



LIVE IT!
GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 13

Faith Under Pressure Who Needs Prayer?

Live It Guides are not just a “study” we do to fill our heads with information about God. Possessing information doesn’t make us disciples. It’s what we do with it that counts! This looks like **listening, believing and living**. The purpose of this guide is to: (1) foster learning & listening with one another around God’s Word, (2) allow God’s Word to shape what we are believing and (3) encourage one another to live it out in the context of our daily lives. If you find your group not asking “believing” and “living” questions, please adjust your time to allow for this vital part of discipleship.

Learning from God’s Word...

Read James 5:13-18 three times together as a group.

1. What are the questions James asks his readers in these sentences, and how does he challenge them to respond?
2. Why do you suppose James says the sick should “call the elders of the church” to pray over them? Why do you suppose James mentions the “prayer of faith” and not just “prayer”?
3. Read verse 15. The word “save” is used in the New Testament primarily to describe someone experiencing divine salvation and in some cases to describe being restored to physical health. Interestingly enough, James uses the word “heal” in verse 16 which is used in the New Testament exclusively to describe physical healing. In verse 16 James says to pray for one another so that you “may be healed” which means possibility, not promise. Based on this information how are we to make sense of verses 15-16?
4. Why do you suppose James makes a reference to Elijah in verses 17-18? For the story of Elijah see 1 Kings 17-19.

Believing What It Says...

As we hear God speak through His Word, we must take what we are learning and consider how we see ourselves actually living our lives. Many times, we may say we believe something but in fact find that a different belief is influencing our actions. This provides an opportunity to repent and believe the Gospel.

Based on your groups examination of James 5:13-18, what beliefs about God, prayer, salvation and/or healing did you hold that now might need some adjustments?

Living it out...

Let’s put what we are hearing from God’s Word into practice...this week! We long to be a people who live

1. **What kind of person can you relate to most right now? The suffering, cheerful, or sick?**
2. **What do these sentences tell you to do about it? Is there something holding you back from doing what these passages tell you to do? What do you think it is?**
3. **Do you have a person in your life that you’ve sinned against that you need to have a conversation with so you can confess it? What fears or apprehensions are keeping you from doing it?**
4. **Spend some time praying for one another in your group regarding your discussion and time together.**

Notes...

Record what you hear God saying through His Word and some tangible ways you are desiring to live it out in the next week...