



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 5:16-20):

Date: 8/8/2021 Pursuing Church Care, Connection, and Community

1. Thinking of Saturday’s conference theme of “self” (identity) and the local church: how does James 5:16-20 correct the “self” emphasis of our culture and remind us of our identity in a church community?
 - a. For further study, how do these verses help us see “self” in biblical balance?
 - i. James 4:10
 - ii. Colossians 3:9
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 5:15
 - iv. Luke 9:23
2. Where in your life are you tempted to do these below instead of James 5:16, and why?
 - a. Pursuing privacy instead of vulnerability and accountability about your sin with the church?
 - b. Thinking doing v. 16 will be humiliating (rather than liberating)?
 - c. Acting like all is well with friends when it’s not?
 - d. Avoiding the risk of opening up to anyone (when there’s a risk in v. 19 if you don’t)
 - e. Being self-protective rather than praying for God to protect us from sin?
 - f. Seeking help outside the church rather than from shepherds or mature believers in it?

What truths from this passage or other passages can help overcome temptations to the above?

3. How would you argue from James 5:14-20 why in-person church is so essential? How might you use this passage to exhort someone who’s not a member of a church or not seeking out shepherding?
4. How can you pursue relationships like v. 16, grow in vulnerability and accountability, and help others to?
5. How does the example of Elijah in v. 17-18 help encourage us in our prayers? (note: it mentions his nature, like ours, a drought [why?], and the low point in his life when rain came again, see 1 Kings 19)
6. In v. 19-20 how can we apply this with those in our church or family who wander from the truth?