

<sup>41</sup> Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!"

<sup>42</sup> So Ahab went to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees.

<sup>43</sup> Then he said to his servant, "Go and look out toward the sea."

The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, "I didn't see anything."

Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. <sup>44</sup> Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."

Then Elijah shouted, "Hurry to Ahab and tell him, 'Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don't hurry, the rain will stop you!'"

<sup>45</sup> And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm, and Ahab left quickly for Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> Then the LORD gave special strength to Elijah. He tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way to the entrance of Jezreel.

— 1 Kings 18:41-46

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Share about a time in your life when God answered your prayers.

Have two or three people read 1 Kings 18:41-46 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Read James 5:16-18. What stands out to you about James's description of Elijah and his prayer life?

In the sermon, Pastor John mentions four qualities of bold prayers: humble, specific, persistent, and expectant. Of these four, which one do you struggle with the most?

Why do so many struggle with praying persistently? What have you quit praying for that you need to start praying for again?

Why is it important to be "open-handed" in our prayers, even as we pray specifically and expectantly?

When Elijah asked for fire from heaven, God answered immediately. When Elijah asked for rain, he had to be patient. What does this tell us about how God answers prayers?

What do you need bold prayers for today?