

## Discussion Questions

1. Take a look at James 4, in v. 13-20. As you are reading this section, notice the tone of the writing. Notice how matter-of-fact he is with how we practice our faith: *“If any among you is suffering, Pray. If any among you is sick, go get the church elders and pray and anoint him. If any among you you have sin, confess it. If any has strayed from the truth, talk to him and help them turn it around...”* Basically, What James is saying is, “if there is something you need or something wrong, *Do something about it!* Pray, trust that God is working, and then act!

Do you find this a new or refreshing perspective on how we practice our faith? Why or why not?

If James were speaking directly to you, how would you fill in the blanks:

*If there is any among you who \_\_\_\_\_, then he/she should \_\_\_\_\_”*

2. Jake shared in the video about how Jesus pushed against the idea that God only dwelled in a temple. And yet sometimes it seems that Christian religious activity—our prayers, our worship, our acts of service—have still tended to be confined to one day a week and one place.

Why do you think this has still been case, even in our time? What is it about places (churches and temples) that we feel drawn to?

What about the church building and its practices can we affirm as still sacred and beautiful?

3. The recent crisis has forced many of us to have to take the practice of our faith into our own hands. As an example, I recently had a conversation with a dad I know where talked about how before, he depended on a youth pastor or children’s minister to tend to his childrens’ spiritual needs, but now —in his words— “It’s on me.”

Is this a positive or negative development for this dad?

How has this been the case for you? What practices or spiritual activity have you had to do yourself, or do differently, that you were dependent upon the church to help you do before?

4. What both James 4 and the story from Acts 3 affirm is that wherever we are, that is exactly where we need to engage our faith. For James, Peter, and John, if we see something wrong—a man who is sick, a person who is in sin, a person who is broknen—we need to act. We need to engage with God and join with Him in His wok.

Where in your life, right now, are you being called to do exactly this?