

STUDY GUIDE - Elijah Wk. 2

Key Scriptures: “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16

- Luke 5:15-16 “However, the report went around concerning Him (Jesus) all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.”
- Mark 9:29 “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”
- Phil 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Start Talking:

Be honest. Would someone who knows you intimately describe your prayer life as a serious commitment, or something that you do only as needed or when someone asks you to? Share. Discuss.

When you read the examples of Jesus praying (Luke 5:15-16; 6:12-13, Matthew 14:23, and Mark 1:35) do you sometimes think that He had some special advantage, or are you willing to relate to Him as a person, and imitate Him?

Read Luke 5:15-16. When life presents lots of pressure on you, do you turn your phone off and retreat to a place of prayer until you find communion with God, as Jesus did, or do you just try to fight through and survive the pressure? WWJD?

Would you describe yourself as more of a morning person or a late night person? What would it take for you to take this time of day, when you're at

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your best, and give it to the Lord in uninterrupted prayer? What needs to change?

Start Thinking:

Pastor Bobby said, "The level of your dependency on God shows by how much you pray." How would you compare your dependency on God as opposed to being dependent upon yourself? Where do you draw the line?

Pastor Bobby said, "The prayer of faith is based on what we believe, not what we see or don't see." Read 1 Kings 18:41-45. Make a list of reasons most people stop praying before they get the answer. Do we wonder if we are praying according to God's will? Do we pray with doubt instead of faith? What else?

Start Sharing:

Read Luke 11:1-10 and 18:1-8. If we know that God hears us the first time, what is the purpose of persisting in asking over and over? Discuss.

Pastor Bobby said, "Prayer is an aggressive action." Do you see prayer this way? Share.

Read James 5:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. When people speak of a righteous person, they are usually referring to his or her behavior, reputation, or character. Describe the difference between your own righteousness and the righteousness of God in you.

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Start Praying: "Lord, remind us that we have a personal, living relationship with you, and that communication with you is natural and your desire."

Start Doing:

Pastor Bobby said, "Intimacy with God trumps urgency before God." Describe the difference between a life of deep intimacy with the living God and one in which prayer only occurs in urgent situations.

Pastor Bobby said, "We're not beggars. We're God's children." Do you find yourself praying more like a desperate beggar, or like one who asks a loving parent for something good? Does your prayer attitude need to change?

Read John 5:19. Pastor Bobby said, "Elijah was committed to praying and permitted to hear what God was saying." Wouldn't you rather be permitted to hear what God is saying than praying and wondering what God might do? It's up to you to commit to a life of fervent prayer and receiving the answers from the righteousness of Jesus. What other things do you do in life that require a serious commitment? Are any more important than a prayer life with God?