

day 3 | Helping One Another

Replicate

James 5:16 says, “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” That’s what we are going after—healing, righteousness, and power in prayer. Some churches wrongly think you need to confess your sins to one person in a supposed position of superiority, but all Christians are on equal footing before God. We’re a royal priesthood and a kingdom of priests (see 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6). We can help one another in our relationships with God. There are two good reasons to confess to one another.

1. *To get sin into the open.* “If we walk in the light, [that is, get our sins out in the light where we can work on them] as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

❶ What is one reason to confess sins to one another and pray?

2. *To get prayer support.* When someone who loves and supports you is aware of the sins that trip you up, he or she will become a faithful prayer supporter. Everyone wants to pray about things they know God is willing to do.

❷ What is a second reason to confess sins to one another and pray?

Helping one another seek God’s highest and best for our lives begins with this difficult step, but it continues in the joy of revival.

❸ Turn in your Bible and read 2 Corinthians 7:8-11. Underline phrases that describe what repentance produced in the Corinthian church.

❹ During your previous group session I recommended that you connect with a small group of men or women (your same gender). If you arranged to get together with that small group to help one another deal with your sin, follow your plan. Otherwise, meet with a brother or a sister in Christ very soon (men with men and women with women). Then practice James 5:16: “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.” You don’t need to go into detail about your sin. Don’t try to rationalize or give reasons for your sin. No excuses. Don’t try to justify your actions. Agree with God (confess) that you have sinned and ask for prayer to be set free.

Make every effort to complete this assignment prior to your next small-group session.

2 Pray that the Lord will enable you to humble yourself as you deal seriously with your sin. Ask Him to cleanse you thoroughly of sin and set you free from its power. Ask Him to help you minister to your brothers or sisters in Christ that they may also know His healing touch. †