



GCBC Sermon Application & Discussion Guide (for individuals, families, small groups, etc.)

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”
2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share
[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text (James 5:14-18):

Date: 7/25/2021 Confessing Struggles and Sin for Prayer, Shepherding and Accountability

1. What scriptural truths could you share with someone who’s prayed for healing, or asked others to pray, but hasn’t been healed? What if they’ve heard James 5:15 promises healing if they have enough faith?
2. How does the translation of “weak” (physically or spiritually) instead of “sick” in v. 14-15 change how this passage can be applied? What are scenarios besides illness where you might need to ask for v. 14?
3. If oil in v. 14 included medicine and care of the body in Bible times, how might that principle apply today when you or a friend struggle with an issue that may be both physical and spiritual?
4. When James 5:14 says “call for the elders of the church”, how is that an argument for why in-person church is so essential? How might you use verse this to exhort someone who’s not a member of a church or not seeking out shepherding in their life?
5. Why is it important to confess sins to believers when struggling (end of v. 15) and pray for each other? What are some important cautions in confessing sin, or in receiving confessions? See v. 9 also.
6. How can you pursue relationships like v. 16 and grow in vulnerability and accountability?
7. When you confess to someone you sinned against, why is below important? Can you think of where there wasn’t healing in a relationship because you didn’t do below? (from *PeaceMakers* by K. Sande)
 - a. Ask forgiveness (not just “I’m sorry,” but “will you please forgive me for ...”)
 - b. Avoid “if,” “but” and “maybe” (“if you were offended ... yeah, but you ... maybe I’m not the best”)
 - c. Acknowledge the hurt (not just about the facts, feelings matter, may need to ask questions here)
 - d. Admit specifically (actions or attitudes you see you need to change and how you hope to)