

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 6, 2002

Passage: James 5:13-20

Memory Verse: Psalm 138:2

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

Day 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) What are the things a person ought to look for in a church? Make a list of those characteristics. What one characteristic would you consider absolutely essential? Why? (b) Read Psalm 138:2. Why does the psalmist praise God? What surprising thing does he say about God's Word? (c) Why does he place such a high priority on God's Word related to worship? What does this teach us about our priority as a church that honors God? (d) Read James 1:22. What kind of people does James encourage his readers to be? (e) Read James 5:19-20. What is the person straying from in verse 19? (f) Pray Psalm 119:169-176. Give God thanks for His Word in your life.

Day 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read James 1:2-4; 2:15; 5:1-6. Based on these verses, what kinds of difficulties does it seem that these Christians were facing? (b) Read James 5:13. What difficulty does James mention here? How does he say to handle it? (c) Read James 5:13-18. How many times is prayer mentioned here? (d) How did the early church respond to difficulties (Acts 4:31)? What are some important elements in the prayer that they prayed? (e) What do they acknowledge? What do they ask? Is this order important? Why or why not? (f) What is one other thing that we can do in times of trouble (Psalm 119:28, 92)? How can this help? (g) What troubles are you facing today? Spend time praying about them.

Day 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Psalm 32:6-11. What was the confidence of David in his troubles? (b) What does he encourage "everyone who is godly" to do? (c) How does this Psalm end? How does prayer lead to praise? (d) Read James 5:13 again. What other circumstance does James mention? (e) How is praise related to prayer? (f) Consider your difficulties. Spend time praising God that He is in control of all things and will work all things together for your good (Romans 8:28).

Day 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read James 5:14-15. What situation does James mention here? How does it differ from verse 13? (b) What is the sick person to do? (c) Why is it important that the sick person call the elders? How is the act of calling then an act of faith? (d) What are the elders to do? Who do the elders represent when they pray for him? (e) In whose name are they to pray? Who "raises" him up? What is the significance of the oil? (f) Pray today for someone who is experiencing great difficulty.

Day 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read James 5:15-18. What connection does James make between sickness and sin? (b) Is this always so? Consider John 9:1-3. Is it sometimes the reason for sickness? Consider Psalm 32:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 11:30. (c) What does James encourage all Christians to do in verse 16? What might this tell us about the type of "raising up" that James is referring to in verse 15? (d) Is physical healing always guaranteed (Consider 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Phil. 2:26-27; 2 Timothy 4:20; 1 Timothy 5:23)? Is forgiveness always guaranteed (1 John 1:9)? (e) Who are we to confess our sins to? Who is to pray? (f) Read James 5:19-20. What is the responsibility of believers to believers in sin? What instructions does Paul give us about this in Galatians 6:1-2? Is this the kind of church you want to be part of? (g) Pray for some that you know are struggling with certain sins.

What first brought you to this church? What made you stay? How has your being at this church changed your life in any way?

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WHEN YOU LOOK FOR A CHURCH