

THE BOOK OF JAMES

STUDY TEN – JAMES 5:12–20

1) Thinking back over the book of James so far, what has he challenged Christians on? How do these areas of life and behaviour impact the Christian Community/Church?

Read James 5:12

2) Where in your life do you find yourself adding qualifiers, excuses, or "outs" to your promises rather than a simple, dependable yes or no? What usually drives that?

3) James treats broken promises seriously enough to warn of judgment. Why do you think God cares so much about small, everyday reliability, not just the big obvious lies?

Read James 5:13-18

4) James assumes prayer belongs in every situation — trouble, happiness, sickness. Which of those is easiest for you to bring to God, and which is hardest? Why?

5) James pairs confession with prayer: "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other." What makes confessing sin to another believer hard? What would it take for that to feel more normal among us?

6) James points to Elijah as an example of powerful prayer, but is careful to say he "was a human being, even as we are." What does that detail tell us about where the power in prayer actually comes from?

Read James 5:19-20

7) James pictures someone wandering from the truth and being brought back. Has anyone ever lovingly pursued you when you were drifting? What did that look like, and what made it land well rather than badly?

8) What usually holds us back from gently pursuing someone in our own community who seems to be drifting from Christ? What would doing this well, with humility not harshness, actually look like this week?

From trials and temptation, to caring for the vulnerable, to taming the tongue, to money and now to promises and prayer. James keeps emphasising how we treat each other.

9) If someone judged the health of our church family by how we lived this out this (especially the final passage we've looked at this week), what would they conclude? What's one place you want to grow?

