‘Cultivate’ – a letter from James – SG Q’s 11/20 – James 5:13-20

Pray together!

Ice Breaker: What brings you joy? (other than God, family and work)

Read James 5:13-20

1. What does it mean to suffer?
   1. What are common responses to suffering?
   2. How should a follower of Christ respond to suffering?
   3. Have you ever suffered? What was your response?
2. If prayer is our response to suffering, what should we be praying for?
3. What does singing praises show about our heart and faith?
4. What is the proper response if we are sick?
   1. Have you ever done this? When? Result?
5. What is the purpose of anointing? Vs. 14
6. What does it mean: “the Lord will raise him up”? vs. 15
   1. What is the typical response when you are sick?
      1. When unbelievers are sick?
7. Why do you think James added in: “and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven”?
8. How often do you pray?
9. Elijah fervently, and for three years and six months it did not rain.
   1. Do you pray fervently?
   2. The longest you have prayed for something? What was it, and the result?
10. Does God promise to take away our suffering and afflictions?
    1. What does he promise? (many things, but an Ex: John 15:10-11)
11. What does suffering cause us to do?
12. Have you wandered from the truth? When, how, why, etc…
13. What does James tell us about wandering? Vs. 19-20
    1. How does this make you feel?
14. How is God’s character being revealed in this passage?

From a Christian source:

I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No. it is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up. I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. his spirit is whole, his body is only temporary. I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn’t granted, it is learned. I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you. I asked God to spare me pain. God said No. suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me. I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No. you must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful. I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things. I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me. God said…Ahhh, finally you have the idea.