

WEEK FIVE: THE GROUP GUIDE TO Living as a Christ follower in James

- Open with an ice-breaker (not necessarily spiritual - more of a get-to-know-you question): “A Christian once tried to prove that God was real because of the way God seemed to answer his prayers. His atheist friend said, ‘That’s just co-incidence.’ To which the Christian responded, ‘Yes, but the more I pray, the more co-incidences happen.’ Has that been your experience: the more you pray, the more co-incidences happen? Tell us about it.”
- Read through James 5:7-20 and the associated commentary insights listed below.
- **Discovering Bible insights:** “Of all you read in James this week, what did you find most fascinating or interesting?”
- **Discerning God’s message:** “As you pondered James this week, were there any one or two things that God seemed to be saying to you, specifically?”
- **Responding to God’s message:** “In light of what you believe God said to you, how is your life being changed, or in what ways does it still need to change?”
- “Well done for listening to God in James. There are 65 other books waiting for us, so don’t stop reading through them in your own devotions. Keep expecting God to speak to you through his Word.” *Also be sure to make use of the other commentaries available on www.commongroundchurch.co.za (click on ‘free resources’ then ‘bible commentary’).*

PATIENCE IN HARD TIMES (5:7-12)

- 1) *Wait patiently for Jesus’ intervention in your hard time.*
- 2) *Don’t let hard times make you grumble against each other.*
- 3) *Be encouraged by the examples of those who were blessed as a result of their perseverance.*
- 4) *Be encouraged by how God has the power to turn the whole situation around.*
- 5) *Be encouraged by God’s compassion for you.*
- 6) *Be a person whose words can be taken at face value.*

A RICH PRAYER LIFE (5:13-19)

- 1) *Give yourself to petitionary prayer.*
- 2) *Give yourself to praise prayer.*
- 3) *Give yourself to healing prayer.*
- 4) *Give yourself to faith-filled prayer.*
- 5) *Give yourself to grace-mediating prayer.*
- 6) *Give yourself to effective prayer.*
- 7) *Give yourself to earnest prayer.*
- 8) *Bring wanderers back to God.*