

**OVERVIEW:** We are broken people. We may be broken by our circumstances or surroundings, or we may be broken by our sin and failures. Regardless of our best efforts, we remain broken people. But God steps in. He heals our brokenness and restores us when we trust in Him. The Israelites were continually called to trust and obey God. In so doing, they would experience His healing and wholeness.

**Directions:** As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.

## ATMOSPHERE

Place old and broken objects around the room (furniture, antiques, etc.). Say, **“This world is full of brokenness, but God can right wrongs and make things new again.”**

## MEDIA

Search the Internet for “Polishing a Rusty Knife - YouTube.” Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **“No matter how broken or worthless we may feel, God can work in our lives and restore us.”**

## TEACH (MAKE YOUR NOTES BELOW)

**The Point:** God is the only one who can restore us and make us whole.

## PREPARE

When we experience sickness, God can work through many avenues, including medicine and doctors, but ultimately only He can provide healing. This is a picture of God alone having the capacity to provide ultimate, spiritual healing.

### 1. PRAYER AND PRAISE

*James 5:13-14*

- A.** When we suffer, prayer should be our natural response; when things go well, praise should be just as natural.
- B.** When we are sick, we should call on spiritual leaders for prayers.
- C.** Leaders can encourage us to remain steadfast during particularly difficult times, and they can help us work through any sin issues.

### 2. FAITH AND FORGIVENESS

*James 5:15-16*

- A.** When faith in Jesus leads us to repent and confess our sins, we receive forgiveness and spiritual healing.
- B.** God grieves over the effects of sin and can choose to bring physical healing, which serves as a picture of the spiritual reality.
- C.** The passionate prayers of godly people have the capacity to make a big difference—God responds and works according to our prayers.

### 3. ELIJAH’S EXAMPLE

*James 5:17-18*

- A.** Elijah was a regular guy (just like we are), but he had great faith.
- B.** When Elijah prayed, God responded and spectacular things happened.
- C.** God used Elijah’s prayer to accomplish His purposes and to bring glory to Himself.

**Directions:** Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

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## INTRO

- ▶ **When have you wanted God to accomplish something big? Describe.**
- ▶ **What does the world think about prayer?**
- ▶ **How has prayer affected your life?**

## JAMES 5:13-14

- ▶ **Why are prayer and praise so important for our relationship with God?**
- ▶ **Why should we ask for prayer from spiritual leaders when we're sick or struggling?**
- ▶ **How can you grow in prayer and praise?**

## JAMES 5:15-16

- ▶ **Why is faith essential for forgiveness?**
- ▶ **How can we expect God to answer our prayers?**
- ▶ **Why does God choose to provide healing?**

## JAMES 5:17-18

- ▶ **What was so special about Elijah's faith?**
- ▶ **What would your prayer life be like if you had that kind of faith?**
- ▶ **How can you demonstrate faith like Elijah?**

## LIVE IT OUT

**Discuss:** Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.

**Ask:** How can you grow in your prayer life?

**Pray:** Ask God to help students have faith in God to answer their prayers.