



## HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### CONFESSION

IS CHRIST LORD OF ALL YOUR LIFE?

#### James 5 v23-20

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

These questions relate to the morning sermon (8.30 10.30 and 12.00 services) on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (available on the church website). Feel free to pick and choose questions as appropriate for your group – they are there to facilitate good discussion / reflection.

Icebreaker question: Have you made and kept any New Year's resolutions?

TURN TO GOD WHEN:

#### 1. SICK v14-15

<sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up

Question 1: Why does James suggest anointing with oil?

Question 2: What are the obvious difficulties spotting if prayer has made a difference to someone's situation?

## 2. SUFFERING v13

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

Question 3: What kinds of suffering might make us turn to Christ in prayer?

## 3. CELEBRATING v13

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Question 4: How do we leave Christ out of our celebrations?

Question 5: How can we bring him back in?

## 4. SINNING v15-20

<sup>15</sup> And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Question 6: Why in a passage largely about healing, does James mention Elijah's prayer which would have made a lot of people ill?!

Question 7: If the section v19-20 is the culmination of the passage, what should we be praying for in most if not all situations?

## A PRAYER

Loving Lord, thank you that you have come to be Lord of all my life. Forgive me for the areas of my life not under your direct leadership and lordship. At the start of this new year, I bring an area of my life which needs to touch with your forgiveness and/or healing power. In moment of silence I name that area before you now. Help me come to you when I am sick, when I am suffering when I am celebrating and when I am sinning. That you may reign and rule, every area of my life, today and into eternity, for the sake of your Son my Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.