

# WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

James 5: 13-20

## Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website [www.vcfj.org](http://www.vcfj.org) and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

## OVERVIEW

Pastor mentioned James makes it clear that one thing never changes and that is Jesus Christ.

- What does Jesus give us?
- Pastor also mentioned there is confusion among sincere believers regarding prayer and what it is. Why should we pray? He stated some Christians believe they should never be sick or deal with hardship. James addressed this in Chapter 1:2-4. What do these verses tell us?
- Read **1 Peter 4:12-19, Phil 1:29-30, 2 Cor. 11:24-33 and 2 Tim 4:7-8.**
- What do we learn from these verses about suffering, trials and prayer? Are these verses still applicable to us?
- What qualities does genuine faith produce?
- What are the final instructions from James?

## WHY I SHOULD PRAY?

### WHEN is the best time to pray?

#### *James 5:13-14*

- What are the three sets of circumstances that James refers to?
- What is the mistaken belief some people make about God when they are in trouble?
- What does James say we should do when we are in trouble?
- Why should we pray when things go well in our life?
- What does James instruct us to do when we are cheerful?
- Do you think James is speaking to just physical illness or could it be spiritual? Why?

## HOW should be pray?

### *James 5:14*

- What does *verse 14* tell the sick to do?
- Why is this important? (refer *to James 1:6-7*)
- Why does James include the Elders of the church to pray when someone is sick.
- How does James address healing and the relationship with God and with each other?  
There are several examples throughout the Book of James that address this.  
Can you find them and speak of them?
- James points to a oneness we have with each other because of our common need for forgiveness.  
What happens when we stand together before God because of our common need for forgiveness?

## WHAT are the results?

### *James 5:16b-20*

- What do these verses tell us?
- Read *1 Kings 17-18*. What do we learn about Elijah?
- What is Elijah used as an example of? In what ways was he “just like us?”
- How can you tell if someone has wandered (*verse19*), taken “the wrong path” (*verse 20*), and is headed for death (*verse20*)?
- How do *verses 19-20* relate to the theme of the prayer of faith?
- Whose sins are being forgiven in *verse 20*, those of the restored wanderer or those of the earnest seeker? Explain
- In the end what does James want from his readers and from all of Us?

## APPLICATION

- What have you seen happen to peoples’ prayer life when they underwent suffering?
- What happened to yours?
- Do you know anyone who is sick? How can you help them?
- What *PSALM* do you like to read when you are happy or what song do you particularly like to sing to God in praise?
- What is the best thing you’ve learned or been reminded of in your walk- through the Book of James?
- What did the Book of James tell you specifically to help you with your “Journey to Greatness?”