

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of October 1, 2017

James 5:13-16

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>13</sup> *If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing.* <sup>14</sup> *If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.* <sup>15</sup> *Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven.* <sup>16</sup> *For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve.*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Read Isaiah 11:6-9. How does this passage speak to God's vision for the wholeness of creation?

2. What does such a vision imply for the wholeness of human lives, relationships, and society? How does this change our prayer list?
  
3. Where might God be calling you to open your heart, mind, and action regarding needs in our local area? In our nation? In our world?
  
4. How might we be tempted to use prayer to make us feel more comfortable (i.e., in control)? How can we release needing to control and trust God?
  
5. When people share prayer concerns with us, how is that a sacred trust? What ought we do with that information to honor that trust?
  
6. Read James 5:13-16. It speaks to prayer and prayer in community. How do practices of confidentiality and not pushing persons to share if they are not ready create an environment where safe sharing is possible? How does your group practice such boundaries?