



## **Small Group** **Discussion Notes**

**For use the week following the message, "24: Private Life" (Jan. 19-20)**

1. Open in prayer.
2. (Go around the room, ask everyone to answer briefly) If your life this past week or month had a soundtrack accompanying it, what songs would be on the soundtrack?
3. This past weekend's message was "24: Private Life," by Bob Hostetler. Can anyone summarize what you remember of the message for the others?
4. One of the Bible passages Bob read in this past weekend's message was from James 5. We're going to study the larger passage those verses come from.
5. Read James 5:13-20.
6. According to verses 13-14, what should you do when you are in trouble? Happy? Sick? Do you tend to respond as this passage commands, or do you react in a different way to such things (describe)?
7. If you respond differently to trouble, happiness, or sickness than verses 13-14 suggest, why do you think that is? (In other words, why do you respond as you do instead of the way James says we should?)
8. Verse 14 commands the sick person to do one thing, and for the elders to do two things; what are they?
9. NOTE: anointing a person with oil was a common medical practice in the days of the early church. So this verse could be understood as actually commending the use of good medical care. But the anointing was also to be administered "in the name of the Lord," indicating that there was also a spiritual significance to the act.
10. Of the three acts recommended in verse 14, which does James say (in v. 14) would produce healing? Do you think there's any reason James didn't say, "And the anointing with oil and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well?" Why or why not?
11. Why do you think James added (in v. 15), "If he has sinned, he will be forgiven?"
12. Read verse 16 together again, and then read 1 John 1:9.

13. How do 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16 differ from each other? Do you think their differences indicate contradiction? Why or why not?
14. According to 1 John 1:9, what does confessing our sins to God result in? Is this different from the results of confessing our sins to each other mentioned in James 5:16?
15. How do you think confessing our sins to each other and praying for each other can produce healing? Can anyone share with the group an instance when you experienced this?
16. How do you think verses 19-20 demonstrate the healing power of the Body of Christ?
17. How can this group put into practice the commands and teachings of James 5:13-20?
18. Any other questions or comments?
19. Close in prayer.