

TALK IT OVER

How did everyone's action step/s go this week? What progress did you make? (We want to shepherd our few really well. Hold people accountable to what God is calling them to but do so out of love.)

Read James 5 (Passage is on 2nd page. This is from The New Living version. Feel free to use or read from your own Bible/app. This is going to be a hard topic for some of your few. Be sensitive to how you ask questions and guide the discussion. You will have people in your few that prayed for healing and didn't get it. Don't placate them with common church sayings such as "It's all part of God's plan". Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing. Pray for discernment and the Holy Spirit's guidance.). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not now before?
- What did you learn about God? (Pastor Brad read a lot of scripture about Jesus healing. Have you ever seen or experienced God's healing? How? Do you think that God does or still does heal like we see in the New Testament letters? Why/why not? Ultimately we are healed by what Jesus did on the cross- Isaiah 53:4-5. What does that say about God and healing?)
- What did you learn about people? (What is your past experience with God and healings? How does that influence you today? Why do you think so many churches/Christians write of supernatural healings? Why is it so hard, sometimes, to trust God in the healing? How do we reconcile living by faith and not sight- 2 Cor. 5:7- when it comes to healing?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (Pastor Brad gave 3 ways that show God heals: Our bodies say God heals/ Medical healing says God uses others/ Supernatural healing says God does miracles. What are your thoughts about that? Do we give God credit for modern medicine? Doctors/nurses? **The Numbers 21 passage has harsh language. It seems like God punishes people for complaining with deadly serpents. But there is no language of causality. We are left to interpret that. We don't know if it was a case of being in an area of venomous snakes already or if God removed his hand of protection from them.** In either case they are healed by looking at the bronze snake on the pole were healed. This was a foreshadowing of Jesus being lifted up on the cross. Instead of it offering just physical healing Jesus brought our spiritual healing as well. How does that factor into our discussion of healing?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (Do you need healing in your life today? How can we pray for that healing? A few suggestions going forward: 1. Speak healing & life over your situation. 2. Just because it hasn't happened yet, doesn't mean it won't. 3. Even if we are physically healed, we will all still face death. Our view of healing must include an eternal perspective. **These are just a few ways we can go forward in God's healing power. But do not mandate them. Offer them as loving guidance.**)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read Hebrews 11. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and

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then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ²Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. ⁴For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

⁵You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and killed innocent people,^[a] who do not resist you.^[b]

Patience and Endurance

⁷Dear brothers and sisters,^[c] be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. ⁸You, too, must be patient. Take

courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

¹²But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

The Power of Prayer

¹³Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

¹⁷Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

Restore Wandering Believers

¹⁹My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, ²⁰you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.