

Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James

“Whole People Always Talk to God”

November 20-21, 2021

This provides about one hour of discussion, music and readings.

Use the portions you find most valuable. This is designed as a springboard for discussion and further study.

1. Talking with God about **real life**

- Read **James 5:13-14** and **Colossians 3:16**.
 - How do these verses sum up some practical aspects of Christian life?
- Why do you think God wants us to think about his greatness? How is praise important? When you look at the instructions in **Psalms 100:1-5**, what do you notice?

2. Talking with God about **wellness and forgiveness**

- Read **James 5:15** and **Galatians 6:1-2**.
 - What are some practical ways to apply this idea?
- Read **Exodus 15:26**, **Romans 8:1-3**, **Colossians 3:13**, **Philippians 4:5-7**, and **1 Peter 4:8**.
 - How do these verses connect with forgiveness and wellness?
- The Hebrew word “shalom” (and the Greek word *eirene*) reflects being at **peace** with God, with an inward sense of completeness or wholeness. Look at **Ephesians 2:13-17**.
 - Discuss **God’s way** of providing peace/wholeness/wellness *in contrast* to other methods the world offers.

3. Talking with God about talking **with others**

- Read **James 5:16a** and **Proverbs 28:13**.
 - From your own experience, share about a time of “confession.”
- Besides the value of admitting our sins and weaknesses, what else can be gained by living in close relationship with other believers? How can we build these kinds of relationships?

4. Consider **the result** of talking with God

- Read **James 5:16b**, **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**, and **Psalms 5:1-3**.
 - Why do you think God wants us to talk with him?
 - What else stands out to you in these verses?

Three things to do this week...

1. Actually **talk** to God
2. Say your **needs** out loud
3. Say **thank you** to God

Close with reading **Psalms 63:1-8** and listen to the theme-related **song**:

- **“Waiting Here for You”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em8EAHrW9fY>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.