

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Suffering & Prayer

February 22 & 23, 2020

What is prayer and how do we pray? What do we pray for? How does God answer prayer? We are finishing up the Live It Worship series from the book of James. James ends his letter with the emphasis on prayer. This letter was written to Christians who were new to the faith. James emphasis on prayer highlights prayer as the center of our faith. So how are we doing with prayer?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JAMES 5:13-16

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Prayer is a relationship with God that shares your life's journey. You can share anything and everything with God. God is always present, always listening, always loving, always guiding, always wanting to connect with you. Having a prayer life is like having a best friend relationship with God. You talk, you listen, you share what is on your heart, you go through life's ups and downs, nothing is too much, you can sit for hours in silence, knowing that God speaks through silence, you can talk up a storm knowing that God listens. You can trust God with EVERYTHING. Because God will never leave you.

Prayer is communication with God. Prayer is the most powerful resource God has given to us. God gives us the opportunity every minute of every day to be in communication with him. Jesus shows us that prayer can happen in many ways and circumstances. There is silent prayer, a time when you are alone and just listen. Listen to your heart, listen to God's heart. There is prayer in which we ask. We ask that God give us God's strength, God's power, God's guidance in our lives. We ask for God to change us, to make us more like Jesus. We can pray together, in a group; we can ask petitions for health, for healing, for peace, for comfort, and especially prayer of listening. Prayer changes lives, bringing healing and health, comfort, hope and peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean for us to pray? What do you pray for?
- When have you experienced God answering your prayers? How about times he didn't answer them, at least in the way you wanted?
- James tells us to pray in all circumstances. What does that mean to you?
- Why does prayer even matter? How has it changed your relationship with God?

APPLICATION: This week, take quiet time just being, take time to share what is on your heart, take time to pray for others and take time to bask in the love of God and experience the ways that God changes you.