CLOSING WITH PRAYER AND COMMUNITY

James keeps his focus on practical Christianity up until the last word of his letter. Departing from his longer-winded explanations, he finishes with some bite-sized pieces of practical advice.

The majority of this closing section centers on prayer. His overarching point is that there is always a great reason to talk to God. In the throes of despair and in the heights of joy, both give ample opportunity to commune with God in prayer. When courage fails, reach out to others to help pray and leave all burdens and needs at the feet of Jesus.

James emphasizes that there’s nothing special about Elijah that made God listen to Him more than He will listen to His children today. His very being—his nature—was no different than ours, and we don’t need another human in order to commune with God.

James finishes his book by sharing the far-reaching impact of accountability in godly community. Love is sometimes used as an excuse to avoid confrontation and instruction; but James paints the eternal positive consequences of bringing someone back to the truth after they’ve wandered.

With no explicit goodbye, James leaves his readers to live the practical wisdom he has shared, all in the power of and glory to Jesus Christ.
Write out James 5:13–20 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out James 5:16, 17. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in James 5:13–20. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

When you tend to pray more? Less? Why do you think that is?

In which circumstance from today's lesson do you want to ask God to strengthen your prayer life? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Which of these reasons do you resonate with the most? Struggle with the most? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Psalm 50:14, 15
Philippians 4:6, 7
Jeremiah 33:3
Ephesians 6:18
Proverbs 28:13

What other narratives come to mind in connection with Hebrews 12:18–29?

Look up a few more of Jesus’ prayer snippets. What else do you learn from these about Him and His prayer life?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/jam12-6

An Abrupt Ending
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/jam12-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

When do you pray to God easily, and when is it harder for you? Why?

Share an experience of God answering a prayer of yours in a memorable way.

Share an experience of how community has helped you in your spiritual walk.

What experience have you had with praying for healing? What did you learn from the experience?

How have you seen James 5:19, 20 played out in real life?

How would you like to enhance your prayer life?

What usually prevents us from pouring out our thoughts to God in prayer?