

# James 5: 13-20

## How to Live in Christian Community!

### Life Group Study Guide

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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,  
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

#### Life Group Life:

- ❖ Welcome everyone to your group. If there are any new people make sure you take time to find out about them and introduce the group to them.
- ❖ Go around the group asking each person to share a high and/or a low in their life. (*Be sensitive to any special needs responding appropriately through immediate prayer etc...*)
- ❖ Go around the group asking each person to share how they have seen God work in their life in the past week.

#### Memory Verse:

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

*James 5:16b*

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

#### Grow:

- ❖ **Read James 5:13.**
- ❖ **Why should you pray if you are in trouble? Why should you sing songs of praise if you are happy? What are both of these things telling us to do no matter what state we find ourselves in? (*turn to God!*)**
- ❖ **Read James 5:14-16.**
- ❖ **Who does James tell us to go to when we are sick? (*the elders*)**
- ❖ **Who does James tell us to confess our sins to? (*each other*)**
- ❖ **In these verses we see four different instances where James is telling us to do the opposite of what we naturally tend to do- *turn to God when we are in trouble, turn to God when we are happy, turn to the elders when we are sick, and turn to each other when we have sinned.* In all of**

these instances why do we usually try to rely upon ourselves instead of turning to God, the elders, and each other?

Serve:

- ❖ How would it change our lives if we turned to God, the elders, and each other instead of relying upon ourselves?
- ❖ All of these examples of turning to God, the elders, and each other revolve around prayer offered in faith. What do the prayers being offered in faith accomplish in these verses? (*bringing people physical and spiritual healing.*)

Share:

- ❖ Let's spend some time doing what these verses in James ask us to do.
- ❖ Is one of you in trouble? (*lift that person and their problem up to God in prayer.*)
- ❖ Are you happy? (*share this happiness with God through song.*)
- ❖ Do you have an illness that needs prayer? (*lift this illness up in prayer. Gather around this person, lay your hands on their shoulders and lift them up in prayer. If there is something that needs the prayer of the elders find a time to help that person get together with the elders so that the elders can pray and anoint them with oil.*)
- ❖ Does someone have sin in your life that you need us to take to God in prayer? (*help this person have the confidence that you aren't going to air their dirty laundry everywhere, love on them, and lift their struggle up in prayer.*)

Worship:

- ❖ How does it make you feel knowing that God is there when you are in trouble, that God is there when you are happy, that the elders are there when you are sick to intervene with God on your behalf, and that we are all here to help each other when our focus is not upon God.
- ❖ Close with a time of prayer and praise thanking God for this Christian community he has placed us in.