

James 5: 13-20

Life in the church in troubled times



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – James 5:13-20

1. In 5:13-14, James asks three questions as he addresses three life circumstances. What does he tell God's people to do in each of those circumstances? What do all three responses have in common?
2. In 5:14, James writes: "and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up." Discuss these words.
3. What do you understand "the prayer offered in faith" to be? Do sick people always get well when we pray for them? Why or why not?
4. What is the relationship between sickness and sin, especially unconfessed sin?
5. In 5:19-20, what does James tell us to do for someone who wanders away from their faith?

The Scriptures – James 5:13-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. Read 1 Kings 17:1, the beginning of the Old Testament stories of Elijah. Why does Elijah pray that it will not rain in Israel? As you discuss this, consider also God's promises to Moses which Elijah knew well – for example, the words of Deuteronomy 11:16-17.
7. Is sickness sometimes directly the result of sinful behaviour? Read what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:28-31. Discuss the relationship between sin and sickness.
8. Jude also writes about restoring or rescuing those who go astray. Read and discuss Jude 22-23.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to James 5:13-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. How important is confessing our sins? Should we confess our sins to one another as well as to God?
10. How can we pray for you as you seek to live the life of a disciple of Jesus?