

Small Group Questions

August 11, 2019

Faith Works (series on the book of James)

Message: "The Power of Prayer"

Our series through the entire book of James, entitled "Faith Works," will unpack the gritty, real-world nature of faith in the Jesus of the Bible. Written by Jesus' brother, this book was first written to people paying a high price for their faith. Not only does James call them to endure but he pulls no punches in giving strong direction for how to live out that challenged faith. He covers a number of practical issues when it comes to any and all of us, leading us away from the idea that faith is just a matter of the heart or mind. It certainly includes the heart and mind but it is as real as the world around us that does not always embrace it.

The hope of this series lies in folks taking practical steps in their faith as it pertains to real life and what they may be experiencing. We will try, each week, to give personal ways to apply what we are learning.

Thank you once again for your service to God by loving the people in your group!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. Did you grow up in a home where prayer took place? If so, did it make any impact on you as a child?
2. A recent quip stated: "As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools." Why do you think people turn to prayer in trying/scary moments?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read James 5:13-20.

3. James challenges us to pray in good times and bad times. In which of those do you find it easier to pray? Why do you think it's easier in that time for you? Why do you find the other time harder?
4. Fictional situation: Joe is going through a really difficult time. His friend, Rob, says, "The least I can do for you is pray for you." What's wrong with what Rob says based on what James writes in this section?
5. What connection does James make between faith and prayer in :15?
6. Why is the prayer of a righteous man powerful and effective according to James?
7. Is there one specific person who is far from God who you can pray for and respectfully seek to return to his/her faith?
8. What is your one, big take-away from this section that you will put into action?

