

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### James 5:13-20

#### For Starting

- Imagine that you had won the lottery (£100+ million). What would you do with the winnings? Why?
- Go around the group taking turns to mention different Bible stories that include prayer.
- Which part of the Lord's Prayer do you find most difficult to understand? (See Matthew 6:9-15)
- What verse or phrase stands out in this Bible passage?

#### For Reviewing

- How many times does the word "pray" or "prayer" appear in the passage?
- What THREE situations does James highlight when Christians should pray (v.13-14)?
- Who should a sick person call to pray with them (v.14-15)?
- To whom should sins be confessed to (v.16a)? Why should sins be confessed in this way (v.16b)?
- How does Elijah show the effectiveness of prayer (v.17-18)?
- According to v.19-20, how, if at all, are we our brother's keeper?

#### For Discussion

- Do you pray more when you are in trouble or when things are going well? Why?
- What is the difference between "much praying" (see Matthew 6:7) and being persistent in prayer?
- What are some of the problems you have faced when trying to set a regular prayer time? What has helped you overcome these prayer hinderances?
- "*Private sin requires private confession. Public sin requires public confession.*" Do you agree/disagree? What consequences follow this statement?
- You could end by reading together James 5:20.

## **James 5:13-20 (NIVUK)**

### **The prayer of faith**

<sup>13</sup> Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, they will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.