

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 14th June 2020  
Sermon Title: The Character of God's Family: prayer  
Bible Passage: James 5: 13 - 19

### **Introduction**

- Share some testimonies of answer to prayer.
- Do you have a normal rhythm of prayer? What does it look like?
- Do you have a favourite passage of Scripture to pray for others?

### **Recapping the Preach**

Take time to read the passage again, perhaps read it a few times from different versions:

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- How do you feel about James' description that 'Elijah was a man just like us'? Would you agree?
- James points out that we should pray: when in trouble, when happy, when sick (calling the Elders) and when we have sinned. Do you pray in all these circumstances or do you gravitate to one area?

In vs.13-14 James encourages us to pray when in trouble or when we are happy.

- If we are in trouble, what do you think we should be praying for?
- If God does not get us out of trouble immediately, what would you say is the point of praying?
- What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?
- Have you ever called upon the Elders to come and pray? Why or why not?

Stu spoke about our desire to be a family, united in Christ by the power of the Spirit. He said that recent events in Minneapolis and the murder of George Floyd compel us to do this. As a multi-cultural faith family we have the opportunity to be a prophetic call and presence to confront evil and injustice. Our greatest weapon in that fight is prayer.

- What was your response to the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent protests?
- Do you agree that prayer is our greatest weapon? Why?

Stu listed three reasons why we should pray: because God has chosen to effect his purposes through human intercessors, because prayer does change things and because prayer changes us.

- Do you think vs.15 guarantees that the sick person will be healed? What is the condition? Does this mean if we pray for the sick and they aren't healed it is because we don't have enough faith?
- Do you agree that God has chosen to effect His purposes through human intercessors? What does this mean for you?
- Do you agree that our prayers change things? Can you give an example (from Scripture or testimony)?
- What can we learn from Elijah at prayer? What was his motivation in prayer?
- Do you agree that prayer changes us? How do you see this working in your life?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

**Prayer pointers**

- Pray for us as a faith family that God would strengthen our commitment to Him and one another.
- Pray that God break our hearts for the injustices around the world.
- Pray for desire to seek Him earnestly in prayer.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>