Title: ASK - The Prayer Of Elijah

WORSHIP (15 MINUTES)

Play worship music to create an atmosphere of worship and help everyone prepare their hearts. If the venue is public, invite everyone to share the highs and lows of their week to build connection and fellowship.

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

Welcome guests and first-time visitors warmly. Start with a simple icebreaker question to help everyone get acquainted, create a comfortable atmosphere, and encourage guests to feel included.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

"If you could have coffee with Jesus and ask Him one question, what would you ask?"

WORD (30-45 MINUTES)

Main Text: James 5:16-18 NLT

Intro: James is the half brother of Jesus who became a key leader of the first century church in Jerusalem. He wrote this letter for the Jewish who lived outside Israel to provide practical wisdom to those who are living out their faith and are suffering all kinds of persecutions, trials and hardships.
Prayer is God's chosen way for His people to seek His power, provision, guidance, and so much more but yet it remains one of the most neglected spiritual disciplines. Though prayer is simply talking to God, Scripture shows us powerful examples of believers who asked Him for great things and how the Lord answered. Today, we are to be reminded that God desires to work mightily in us and through us as we seek Him in prayer.

James highlights Elijah as a model of powerful, effective prayer by pointing to two things: Elijah prayed that God would withhold rain from Israel, and it did not rain for three and a half years; then he prayed again, and God sent rain, restoring the land. These events demonstrated the effectiveness of Elijah's prayers. What made Elijah's prayer so powerful and effective?

1. Elijah was a righteous man – v. 16b - "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
Elijah's prayers were powerful because they came from a life of obedience, righteousness, and wholehearted devotion to God. He feared God, turned from evil, and maintained a restored relationship with Him. Elijah also called Israel back to true blessing through repentance and undivided loyalty to the Lord. Because he worshiped God with a fully devoted heart, God heard and answered his prayers in remarkable ways.
Q: How can I make my prayer time more consistent? *(For example, choosing a set time, place, or simple daily routine to help me stay consistent).*

Q: What is one area of my life where I need to stop relying on myself (my own strength, wisdom, ability, etc.) and start asking God for help and guidance everyday?

2. Elijah prayed according to the will of God
God is sovereign and His will prevails, yet He still calls us to pray. Prayer shows our dependence on Him, our desire to honor Him, and our willingness to join in His purposes on earth. Jesus modeled this perfectly by submitting to the Father and teaching His disciples to pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done." We can pray confidently because God hears prayers offered according to His will **(1 John 5:14–15)**. To know His will, we must meditate on Scripture daily. Prayer is a dialogue, not a monologue, so our time with God should include listening to Him through His Word as we pray.
Q: What is keeping us from having a daily and consistent Bible reading?
Q: What practical ways do you think can help us be consistent? Share your thoughts with the group.

3. Elijah prayed earnestly - v.17
Earnest prayer comes from a sincere heart. It isn't about impressive words or outward emotion but about genuinely seeking God with faith, humility, and persistence. It is a wholehearted desire for God's will to be done and refuses to be discouraged or denied. Elijah prayed this way, with sincerity, intensity, and complete dependence on God. His prayers were not casual or routine but reflected his passion for God's glory and his longing for God's will to be fulfilled in Israel.
Q: What distractions or bad habits keep you from having a strong prayer life?
Q: In what simple ways can you do to help you pray with a more engaged heart?

4. He persevered
Elijah did not give up. After praying for rain, he sent his servant to look toward the sea seven times before any sign of an answer appeared (1 Kings 18:42–44). He continued praying in faith until God answered.
Q: Was there a time you felt like giving up in prayer? Why?
Q: What will motivate you to persevere in prayer and to believe God that He will answer?
Conclusion:
Elijah's perseverance reminds us that we should continue praying according to God's will without losing heart. While God does not promise that every believer will receive the same miraculous physical strength that Elijah experienced, He does promise to hear and answer persevering prayers offered in faith and in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14–15).
In James 5:17, the Bible portrays Elijah as a great prophet, but it also emphasizes that he was fully human, with the same weaknesses, emotions, and limitations like you and me. James quoted Elijah's powerful prayers and his humanity to inspire us to pray bold prayers and see what God can do when we pray according to His will.

WORK (15 MINUTES)

Application: Read James 5:17
Elijah was human like us, yet he prayed earnestly, and God worked powerfully through his prayers.
1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Prepare a list of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer