

James 5:13-16

30 August 2020

ICE BREAKER: Describe one of your favorite pictures/photos, and why.

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 13 & James 1:2-4) Writing to believers persecuted for putting their faith in Jesus Christ, James presents snapshots of moments in their lives. He begins by addressing those who find themselves **'in trouble'**. Trouble here means **experiencing suffering** or **difficult situations**.

Trouble can be inflicted on us by others, or self-inflicted. The question is not whether you get into trouble, but what you do when you find yourself in trouble. James exhorts you to waste no time, but to do this as soon as you realize you are in trouble—**pray!**

1. What is the **first thing** you usually do when you realize you're **in trouble**?

(Read verse 13 & Psalm 66:1-5) Pain, difficulty and suffering can often motivate you to pray, to seek God's help or rescue. But what about **when good things go your way**? When you experience **success**, **favor**, or **prosperity**, what is your usual immediate response? Do you break out in a song of praise to the Lord, or do you just go on to the next thing?

James says when you experience the blessings of God, that's the perfect time to **'sing songs of praise'** to the Lord. Why is that important? God doesn't need your worship. Your worship adds nothing to Him. Yet, the Bible consistently commands us to praise Him loudly and publicly.

2. Throughout the Bible, we are called to **sing aloud** and **worship unashamed**, especially when we experience **success** or **joy**, why?

(Read verse 14) When in trouble, we are called to pray. **When we are sick**, we are called to **ask others to pray over us**. This is not to say we should neglect praying ourselves for healing, but interestingly, James points out an important aspect of divine healing—the **prayers over us by others** who truly believe God is the source of all healing.

When sick, what is the first thing you do? James says one of the first things you should do is call upon others who believe in God's healing power to pray over you.

3. Consider all the ways we respond to sickness, why does it seem the last thing we do is seek the **prayers of others** over us?

(Read verses 14-16) When sick, we are to seek prayer from others, but notice what else James says is critical for **physical healing** but **often neglected**—the **confession of sin**. James explains that many of our physical sicknesses have either a **spiritual root in sin** or are **held fast by sin**.

In many cases, if we are to receive God's healing, we must **repent** of **known sins**. So the next time you pray for someone's healing, James says to ask if there are any known sins that need to be repented.

4. How have you witnessed **sin** in your own life or another's bring about **physical** or **emotional sickness**?

Cut along Dotted Line & use Notes as Book Marker

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
