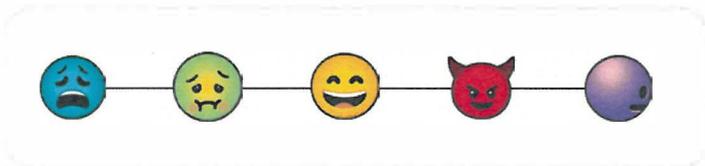


PT. 11: THE PRAYER OF POWER

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 5:13-20

MAIN POINT: PRAYER ISN'T OUR LAST RESORT, IT'S OUR FIRST RESPONSE.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE...



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. (v.13)*
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone happy? ...sing songs of praise. (v.13)*
- Worship isn't weakness, it's a weapon.
- Worship restores memories.
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil...* (v.14)
- Oil is practical (it soothes) and symbolic (seeking God's help).
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (v.16)*
- We confess to God for forgiveness.
- We confess to one another for healing.
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *If one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring them back... (v.19)*
- "Someone" means all Christians are called to restore.
- "Truth" isn't just an idea; it's a person - Jesus (John 14:6)
- Observations: _____

FINAL TRUTH: RIGHTEOUS = POWER | RIGHTEOUS ≠ PERFECT

- *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (v.16b)*

PT. 11: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Wherever you are, prayer is your next step, and God still answers.

SCRIPTURE:

James 5:13–20

ICE-BREAKER

1. Which one are you most like today: happy, troubled, sick, or a bit numb towards God? What's one word that describes why?
2. If your prayer life had a "default setting," what would it be: pray first, pray last, pray only when desperate, pray steadily?

REFLECT (Read James 5:13-20 together)

3. James gives a simple response for each season in James 5:13–16. What do you notice about how practical and specific James is about prayer? (See also Philippians 4:6)
4. James says, *"Is anyone in trouble? Let them pray... Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise"* (James 5:13). Why do you think James pairs prayer with trouble and praise with joy?
5. James says the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16). What keeps people from praying boldly - discouragement, shame, distraction, disappointment, busyness, or something else? (See also Hebrews 4:16)

6. James teaches that God listens and responds, and he uses Elijah as proof (James 5:17–18). What does Elijah's example tell you about who prayer is really about? (See also 1 Kings 18:36–39)

TAKE ACTION

7. Which response from the passage do you need most right now: pray in trouble, sing in joy, ask for prayer when sick, confess for healing, or restore someone who is drifting? (See also James 5:13–20)
8. What is one concrete prayer step you can take this week: set a daily time, pray out loud with someone, ask your group for prayer, write a short prayer, or replace one worry moment with a prayer moment? (See also Matthew 6:34)
9. James connects confession and healing (James 5:16). What would it look like to bring one struggle into the light with a trusted person, and what kind of support would help you take that step safely? (See 1 John 1:9)
10. James says when someone wanders, "someone" should help bring them back (James 5:19–20). What could it look like for this group to become a place of rescue, not judgment, where people are pursued with love? (See also Galatians 6:1–2)

CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Use the "Prayer Chart" this week. Each day, name your current season and take the matching step from James 5:
 1. Trouble > pray
 2. Happy > sing praise
 3. Sick > ask for prayer
 4. Sin > confess
 5. Wandering > restore
- Prayer: Pray that we would become people who pray first, not last, and that God would make our group a safe place for healing, honesty, and restoration.