

 **ONE  
ANOTHER SERIES**



# Confess to One Another

**JAMES 5:14–16**



**STUDY GUIDE**

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## **WELCOME:**

Fixing  
Our Focus

### **Suggested icebreaker:**

Ask each GG member to share tips and suggestions with the group on how they can make prayer a regular habit within the day.

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## **WORSHIP:**

Adoring  
Our God

### **Suggested song:**

- [Sweet Hour of Prayer](#)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### LESSON AIM

1. GG members will cultivate a habit of prayer, whatever their circumstances.
2. GG members will pray for others when they pray.
3. GG members will be assured that God answers prayers according to his will.

### INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a spiritual discipline every believer should practice. We learn some things about prayer in the final portion of the letter of James (5:13-18). Prayer should be something a believer does constantly, whatever their circumstances. Prayer is not just lifting up to God personal concerns, but the concerns of other fellow believers as well. Prayer is powerful because the one who hears and answers prayers is almighty.

### James instructed believers to pray in all circumstances (v. 13)

James asked two questions: “Is anyone among you suffering?” and “Is anyone cheerful?” These represent two opposite ends of human experience. His answer: “Let him pray.” and “Let him sing praise.” The answer to both questions is prayer. Prayer is the answer to both extremes of human experience, so this also holds true for other experiences in between.

1. What did James instruct for those who are suffering? (cf. James 1:2-5) Can you cite other biblical characters who did as James instructed? (i.e. Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-8)
2. What did James instruct for those who are satisfied in the Lord? In Ephesians 5:18-21, what did Paul teach about singing praises to God?
3. According to the Bible, what kinds of circumstances necessitate prayer for the believer of Jesus Christ? (cf. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

### Application

As believers, we are to cultivate a habit of prayer. How can you remind yourself at different times of the day to pray?

### James instructed believers to pray for one another (vv. 14-16a)

If verse 13 answers the question, “When should we pray?” then this passage answers the question, “Who should we pray for?” It is natural for us to pray for ourselves. However, prayer should be more than just about us. It should focus on God and on his people. Therefore, we should pray for fellow believers.

1. What did James instruct for the one who was physically ill or weak?
2. Why do you think James called for the elders to pray? (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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3. What did James instruct for the one who was spiritually ill or weak?
4. Why do you think believers should confess their sins to one another? What do you think happens when they do so? (cf. Nehemiah 9:1-3)
5. What kind of healing does a person receive when they confess their sins to God and to other believers? (cf. 1 Peter 2:24)

### Application

Believers are not just accountable to God, they are also accountable to one another. That is why Christ established the church, so believers can encourage and support one another. Think of a number of people in the church whom you will pray for this week. Make it your practice to pray for fellow believers.

### Prayers are powerful because of the almighty God who answers them (vv. 16b-18)

Believers pray not because their prayers are powerful but because the God who answers prayers is. James gave Elijah as an example of a man with powerful prayers. But he described Elijah as a man “with a nature like ours.” He is no different from any other believer. He is not more righteous than us. He is also a sinner like us. A person is made righteous only because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

1. What did James mean when he said, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power”? Who do you think qualifies as righteous? (cf. Romans 3:10-18)
2. How does one become righteous in God’s sight? (cf. Romans 3:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
3. Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17-18 to know more about what James wrote about him. Does this mean that God will answer all prayer requests made by a believer? (cf. 1 John 5:14-15)

### Application

What makes prayer powerful is not the person praying but the one who answers the prayer. How does this encourage you when you pray to God, such as when you are praying for a loved one to place their faith in Jesus Christ? What are some ways for you to ascertain whether you are praying according to God’s will?

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### PRAYER ITEM

Lord God, I praise you, for you are merciful and gracious. You extend your grace to sinners like me so we may be righteous in your sight. Because of this, I have the confidence to approach you in prayer. I also praise and thank you for hearing and answering my prayers. I lift up to you the welfare of your people. Bless us, Father, and protect us from the attacks of the enemy. Teach us to come to you in prayer whatever our circumstances that we may grow closer to you and become more like the image of your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen. ■



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## **Greenhills Christian Fellowship**

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