



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: *"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER"*

Scripture: James 5:13-16

Date: September 20th, 2015

STORIES OF FAITH

As you begin this season with your Life Group, invite the group to share 'Evidences of God's Grace' that they experienced or observed over this summer. How have you seen God at work?

OPENING COMMENT

Where the Bible speaks, God speaks. When we obey the commands of the Bible we obey God. When we reject the commands of the Bible we reject God. This may seem obvious but it is the foundation on which the structure of prayer for others is built upon: We pray for one another because we are instructed to. What motivates you to "pray for one another"? Do you believe prayer makes a difference in your life?

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:13-16

WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

We pray for one another because...

1) ...the Bible tells me so

Foundationally, we pray for one another because the bible instructs us to. It's a core element of what truly makes us a church. The earliest church gave themselves...to prayer (Acts 2:42).

Do you live in obedience to this instruction to pray for brothers and sisters in Christ?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, *"It is in fact the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together."*

Have you found that to be beautifully true?

Though it should be "the most normal thing", have you found it to be unusually difficult to pray for others? Why?

2) **...it is powerful and effective**

Prayer is effective and powerful. There is no doubt. Prayer changes things and God has ordained that the prayers of His people actually make a difference for the Kingdom.

How does your commitment (or lack thereof) to prayer model a belief in the power of prayer?

What are some steps you could take to strengthen your belief in the power of prayer?

Why does James 5:16 suggest that we confess sins to one another?

3) **...of the innumerable benefits of corporate prayer**

Prayer has innumerable benefits: Joy, humility, selflessness, unity, mission, etc.

How have you experienced the benefits of prayer (as a recipient and as intercessor)?

Discuss how confessing sins to one another and praying for one another helps us bear one another's burdens?

When you discover that every great revival, and really anything fruitful that has taken place in the history of the church can always be pointed back to the faithful prayers of (sometimes just a few) believers, what do you make of that?

4) **...to be like Jesus is to intercede for others**

To be a disciple is to follow after Jesus in order to become like Him.

Sanctification is to become more and more like Jesus. He always and continues to intercede for us (Lk 22:31-32; John 17:6-26; Heb 7:25).

Jesus is the great high priest and He has made us the priesthood of all believers. Priests give themselves to prayer. Disciples of Jesus learn to do what He does, one of those things is intercessory prayer.

What difference does it make to know Jesus lives perpetually to intercede for you?

Who are you interceding for at this time?

SHARE & PRAY

- Take a significant amount of time in your group to pray together.
- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” One of the greatest ways in which we can love one another is to pray for one another – to minister to one another in prayer.
- Pray for not only yourself but for your families and for our Church family.