

# Elmbrook Discussion Questions

## Series: *Simple Living*

### *Prayer in Practice*

#### Introduction

1. Reflect on last week's topic of *Scripture in Practice*. Is there a pattern, or benefit, of reading Scripture you were able to experience this past week?
2. How would you describe prayer to someone who does not have a relationship with God?

#### Head: *What is the passage saying?*

Read aloud James 5:13-20

1. What most stands out to you in this passage about prayer?
2. From this passage, how does prayer align our relationship with God?
3. From this passage, what are the circumstances of prayer?

What are some ways that prayer is practiced? Are there certain ways that most resonate with you?

What personal area of growth has this study revealed in your praying experience?

#### Heart: *How does this passage influence my inner being?*

Take some time to practice prayer through the ACTS method: *Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication*. Getting started, here are some words of Adoration:

Lord Jesus Christ, we adore you and praise you. Where would we be without you? We long to live in your glory and your goodness.

You identified yourself with God the Father when you said "I am." You explained your life and purpose by saying...

"I am the bread of life"—and so we know we live through you.

"I am the light of the world"—and so we no longer live in the darkness of evil and ignorance.

"I am the gate for the sheep"—and so we know we are protected from spiritual predators.

"I am the good shepherd"—and so we are well fed, and led, and protected.

"I am the resurrection and the life"—and so we can live above the fear of illness and death.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life"—and so we see a clear way forward toward abundant life.

"I am the true vine"—and so we know staying connected to you is the most important priority we must have.

Lord Jesus, you are "the author of life." You came so that we may have life, and have it to the full.

Continue on in *Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication* (praying for needs and requests, earnestly and humbly).

#### Hands: *How do I practically live this out?*

*Here are some suggestions, or identify your own practical next step.*

1. **Pray:** Practice a regular rhythm of prayer.

2. **Talk it out:** Share with someone about what your experience in prayer. Take a next step to be less private about your faith, and share about what God is doing in your life.
3. **Read Scripture:** Take time this week to read Scripture this week. Go back over the passage and pray to God about how you are hearing him speak to you.
4. **Journal or Draw:** Take time this week to express how God is speaking to you as you are praying to him.