

## Message Discussion Guide

**Date:** July 1 & 2, 2023

**Title:** Starter Kit- Week 5

### Connect with Each Other:

#### Icebreakers

*You can use these questions to break the ice in conversations as you start your group.*

- What is your favorite 4th of July tradition?
- Do you believe prayer changes things? How often do you use your prayer tool?

#### Pray Together

- God,  
Thank you for giving us the tools we need to know you more fully. For all the hardships we have endured or the ones we are currently struggling with, we come to you in faithful prayer. We believe that you will work in our lives and we ask that you will grow in us a spirit of patience and faithfulness. For the blessing you have given us we offer up praise to you. Most of all we thank you for the precious gift of your son Jesus Christ who died for us and made us right with you.  
In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen

### Connect with God:

#### Message Summary

*You may want to ask a group member to recap the message so everyone is ready to discuss the message, especially if some people missed gathering that weekend. If people are having a hard time remembering, you can use this summary to help give a recap.*

- **Sticky statement:** Faith filled prayer goes beyond what only we can do and invites what only God can do.
- **Message Summary:**

In life, when problems come, we sometimes feel like we don't have the tools we need to deal with them. We end up pulling out anxiety, fear, worry, anger, instead of the tool we need. James reminds us of a powerful tool in our toolbox - prayer. It is a tool we should use every day - to grow our faith, to help us when we are suffering and sick, to help heal us after we have confessed our sins, to open a path when there is no path forward, to sing praises to God. There is no problem too big, or circumstance too small, that God doesn't want us to bring it to Him. Too often, people bury prayer in the bottom of their toolkit and never utilize it. Our prayer can be

like a giant sledgehammer in our toolkit when we break it out and use it.

Our prayer life includes reading the Word - which is the bread of life. If we only ate food once a week, our bodies would suffer. In the same way, if we only pray and read the Word once a week, our faith suffers. Pray every day and include the Word in your prayer life.

Don't give up on prayers. Keep praying. Keep asking. God promises to answer the prayers of a righteous person, and when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, his righteousness gets placed on us. When we pray, we aren't coming in our own righteousness (none of us are righteous), but in the righteousness of Jesus. So, keep praying.

### **Key Bible Verses**

- Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. - James 5:13-16a (NLT)
- The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. - James 5:16b (NLT)
- Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops. - James 5:17-18 (NLT)
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. - Romans 10:17 (NKJV)
- Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

### **Discussion Questions**

*You can use these questions to help guide your discussion. Think through any helpful ways to preface the questions for your group (a quick recap of a part of the message, reading the associated verse together, etc.)*

1. What are some habits you can do consistently to build your faith?
2. What tool in your faith tool kit do you use when you are going through it and need help? What is a success story you have?
3. Is prayer a one time approach? When have you seen a prayer answered after time and consistent faith?
4. What truths can you take from the message & apply to your life to help you build your

faith and grow spiritually?

5. Prayer must be offered in what?
6. When we confess our faults one to another, we can experience what?
7. What does it mean to be righteous? How do we become righteous?
8. Faith begins when we hear what?

**A SLEDGEHAMMER IS A POWERFUL TOOL IN OUR TOOLBOX THAT LETS US DO MORE THAN WE CAN DO ON OUR OWN. JAMES REMINDS US OF THE POWERFUL TOOL OF PRAYER. WE SHOULD USE IT EVERY DAY. A FAITH LIFE FILLED WITH PRAYER GOES BEYOND WHAT WE CAN DO AND INVITES GOD TO DO WHAT ONLY HE CAN DO.**

**THE EARNEST PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AND PRODUCES WONDERFUL RESULTS.**

**- JAMES 5:16 (NLT)**

