

## **AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY!!!**

### **PART 2**

#### **JAMES CH5:16-18**

#### **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 Ch5:16-18!**

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?

#### **V16**

**Therefore!** - Whenever in Scripture you see the word “THEREFORE”, ask “What is it therefore?” Here, as in many other places in Scripture, look at the verses before to help you understand why the writer uses the word “THEREFORE”.

**Confess** – As Christians, some sickness or illness happens because we sin! When this is the case, we can tell each other about our sins, because sharing our struggles can help us. In verse 16 we are told that if we tell our Christian friends about our struggles, they too can pray for us, and we can be healed by God, as God hears a prayer of faith from a righteous person! A person who is in a right relationship with God!

#### **V17**

**Elijah** – Is a prophet from the Old Testament. Elijah was a mighty prophet during a difficult time in Israel's history. The nation had turned away from the Lord to worship Baal, and King Ahab had formed an alliance with Sidon by marrying their princess, Jezebel. Elijah was sent to show Israel the evil of their ways and encourage them to return to the Lord. The story of his prophetic career in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Ahab and Ahaziah is told in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Ch17-19 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Ch1-2 in the Bible.

James says, that Elijah was like us, and yet he prayed fervently (very enthusiastically, or passionately) for it not to rain! It did not rain for three and a half years!

#### **V18**

**Prayed** – Elijah then prayed again and it rained! From V13 – V18, how many times does it mention pray (v13, v14, v16), prayer (v15, v16), and prayed (v17, v18)? 7 times in 6 verses! What do you think James is saying about prayer?

- V13 the individual when in trouble should pray!

- V14 the elders should pray for the bedridden sick person!
- V16 Christian friends should pray for Christians who confess their sins to them
- V17 Elijah a great Christian example of prayer!
- ***BE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY!***

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

- We can trust God for all things.
- To be Christian friends who pray for each other as you confess your sins!
- These prayers can bring physical healing from the Lord!
- Be encouraged by the example of Elijah!

**3. WHAT CAN WE PUT INTO PRACTICE?**

- Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour in our hearts!
- Pray when you are in trouble!
- Pray as Christian friends for one another!
- Be encouraged to pray by the example of Elijah!