



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Share one of your favorite childhood memories with the group, along with *why* it is a favorite.

1. If I had to rate my view of prayer on a scale of 1-10, 1 being a “dreaded obligation” and 10 being “a wonderful privilege”, it would be a... ([James 5:17-18](#))
2. Elijah did not put on airs or hype himself up, he just prayed a simple prayer which God then answered. ([1 Kings 18:36-38](#)) What are some ways that this can bring freedom in my prayer life?
3. The prayer of Elijah was that God would reveal Himself to the people once again. He did not ask for anything specific, just what God wanted accomplished. How does the way I pray line up with God’s expressed will for my life? ([1 Kings 8:35-36](#))
4. Is God’s character what causes me to persevere in prayer? Do I know what God wants for me? “Prayer isn’t getting God to change His purposes and plans, but it is about changing my desires to embrace God’s plans and purposes.” What are some ways that I can take steps forward in this? ([Luke 11:5-10](#), [2 Timothy 3:16](#))
5. My part to play begins with saying ‘YES!’ to Jesus, and starting to follow Him. Have I done that? If not, what is holding me back? If I have said my own ‘YES!’, what is my next step in moving my prayer life closer to a 10?

Day One: [Psalm 16](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 16](#)

Day Three: [Joshua 16](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 16](#)

Day Five: [Acts 16](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.*

PERSONAL GUIDE



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



"RAIN CHECK"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

We're in a series where we're learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His mission when everyone and _____ around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

_____ is something we know is vitally important...but it can also seem _____ as a reality in our own lives.

Too often we can view prayer as a _____-producer instead of an anxiety-reliever...as a _____ obligation instead of a wonderful privilege.

Notes [James 5:17-18](#)

Elijah shows us that _____ prayer begins with:

1. _____

A great misconception about prayer is that it demands some kind of _____ from us (note [Matthew 6:5](#)).

Prayer isn't a way to impress other people or to impress _____ (note [1 Kings 18:25-29](#)).

Note [1 Kings 18:36-38](#)

2. Power and Effectiveness in Prayer Comes From God's _____

Note [1 Kings 18:38, 45a](#)

Note [1 Kings 18:1](#)

Note [1 Kings 8:35-36, 18:39, 41](#)

Elijah's _____ was not based on how well he prayed, how long he prayed, or what words he used in his prayer.

It was because he prayed for God's _____ will to be done.

3. _____ in Prayer Comes Because of God's Character (note [1 Kings 18:42-44a](#))

Way too often, we think of (and practice) prayer as if it's up to us to _____ God to do what we want Him to do.

Prayer throughout the Bible...is to be primarily understood as asking God to _____ on what He already promised. (Millar)

Prayer isn't getting God to change His purposes and plans, but it is about changing my desires to _____ God's plans and purposes.

Note [1 Timothy 1:15-16; 2:3-4](#); and [2 Peter 3:9](#)

Elijah knew God's promises; but he also had to _____ in God's character as he prayed for the drought to end and the rain to fall (note [1 Kings 18:42-43](#)).

Note [Luke 11:5-10](#)

_____ asking...seeking...knocking...

SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

- Prayer only becomes _____ when we say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord and have a personal relationship with the God we're talking to.
- Elijah has been on quite a run of amazing miracles and answered prayers (note [1 Kings 18:44b-46](#))...
- Next Sunday we are going to see one prayer of Elijah that was not answered and what can happen when we come down from "the mountain-top".

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text riverside to 94000*



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"RAIN CHECK"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

We're in a series where we're learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His mission when everyone and everything around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

Prayer is something we know is vitally important...but it can also seem elusive as a reality in our own lives.

Too often we can view prayer as a guilt-producer instead of an anxiety-reliever...as a dreaded obligation instead of a wonderful privilege.

Notes [James 5:17-18](#)

Elijah shows us that powerful prayer begins with:

1. Genuineness

A great misconception about prayer is that it demands some kind of performance from us (note [Matthew 6:5](#)).

Prayer isn't a way to impress other people or to impress God (note [1 Kings 18:25-29](#)).

Note [1 Kings 18:36-38](#)

2. Power and Effectiveness in Prayer Comes From God's Promises

Note [1 Kings 18:38, 45a](#)

Note [1 Kings 18:1](#)

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Elijah's confidence was not based on how well he prayed, how long he prayed, or what words he used in his prayer.

It was because he prayed for God's expressed will to be done.

3. Persevering in Prayer Comes Because of God's Character (note [1 Kings 18:42-44a](#))

Way too often, we think of (and practice) prayer as if it's up to us to convince God to do what we want Him to do.

Prayer throughout the Bible...is to be primarily understood as asking God to come through on what He already promised. (Millar)

Prayer isn't getting God to change His purposes and plans, but it is about changing my desires to embrace God's plans and purposes.

Note [1 Timothy 1:15-16; 2:3-4](#); and [2 Peter 3:9](#)

Elijah knew God's promises; but he also had to trust in God's character as he prayed for the drought to end and the rain to fall (note [1 Kings 18:42-43](#)).

Note [Luke 11:5-10](#)

Keep on asking...seeking...knocking...

SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

Prayer only becomes meaningful when we say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord and have a personal relationship with the God we're talking to.

Elijah has been on quite a run of amazing miracles and answered prayers (note [1 Kings 18:44b-46](#))...

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