



The **ONE** **ANOTHER** way

TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK EIGHT

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life.

- To aid in the discussion time, you may wish to text out one or two of the questions below, encouraging your group to begin thinking about their answers.
- Knowing the people in your group, facilitate the conversation in a way that best represents the relationships present: marriage, family, friendship or work.

ICEBREAKER

What is something you almost always prefer to do yourself rather than ask someone else for help?

What's something you're much more likely to ask for help with now than you were 10 years ago?

LEADER'S NOTE

James reminds us that the Christian life was never meant to be lived alone. This passage calls us toward the kind of relationships where we can be honest about our struggles, pray for one another, and help one another stay close to Christ.

Main Text: James 5:13–20

1 We Need One Another in Our Struggles

Key Scripture: James 5:13–14

Discuss:

1. Why do you think our natural tendency is often to handle struggles on our own rather than let other people in?
2. When you are struggling, what makes it easier or harder for you to ask someone to pray for you or help you?
3. What does healthy dependence on other believers look like in everyday life? What role does humility play in asking for help?

Leader's Note:

James assumes that God's people will experience both strong and weak moments. Being part of the church means having people around us who can pray, encourage, and help carry the load when those weak moments come.

2 We Must Be Willing to Get Honest

Key Scripture: James 5:16

Discuss:

1. Why is it sometimes easier to admit that we're *struggling* than to honestly call something in our lives *sin*?
2. What would it look like to develop the kind of trusted relationships where you can be honest about your struggles and weaknesses?

Leader's Note:

Biblical confession isn't about humiliation. It's about bringing sin into the light with God and, when appropriate, with a trusted believer who can pray, provide accountability, and help us move toward restoration.

3 We Should Pray for One Another

Key Scripture: James 5:16–18

Discuss:

1. How often do we say, "*I will pray for you,*" but never actually stop and pray? What could help us move from "*I will pray for you*" to "*Let me pray for you*" in the moment?
2. How does praying with someone—not just for them later—communicate care and help carry their burden?
3. James points to Elijah as an ordinary human being whose prayers were powerful because of the God he trusted. How should that affect the way you approach prayer for others?

Leader's Note:

We don't have to know exactly what to say or be able to fix someone's circumstances. We can bring them to the God who can. Prayer isn't powerful because we are powerful, "**Prayer is powerful because God is powerful.**"

4 We Go After Those Who Wander

Key Scripture: James 5:19–20

Discuss:

1. Spiritual wandering is often a slow drift rather than one dramatic decision. What are some warning signs that can indicate someone is beginning to drift?
2. Galatians 6:1 tells us to restore someone with a gentle spirit. What is the difference between lovingly pursuing someone and simply confronting or correcting them, while still recognizing that we, ourselves, are prone to fall short or wander?
3. Is there someone God may be bringing to mind who has wandered? What could be one loving, practical step you could take toward them this week?

Leader's Note:

The goal of pursuing someone who wanders isn't to embarrass them or win an argument—it's restoration. We speak truth in love and are willing to walk alongside them as they find their way back to the Lord.

Closing Prayer

Ask God to help your group become people who refuse to struggle alone—people who are willing to be honest, faithfully pray for one another, and lovingly pursue those who wander. Pray specifically for any struggles or needs shared during the discussion and ask God to show each person how to put this message into practice this week.