



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Bible Study Outline*

Study to show “The Way of True life,”

**TOPIC:** Struggling with Sickness

**TEXT:** *James 5:13-18*

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** We knew our three-year-old son was sick, but we didn't know how seriously until the doctor called. We had taken Kyle to the doctor's office because he had the flu. Now our pediatrician told us to take him to the emergency room as quickly as we could and that she would meet us there. What started as the flu left Kyle severely dehydrated and on the verge of major organ failure. As our family and friends were notified, they began to surround Kyle with prayer. Intravenous feeding, close monitoring, medical attention and God's intervention brought him to full recovery.

In his very practical New Testament letter James gives some clear direction about how Christians are to handle serious sickness. His instructions may sound strange to us but it's an approach God has promised to bless. Read James 5:13-18.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you do first when you get sick? Do you ever pray to be healed? What emotions did you sense as you passed through that experience?
2. As you look through the passage again, what indicators can you find that these instructions are for Christians to follow and not general commands to everyone?

3. James uses a word in verse 14 translated "sick" that means without strength for recovery. What does that tell you about when these instructions might apply to you?
4. The sick person is to call the elders of the church to prayer and anointing. The "Elders" in the New Testament were those in spiritual leadership (Pastors) among the local group of Christians. Why are many Christians not calling their Pastor in situations like that?
5. Some interpreters of James believe the oil is a reference to medicine or medical treatment. Others believe the oil is a symbol of dependence only on the Holy Spirit. Which view do you think is better and what statements from the passage lead you to that conclusion?
6. Does James "guarantee" physical healing if we follow these instructions? Explain your answer.
7. Why does James connect physical healing with the confession of sin? If we confess our sins to God, isn't that enough? Why confess them to each other?
8. "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (vs. 16). How will that statement and the example of Elijah (vs. 17-18) affect the way you pray after this lesson for a person who is sick?
9. How can you use this passage to help a Christian who is seriously ill? What will you do if that person chooses not to follow the Bible's direction?
10. Read the account in 1 Kings 18:41-46 of Elijah's prayer for the return of rain after a three-year drought in Israel. Pick out two or three aspects of Elijah's prayer life that are most striking to you. How can we cultivate these qualities in our own personal practice of prayer?