

### **Key Points :**

- As James wraps up his epistle, he emphasises the importance of prayer and faith. We need the power and presence of God, so we must pray! And we need faith in order to break through the natural into the supernatural. If we press into prayer and build our faith, we will see God do great things in our lives and the world around us.
  - Through prayer, we can put our unknown future in the hands of an all-knowing God.
  - Through prayer, we can put our hopeless situation in the hands of an all-powerful God.
  - Through prayer, we can put our broken lives in the hands of an all-forgiving God.
  - To stir our faith, we need to get in the Word.
  - To build our faith, we need to determine not to give up.
- PRAYER IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BEST WE CAN DO AND THE BEST GOD CAN DO (Martin Luther)

### **Questions:**

#### **Conversation Starter**

1. What is the first prayer you remember praying?

#### **Start Thinking & Sharing**

2. When you face a difficult situation, at what point do you usually stop and pray (right at the beginning, when it starts to get really hard, or when you reach a place of desperation)? How can praying first change the way you walk through trials?
3. What unknown future are you facing right now that might be causing anxiety or fear in your life? How does it make you feel to know God already knows exactly how it will turn out?
4. What is something you've been praying for, for a long time? Are you ever tempted to give up? Pray for these things as a group and stir up your faith together so that you can continue to persevere.

#### **Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.**

5. *Father, thank You for hearing us when we pray. We praise You for being all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-forgiving; You are an amazing God! Help us surrender our fears to You today. We believe You can do anything, and we trust You with all of the unknowns in our lives. Strengthen our faith as we wait on You. Amen*

#### **Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.**

7. Commit to Praying FIRST each day this week.