

Digging Deeper: James 5:13–20

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Day 1

Get your journal ready to record your thoughts, ideas and prayers. Pray for God to help you understand His Word. Read James 5:13–20. If you, or anyone you know, is suffering hardship or an illness, what is the first thing we are supposed to do? If we are having a great day, what is the first thing we are supposed to do? Check out Psalms 116, 117 and 118.

Day 2

Pray. Praise God. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Ask God for the forgiveness of sin in your life. Read James 5:13–20. When elders and pastors are called to pray for folks who are sick, what does James say they are supposed to do?

Day 3

Find a quiet place. Settle your mind and spirit. Make time and space to listen for the Holy Spirit and learn from Him. Bring your requests to God. Read James 5:13–20. The historical use of oil is both a medicine and a symbol for the Holy Spirit. Check out Luke 10:30–37 and 1 Samuel 16:1–13. Physical healing with medicines and spiritual healing with prayer are both important; Jesus is Lord over both. Have you experienced a time of physical or spiritual healing? Give thanks to God.

Day 4

Pray. Ask God who it is you are supposed to encourage today. Check in with them. Call or send a note. Read James 5:13–20. Earlier in James, we read about the power of our words for good and for evil. What does James tell us to do in verse 16? What does he say will happen? Compare this to his warnings in James 3:1–11. What cause and effect associations can you make here?

Day 5

Pray and ask God how you are supposed to be a good friend and neighbor today. Read James 5:13–20. The prayer of an earnest and righteous person has what and does what? Check out the definitions of these two keywords:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/earnest>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/righteous>

What adjustments can we make in our lives, motives and attitudes so that our prayer is more honest and sincere?

Day 6

As you pray, reflect and discuss with the Holy Spirit about the past days and how you can apply what you learned this week for His glory. One last time, read James 5:13–20. Everyone can fall down spiritually, just like we do physically. When a friend stumbles and falls down, we help them back up and ask if they are ok. It is important for us to do the same when our sisters and brothers in Christ fall down spiritually. What does James say will happen when we do? See verses 19–20. Pray about family, friends and others who you might not have seen at

church in a while. Who do you need to reach out to? Check on them and see how they are doing. An encouraging word has great power.