

## DISCUSS

- Begin by sharing a memorable or recent answer to prayer. Looking back, was there anything particularly different about how you prayed that prayer, or about the situation?
- God's answer sometimes to our prayers is 'no.' Discuss ways to discern God's answer when we pray. How do you know? How long should you give it? In 1 Kings 17:17-24, Elijah prayed 3 times before the widow's son was revived.
- How would you define prayer? Does prayer change circumstances or does prayer primarily change us? Or both? Explain. What has been your default approach?
- While anyone can pray for healing, why do you think James directs us to call on the elders of the church?
- James tells us that praying for healing should be accompanied by confession of sin. Why? What is the connection in your understanding?
- Why confess to 'each other,' and not simply just with God?

## APPLY

- Prayer is something that doesn't just happen. Discuss ways to integrate prayer into your day and week to begin.
- James says earlier, "You do not have, because you do not ask" (4:2). Share one thing you will begin asking for this week in your God-time.

## GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- As a group, pray for any physical need for healing for one another or determine to connect with Pastor Shane.
- Vv. 19-20 talk about the 'wanderer.' Together, pray aloud for anyone you know has wandered from the faith.
- Spontaneously build praise into your prayer time - include a song into your prayer time as a group this week.

# Making FAITH + WORK

Book of James

# 11

## Final Week 11: "The Power of Prayer"

Key Text: James 5:13-8

## OPEN

Prayer is the most powerful weapon God has given the Church and is the subject of our final passage in James for this series. In the six verses of our passage, prayer is mentioned in every verse. James reminds us that those who have become spiritually mature in their walk with Christ don't just pray when there is trouble but pray on all occasions. When we are happy, James tells us to pray in the form of praise. Christian writer David Foster says, "Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us." James talks about the importance of praying individually but also initiating prayer with others, whether it be the elders in praying for physical healing or praying for each other in the confession of sin. Prayer is our most powerful tool.

## REFLECT

- As mentioned, prayer is mentioned in each verse of our passage. For each verse, list together one thing James connects to the application of prayer in a believer's life.
- In v. 14, James talks about healing prayer being done "in the name of the Lord." What do you think that means?
- In v. 15, for healing to happen, James says our prayer must be characterized by something. What? Even so, who actually accomplishes the healing? Why might that be important to distinguish?
- What is the basic point behind vv. 17& 18?