A. Elijah faced religious oppression, wicked politicians and an immoral culture (like James did and like you do).
 - B. Elijah withdrew and learned to pray "in the name of the Lord," and for the glory of God. This is our call, too. To learn to pray according to the divine plan.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you have uninterrupted, spoken prayer time alone with God on a regular basis? How could your prayer time improve?
2. Based on #1, above: Do you encourage yourself with truths about God which make you cheerful, even in the midst of a hard world? Do you sing songs of praise to God?
3. Based on #2, above: Would you call the Elders to pray over you if you were sick? Why or why not? Do you believe God miraculously heals people today?
4. Based on #3, above: Why is praying that our friends would joyfully submit to God's divine plan so mysterious? What grad would you give yourself in the area of praying for others? How can you improve?
5. Based on #4, above: James is written to a group of Christian believers who are persecuted for their faith--so much so that they have been displaced from their homes. They were tempted to rise up and start a revolution, but James instructs them to pray. What can the Christian church today learn from this instruction? How might persecution teach you to pray better?