

LIFE APPLICATION

THEME: A CALL TO PRAYER

PASSAGE: JAMES 5: 13 – 20

LAUNCH

Have you ever lost contact with someone over the years & regretted doing so? How did the relationship gradually subside? What could you have done to stop this happening?

What tends to happen when your relationship with God subsides?

In his sermon Carnie confirmed that relationship was all about communication. The way we communicate to God is through prayer. How would you realistically describe your prayer life at the moment?

READ THE PASSAGE

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

In the first few verses (13 & 14) we see a menu of situations that lead to different prayer responses. What is your condition right now & what sort of prayer response would be appropriate to you?

Verse 15 suggests a possible link between sickness and sin. What are some situations where sickness might be linked to sin? Is this always the case? Why or why not?

James suggests that we should confess our sins to each other. Why can't we just confess them to God? What are some of the key benefits of being able to confess sins to each other?

Do you have a fellow Christian to whom you can 'confess your sins'. What sort of relationship is needed for this to occur?

Carnie suggested that 2 key areas of our prayer lives that needed development were persistence & passion. In what areas of prayer would you like to be more persistent & passionate in your praying?

Why did James feel the need to emphasise the fact that Elijah was 'only human' & 'like us' (vs 17). What might we have been tempted to think about him? What lessons does James intend us to draw from Elijah's example?

Are there any big areas of prayer that you feel the need to engage in at the moment?

APPLICATION

Think about one key area in which you would like to improve your prayer life this week eg praying out at home group more, logging into Monday nights, having a prayer list or journal etc