

## Anything But Normal, Week 8

### Scripture and Background Information for June 28-July 04.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **James 5:13-20**. While rounding up our series "Anything but Normal," we hope James' message continues to challenge you in your walk with Christ. Remember, James is trying to encourage believers to live out what they believe. He wants your faith to influence your thoughts, which produces right actions.

#### **Information's for James 5:13-20**

The life God desires for us is driven not by the believer's strength, but through the power of God. In today's passage, James talks about the dependence of the believer to God.

When talking about verses 13-15, ask: What is his main focus? What is his main concern, for the church in general, and the individual? Are there any recurring themes, which might help us understand this passage? A search for similarities in both commands of verses 13-15 might help you find James' main concern.

Verse 16 will help you understand the meaning of 14-15. About what type of healing James is talking about. A comparison of James 1:6; 4:2-3 with 5:16 will give you a fuller sense of the verse.

Verses 19-20 seem disconnected. The comparison of verse 16 with the previous verses might help you see the passage as a whole. Remember, James follows one train of thought; thus, looking at the context will help you understand the whole picture. The entire picture will help you determine the meaning of single verses.

*Side Note:* Don't omit considering James 5:7-11. It seems as if James sees the coming of the Lord as the motivator for the following verses. Show your group how Jesus's coming should motivate us to live in dependence upon Christ, and in-service for each other.

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

July 12	1Peter 3:15
July 19	Mark 2:1-12