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# PRACTICING THE DISCIPLINE OF HEALING PRAYER

*James 5:13-17*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** The primary passage on *healing prayer* in the epistles is in the earliest published New Testament book, the letter from James. The epistle of James was written to persecuted believers who were forming new churches in a world fraught with physical suffering. James ends his letter with a section on prayer that emphasizes the importance of *healing prayer* as an ongoing spiritual discipline – to be done in small groups. Today we'll examine the biblical teaching and the practical application.

1. ***BIBLICAL*** – What is the New Testament basis for healing prayer in small groups?  
*James 5:13-17*

2. ***PRACTICAL*** – What is the best way to apply healing prayer in small groups?  
*A six-step process...*

3. *ONGOING*—How do we provide spiritual care in the aftermath of prayer?

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is prayer such a critical component of the small group? Why not just focus on practical help?
2. Which of the types of prayer described by James is most exciting to you? Which one makes you the most uncomfortable?
3. It seems that a precursor to applying these different types of prayer is finding out the needs of the group. What needs do we have in our group right now that need prayer? Spend some time praying for those needs.
4. James mentions calling on the elders to pray for certain needs. Are there any requests in this group that need to be passed on to the church staff or to the healing prayer team?