LG Guide

11/8 - James 5:13-18

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

Understanding:

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
2. Let's read our primary text. James names suffering, cheerfulness, and sickness (vv. 13–14). What is he teaching by giving each situation a Godward response?
3. Why does James tell the sick person to "call for the elders of the church" to pray and anoint with oil (v. 14)? What does this say about the church's role in suffering?
4. Verse 15 says "the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up." How should we understand this promise when faithful believers are not always healed?
5. Why does James link confession of sin with prayer and healing (vv. 15–16)? Why is confessing "to one another" so important for a church?
6. James stresses that Elijah was "a man with a nature like ours" (v. 17). Why is that detail so encouraging?
7. How is this passage a fitting end to this book? How does this book start and end?

Application:

8. Which part of this passage is hardest for you to practice right now: praying in suffering, praising in joy, asking others to pray for you, or confessing sin to another believer? Why?
9. When you are suffering, is your first instinct to pray, to complain, to fix it yourself, or to withdraw? What would it look like to make prayer your first response this week?
10. Do you have at least one trusted believer you could confess sin to and ask for prayer? If not, what is holding you back, and what is one step toward that kind of friendship?
11. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal:* Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External:* Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group, generally? *[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]*
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.