

# The Confessing Church

**Aim:** To discuss how living a confessing lifestyle can bring others to know Christ, bring us closer to one another and draw us all closer to God.

**Open:** *Share a memory of being in trouble when you were a child. How did you feel before your behavior was discovered? How did you feel after confessing to your parents?*

**Read:** *James 5:13-16, Matthew 6:14-15*

- *In what contexts do we usually think of confession?*
- *Where does confession often occur in our culture today?*
  - *Private conversation?*
  - *On TV?*
  - *In Newspapers?*
- *Are most confessions in the media made before or after the matters have come to light?*
- *How does the world view these confessions and those who make them?*

**Discuss:**

- *Do we as a church encourage the kind of confession spoken of in James 5:16?*
  - *Why or why not?*
- *Do we as individuals take advantage of James 5:16 style confession?*
  - *Why or why not?*
- *Are there actions or attitudes that we as a church need to confess?*
- *What steps could our church take so that we can be seen as a group of people that confesses its sins by the people in our community?*
- *What steps do you need to take to be a person who confesses your sins?*
  - *Think of at least two people you can confess your sins to.*
- *Read Matthew 16:13-17 together.*
- *How do we as a church confess Christ to the people around us?*
- *How do you as an individual confess Christ in your daily routine?*
- *What will it feel like to hear Jesus acknowledge you are His before the Father's throne?*

**Pray**

*How can our group pray for YOU tonight?*