

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY!!!

PART 1

JAMES CH5:13-15

BIBLE TRIVIA!

There are **929 chapters in the Old Testament** and there are **260 chapters in the New Testament**. This gives a total of **1,189 chapters**. **Psalm 117**, the shortest chapter, is also the middle chapter of the Bible, being **the 595th chapter**.

There are **23,145 verses in the Old Testament** and **7,957 verses in the New Testament**. This gives a total of **31,102 verses**. **Psalm 103:1–2 being the 15,551st and 15,552nd verses** is in the middle of the 31,102 verses of the Bible.

Psalm 118 is the central chapter in that there are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. **Psalm 118:8** is the central verse of all the verses of the Old & New testaments combined. **Psalm 118:8, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man”**.

1. WHAT IS THE READING?

Explain that we will read from **James Ch5:13-15!**

Explain who James is, who he is writing to and why.

Ask a person to pray!

Ask someone to read the passage!

Ask everyone what is happening?

V13

Is anyone among you suffering? What does suffering mean? Being in pain, distress, or facing hardships!

Let him pray. What is praying? Jesus taught, “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men ... but when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your father who is unseen.”

Is anyone cheerful? Happy, optimistic, positive.

Let him praise. “Praise to God” is speaking words and songs to God for who He is! Thanking God, is speaking words offering our thanks for what He has done. Remember, praising God is all about speaking words and songs for who God is- He is true, holy, good, righteous, powerful, happy, perfect, all knowing etc

V14

Is anyone among you sick? This is a sickness that stops you from attending Church, and usually means you are sick, laying down in bed!

Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. What are Elders? Who are the Elders of the Church? What are they meant to do? What does the oil do? (Anointed in the Old Testament, Mark Ch6:13 - disciples, Luke Ch10:34 - Good Samaritan)

V15

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

The Elders are to pray in faith for healing, knowing that God can heal straight away, but also accepting God's will, that He may not heal straight away!

And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. "If" the person has been sinful, God forgives because of Jesus' death on the cross!

2. WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT? (Hopefully facilitated by parents/carers)

- We can trust God for all things.
- He loves it when we talk to him about our lives!
- We can come to God when we are suffering or cheerful!
- It's all about having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ!

3. WHAT CAN WE PUT INTO PRACTICE?

- Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour in our hearts!
- Pray to God when things are hard for us!
- Praise God for who He is!
- Call the elders, when we are sick, and unable to go to Church!