

The book of
JAMES Devotions
 you're doing it wrong READ | UNDERSTAND | APPLY

Monday

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: James 5:13-14

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the keys words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage James is teaching believers to call on each other when troubles come. When we're happy, we should be thankful and praise God. When we're sick we should call on those we consider to be godly to pray with us. James mentions elders in this passage which is referring to the godly leaders in the church.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Who do you know that is going through a difficult time? Make a list.

How can you be more intentional to pray for and with them this week?

PRAY: Ask God to help you see, pray with, and serve those who are hurting.

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Tuesday

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: James 5:15

¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the keys words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage James teaching believers that there is power in faith-filled prayer. It is not enough just to talk to God. We must also believe that God has the power to do what we are asking. It was common in the first century church see people healed as a result of prayer. Today we struggle to have that kind of faith in the power of prayer.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Have you ever prayed for healing? What was the result?

What do you think “prayer offered in faith” means? How can you have more faith?

PRAY: Ask God to give you more faith as you learn to trust in Him more.

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Wednesday

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: James 5:16

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

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the keys words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage James teaches believers to support each other, not only in prayer but also in accountability. Confession is much more powerful than we realize. The idea of confessing our sins to each other is frightening. This is mostly because we don't really know if people can be trusted. However, true followers of Christ should be able to trust each other enough to share their struggles with sin. Only then can we find help and healing.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Do you find it difficult to confess your sins to other believers? If so, why?

Who in your life can you confess your sins to? Why do you trust them?

How does confession help us to find healing from our sins?

Are there any sins that you are hiding? What do you need to do about that?

PRAY: Ask God to give you the courage to confess and repent of your sin.

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Thursday

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: James 5:17-18

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the keys words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage James refers back to an Old Testament prophet named Elijah. The events James is referring to can be found in 1 Kings 17-18. The point James is making is found in James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Elijah was a righteous man and his prayers were certainly powerful.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

What about Elijah made him a righteous man?

Why is righteousness vital to our prayer life?

When have you seen God answer your prayers in a powerful way?

PRAY: Ask God to help you develop a more powerful prayer life.

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Friday

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: James 5:19-20

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the keys words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage James is teaching us about accountability. As believers, we have a responsibility to try to bring back those who have wandered from the truth. We are responsible to try but we are not responsible for the results. The results are in God's hands. However, it is very important that when we try to bring a person back we do it with the right attitude and motives. Too often we'd rather talk ABOUT the person in sin than talk TO the person in sin.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Why do we shy away from trying to help those who are wandering from the truth?

Read Galatians 6:1-5. What does this passage say about our attitude and motives when we are trying to help a person that is in sin?

According to Galatians 6:1, what is the goal? How does that goal determine how we deal with a person in sin?

PRAY: Ask God to help you restore those who are wandering from the truth.



Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

REVIEW: Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

PRAY: Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

READ: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

THINK: *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

PRAY: Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.