

OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

Make a list of all the kinds of things that different people pray about.

Which of these things on your list are most common in people's prayers?
Which are least common?

DIG

James wrote about daily life and challenges as a disciple of Jesus.

Read James 5:13-15 and look some reminders about prayer.

"...Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray...." (NIV)

Based on this passage, what is the appropriate actions when you experience trouble, happiness, or sickness?

How likely are you to do this?

Tell about a time when you were anointed with oil in conjunction with prayer.

Read James 5:16-18 to discover more actions that are connected to prayer.

"...Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other..."

What are connections between confession and spiritual healing?

How do answers to Elijah's prayers make you feel about your own prayers?

How do you reconcile this reminder about answered prayer with the fact that the Apostle Paul and Jesus Christ himself did not always get what they asked for in prayer?

If you have ever confessed sins to other Christians and received prayer, explain how such an experience can bring forgiveness, healing, and renewal.

APPLY

What is one specific **physical** need related to you or your family and friends?

What is one specific **spiritual** need related to you or your family and friends?

Take time to pray in your group about one specific **spiritual** need as well as one specific **physical** need of each person present. Let each person pray if he or she feels comfortable praying aloud in the group.

-GLR

Leaders

Sermon Series

This discussion guide comes from the current lesson in a series called "One Another." It is a challenge to imitate Christ in the way we treat one another as fellow human beings.

Big Idea

The lesson this week highlights the power of prayer in all areas of life. Prayer is not only for physical needs, but is even better when focused on emotional, relational, and spiritual needs.

Prayer

Especially in a lesson about prayer, take time to pray during the group meeting. Gently encourage every person to pray out loud in the group and give an opportunity for them to pray.

Group Discussion Reminder

Prayers in a group setting often focus only on physical needs. Take time to redirect the prayer time to include thanksgiving and spiritual needs as well.