

# LG | Leader

[James 5:13-18]

## WARM-UP (10 mins)

**God's word is like oxygen to our souls. We desperately need it. Take a moment to pray for spiritual awakening in these next moments as we encounter His word.**

- After hearing the sermon from Sunday, what most resonated with you? What were the takeaways for your family as a whole?
- In light of Sunday's message, have you resolved to make any life changes?

## ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

**Open your Bibles to the primary text.**

1. Read our primary text, James 5:13-18. Let's gain some context for this passage. Who is the author and who is the audience? Who recalls the theme and purpose of James?

Most biblical scholars credit James, the brother of Jesus, for authorship. His audience is most likely Jewish Christians that have been dispersed (see 1:1). Like those who were scattered by the Assyrians and Babylonians, we too are scattered and long for our heavenly homeland. James in many ways is rebuking his readers for their worldliness and calls them to live out their faith, being doers of the word, not just hearers.

2. Verse 14 speaks of elders, prayer, and even anointing oil. What do you think James is ultimately emphasizing here? What/Who actually heals a person?

Confession. If we look at verse 15b, confession of sin is emphasized here for healing. Oftentimes, both physical and spiritually healing can be brought about by confession. Our initial instinct should always be prayer and confession. Prayer is crucial to pursuing the heart of God, but ultimately God heals.

3. Based on this passage of scripture, what does James reveal to us that can inhibit healing? Where in Scripture can we find an example where illness was prompted by lack of confession/repentance?

Confession. We see in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 that taking communion without first examining yourself can lead to becoming ill or even dying.

4. This may sound simple, but what is confession? If our confession is genuine, what happens next in the life of a believer?

Confession is recognition of responsibility. It is the opposite of silence. It is the agreement with God about how He views sin. Confession gives way to true repentance, a turning away from that sin and steps taken toward God.

5. What are the benefits of confession and prayer?

There are many, but here are a few that are hugely important: **It promotes Holiness** (1 John 1:8-9). **It protects against hypocrisy** (Matt 5:23). **It promotes humility.**

6. How would you explain this passage to someone who is unfamiliar with the passage?

[A chance for group to verbalize and internalize]

7. James was passionate about God's word taking root in the heart of a believer so that they may become a doer, producing God-honoring actions. How do you think James would instruct us in regard to the events surrounding George Floyd?

[Discussion Starter: Example - James might urge us to not to use words at all, but rather, be a people that display love through our actions]

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**