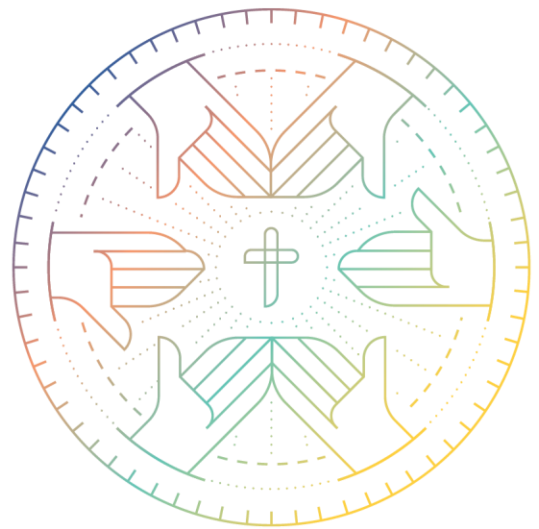


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we continue our series *Even If*. We see an illustration from Elijah's story that God is attentive to our prayers.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is something that you had to wait for and how did it feel when you received it?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: 1 Kings 18:41-46.

Here after three and a half years of waiting, God answers Elijah's prayer for rain. Through this story, we see God hears and answers our prayers.

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

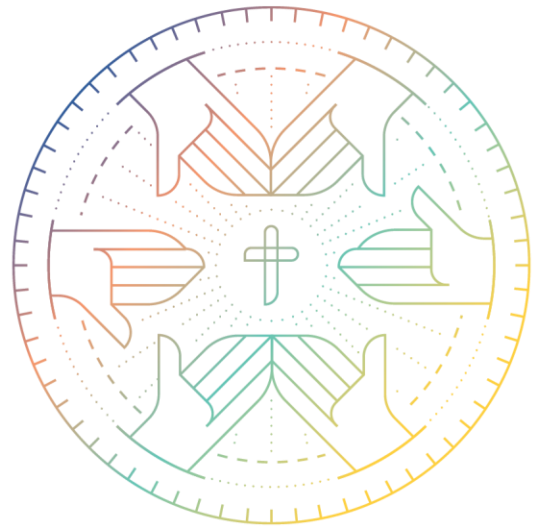
1. **Read James 5:16-18. What stands out to you about how James talks about prayer along with his description of Elijah?**

#### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. There is a connection between praying for one another and healing. First, we are to confess our sins to each other. Here, James is referencing the importance of having close relationships with other believers in which we can be vulnerable. Second, he states that we are to pray for each other. There is healing available when we open up and pray with each other. James then describes Elijah as someone who "had a nature like us" or was just like you and me. He prayed passionately for a long time and God answered his prayer. Note that Elijah was praying for three years and six months before God answered his prayer.]*

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2. Read 1 Kings 18:41-42 and Matthew 6:9-10. Part of prayer is aligning our hearts with God. How does this shape your view of how you pray?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Oftentimes, our prayer life is about getting God on board with how we want life to go. However, when we view prayer as aligning our hearts to God it changes the way we pray. Instead of our will, we pray for His will to be done. Our prayers allow God to shape our hearts and thoughts and feelings according to His will. This helps us to understand that we are not the main character but a part of the bigger story God is telling in the world.]*

3. Read 1 Kings 18:43-44, Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12, and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Elijah prayed for over three years for God to bring rain to the land. He remained resolute in his faith this attitude was displayed as he asked his servant to go seven times to check for rain knowing that God would answer. Have you experienced a time in your life when you have prayed for something for a long time? What helps you remain resolute? If not, look to Elijah's story as an example of remaining resolute.

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Give your members some time to think about their responses. If a member shares a situation with the group be sure to follow up with them and include their situation in your time of prayer at the of the small group. An example could be praying for a friend or family member to come to Christ or restoration of a family relationship. Encourage one another that God hears and understands our situations and to not lose hope.]*

## **APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)**

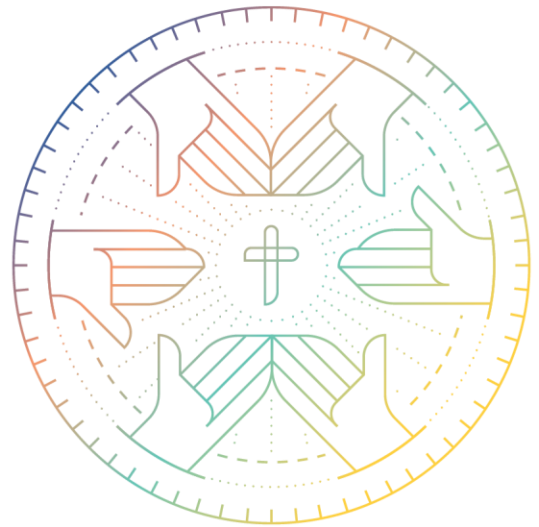
1. Read 1 Kings 18:45-46, Ephesians 1:3, and James 1:17-18. Prayer builds our confidence in God and provides the foundation for hope. Have you seen God answer prayer in your life before? If so, did it change the way you prayed in the future?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Seeing God answer prayer reminds us that He hears us. When you face difficulties or are tempted to lose hope, remind yourself of how God has answered our prayers in the past. In order to practice this, consider using a prayer journal. Write down the prayers both big and small and when you see God answer a prayer circle it. This helps us grow our faith.]*

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2. **Read Romans 8:26-27,34 and Hebrews 7:25. How does understanding that Jesus intercedes on your behalf shape the way you can go to God moving forward?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Understanding that Jesus is in our corner, interceding with the Father even when we don't know what to say or pray, frees us up from the burden of having to say the right words. It reminds us of the relationship we have with Jesus. The savior of the world knows us and loves us.]*

3. **Elijah was raised up to have a significant impact on his community. Where might God use to impact your family, neighborhood, workplace, or city?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Understanding that God allows us to be a part of what is going on in the world can change what and how we pray. Take some time this week to be praying about what impact you can have in the various areas of your life. You might be surprised how you might be used by God. Invitation to church? Intentional prayer for the lost? Create opportunities for people to join a small group?]*

### **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

*Dear heavenly Father, thank you that you hear our prayers. Motivate to be active in prayer aligning our hearts to your will. Help us to not lose heart but be persistent with our prayers, like Elijah. Thank You that You are the giver of all good gifts and that You intercede on our behalf. Lord may we be people that know You and make Your name known. We pray all these things in Your wonderful name. Amen.*