

- Always pray in faith.
- Pray earnestly, not flippantly.

Making It Personal

Developing a class prayer list

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the prayer list form shown here (duplicate Item 4). Lead the class to develop a prayer list of needs they and others in the class have.
- Begin by cautioning the class not to let this turn into a time for gossiping or revealing confidences. This is not the place to learn details of a fellow class member's sinfulness. This should be a positive, loving, and helpful time.

Wrapping It Up

Group prayer

- **How is your prayer life different than that of the elders who prayed for a sick person to get well? How is your prayer life different than that of Elijah who prayed for the rain to stop, then prayed for it to come? Some key words in our passage today are "faith," "earnest," and "righteous." Let's ask God to enable each of us to pray like that—in faith, in earnestness, and in righteousness.**
- Ask members to stand and hold hands. Call on two or three persons to lead the rest of the class in a time of prayer.

Class Prayer List

“Is any one of you in trouble?”

“Is anyone happy?”

“Is any one of you sick?”

“Has any one of you sinned?”

“Do anyone of you have material needs?”

“Has anyone wandered from the truth?”

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

James 5

August 30, 2009

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.

Getting Started

Ranking values

- Before class, place a pencil and a copy of the following (duplicate Item 1) on each chair. As members arrive, ask them to mark their sheets.

How do you view life?

Read over the following list of values.

Which one is most important to you?

Which is least important? How do you rank the ones in between?

Rank the values in order from one to ten, with one being the most important and ten being the least important.

- Comfort
- Family
- God
- Money
- Others
- Patience
- Personal goals/plans
- Possessions
- Security
- Time

- Begin by calling attention to the sheet they filled out upon arrival.
- **As you arrived, you ranked ten values according to their priority in**

your life. Today's lesson is a look at some of those priorities and counsel on how important they should be in the life of a Christian.

Exploring God's Word

Determining others' values

● Divide the class into four groups. Give each group a copy of the "Ranking Values" sheet from the activity above. Also give each group one of these assignments (cut apart Item 2).

Group One: BUSINESS PEOPLE

James 4:13-17 describes some business people. Read the passage. As a group, decide how the business people in this passage would rank the ten values. Be prepared to share your conclusions with the class.

Group Two: RICH PEOPLE

James 5:1-6 describes some rich people. Read the passage. As a group, decide how the rich people in this passage would rank the ten values. Be prepared to share your conclusions with the class.

Group Three: FARMERS

James 5:7-9 describes some farmers. Read the passage. As a group, decide how the farmers in this passage would rank the ten values. Be prepared to share your conclusions with the class.

Group Four: PROPHETS

James 5:10-11 describes some prophets. Read the passage. As a group,

decide how the prophets in this passage would rank the ten values. Be prepared to share your conclusions with the class.

● Allow five minutes for groups to work. Then call for reports.

Skit

● Enlist four people to present the following skit (duplicate Item 3). They can do it as a reading, without prior preparation. "Label" each person with a piece of paper on which you have written the name of the role he or she is playing.

Skit

BUSINESS PERSON Oh, boy! Let me tell you what I'm going to do. Have I got plans! I'm going to open up a new business across town and make more money next year than you'll make during the rest of your life.

FARMER I have no doubt of that. It wouldn't have to be much to beat the money I expect to make.

RICH PERSON Well, it would have to be quite a bit just to be more than I already have.

PROPHET What is all this talk about money? Money is not what's important in life.

RICH PERSON Says who?

PROPHET Says God.

BUSINESS PERSON Now don't start trying to tell me that God wants me to be poor. I believe God blesses those who love Him.

PROPHET Yes, but those blessings are not always financial and material. In fact, some of the greatest men and women of the faith lived in poverty and endured personal tragedy. Take Job, for example. He lost everything but still trusted God.

RICH PERSON Maybe so, but he started out rich and he ended up rich. That's what counts.

PROPHET That's not what counted to Job. His experiences taught him that nothing in life is more important than a person's relationship to the Lord.

BUSINESS PERSON So you're suggesting I shouldn't make plans in my business?

PROPHET It's fine to make plans. In fact, you ought to. But your plans should focus on God's will rather than your materialism. And your plans should reflect your recognition that God is sovereign. Boasting as you were doing a few minutes ago is evil.

FARMER It's hard for me to plan at all. It seems that all I do is wait. I wait for rains, I wait for the crops. Wait, wait, wait.

PROPHET But that's good. You are waiting patiently for God to act in your life. Meanwhile, you are doing all that you know to do. You're not sitting around waiting with your seed still in the barn, are you?

FARMER No....

PROPHET Then you are making plans. You plan the best time to prepare the ground, the best time to plant, the best time to reap.

RICH PERSON Maybe you ought to give up your farm and come work for me.

FARMER No thanks! I've seen how you treat people. You work them to death and then withhold their wages while you take excessive profits to spend on your own self-indulgence.

RICH PERSON Forget the job offer.

Deriving principles

● Divide the class into groups of four or five. Give each a large sheet of paper and a marker.
● Ask each group to study the James 5:12-20 and derive principles related to prayer. Each principle should be in the form of a complete sentence. Encourage each group to list five to seven principles on the large sheet of paper provided.

● Allow ten minutes for groups to work. Then call for reports. Here are some principles they may come up with (but let the groups do their own work):

- Pray in good times as well as bad.
- When you have problems, ask others to pray for you.
- Prayer can result in physical and spiritual healing.

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- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
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