WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

HELP! Is anyone using these Discussion Guides?
Click HERE to let us know.

Series Title: Because You Prayed
Key Scripture: James 5:13-16
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/because-you-prayed
Date + Speaker: January 11, 2026; Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: What is prayer to you? A resource? A tool? A medium of communicating with our Heavenly Father? Something else? Try to imagine the Christian life without prayer. Shudder off the bleak thought with a Prayer of Praise.

1. James presents prayer as the response to suffering, joy, sickness, and sin. What does this passage reveal about how central prayer is to the Christian life? What is the primary purpose of prayer for each of these times in our lives?
2. James instructs the sick to call for the elders of the church (**James 5:14**). Why do you think the emphasis here is on church leadership and not just private prayer? What does this teach us about spiritual authority, care, and responsibility in the church?
3. Why are we instructed to anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord in **James 5:14**?
4. What does it mean to "save" when it says the prayer of faith will save the sick in **James 5:15?**
5. What is "the prayer of faith" in **James 5:15**?
   Hint: Part II of the sermon on 10 Ways to Pray
6. Who is the righteous person? How can we interpret this in the light of none being righteous (**Romans 3:10-12**) and us being the righteousness of God in Christ (**II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:21a**)
7. James 5:15 & 16 links physical healing and forgiveness of sins. What does this teach us about God's concern for the whole person—body, soul, and community? What is the link between confession and healing?
8. **James 5:16** calls believers to confess sins to one another and pray for one another. What safeguards or spiritual maturity are needed for this to be

practiced properly in the church community? How does this connect to the other lessons on prayer and forgiveness? (**Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4**)

9. There is a possibility that we do not receive what we want when we want it. Pastor Mark often speaks about the possible answers to prayer (Yes, Wait, No, Not Yet, Something Better). How do we reconcile this with **Luke 11:9 &10**.
10. Reflect on how the conclusions based on God's character (Part III) encourage us in praying especially when the answers do not come immediately or in the way we wanted. Which of the conclusions most resonate with you? Which do you need help to internalize?
11. What is the picture of the Christian community that emerges from the sermon and the passage? What changes in our church community as we truly live out this passage? How can we become a safer, more prayerful church/connect group where people are more willing to ask for help, confess struggles, and pray honestly for one another?