

James: Passing the Test

James 5:13-18

Launch

Scar stories: If appropriate, show your most impressive scar and tell the story of how you got it. (The person with the best scar - or best story - gets a prize.)

Explore

Read the passage

There are many facets of prayer taught throughout Scripture. What are the key things about prayer that James wants to highlight?

In James, the humble and reliant lifestyle of prayer is set in contrast to prideful independence. Why do we continually migrate back and forth between these two lifestyles?

When you're tending toward prideful independence, how do you respond to things going well? To difficulty? To suffering? What are things that you initially turn to besides God?

Apply

Of the three situations James describes (trouble, happiness, illness), which do you find hardest to turn to God when you're in the midst of it?

If you weren't embarrassed and could call together all of God's people to pray for you in a specific way, what would it be?

Have one or two people volunteer to share a story of answered prayer.

Pray

Pray that the Holy Spirit would be so present and active in our lives, producing reliance and humility, so that our initial response to any circumstance is to turn to God.