

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Elijah

### DISCUSSION GOAL

Discover the powerful prayer life of Elijah. Assess your own prayer life to see if you are praying in alignment with God's Word and the promises He gives. Motivate others to persist in a life of prayer even when it's hard.

### ICE BREAKER



What was the last promise you made? When did you make it and did you keep it?

### TEXT



*Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.*

### 1 Kings 18:41-46 ESV

<sup>41</sup> And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

<sup>43</sup> "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." <sup>44</sup> The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"

<sup>45</sup> Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> The power of the Lord came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

**Title:** The Prayer of a Righteous Person

**Big Idea:** The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Key Question:** How can I pray in a powerful and effective way?

1. Pray in alignment with God's Word. (vv. 41-42)
2. Persist in pursuing God's promises. (vv. 43-44a)
3. Plan to respond to God's grace. (vv. 44b-46)

## DISCUSSION



- Does prayer really change anything? Have you ever attempted to pray and felt like your prayers are just hitting the ceiling and going nowhere?
- Elijah displayed his utter dependence and confidence on God through his prayers. How would your prayer life change if you were confident that something God had told you would happen?
- Elijah showed his persistence with prayer (vv. 43-44). We might agonize over the apparent delay and length of time it takes to see God answer our prayers. How quick are you to give up on prayer? What have you prayed for with persistence, and how has God answered that prayer?
- **Read Luke 18:1-8** to view the persistence of a widow and Jesus' response. Do you think you can be persistent with God in the same way? Why or why not?
- **Read 1 Kings 8:35-36.** Any time God answers prayer, there is an opportunity to repent and turn to God once again. How has praying changed your life and brought you closer to Jesus?

## LIFE APPLICATION



Prayer that is powerful and effective is praying for the things God has said he would do. Begin to grow in this area by practically acting on it this week. Here are some examples:

- Set aside regular time to pray and make it a habit to pray and seek the Lord.
- Pray the Psalms. The Scriptures contain an entire “prayer book” for us. Learn to take the words of the Psalms and to pray them as your own prayers.
- Learn and look for God’s promises in His Word. Learn the Lord’s Prayer or pray, “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

*Write down what you will be doing this week to pray with power and effectiveness and share it with the group.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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