

Desperate Prayers: The Power of Prevailing Prayer

James 5:13-18

2026.01.11

Icebreaker: Share a high/low from the past couple of weeks

STUDY GUIDE

Read James 5:13-18

Each person share about one of the following questions:

- When James says “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective,” what words or phrases stand out to you most? Why?
- How does knowing Elijah was “a human being, even as we are” change the way you read this passage?
- What do you think James wants believers to expect when they pray—and what do we often settle for instead?

The message on Sunday made this statement: “Any believer can pray like Elijah and expect the same power and effectiveness.”

- Do you believe this? Why or why not?
- Which statement do you resonate with more right now (and why?)
 - “I expect God to move when I pray.”
 - “I hope God moves, but I’m not sure He will.”
- What “lies” about prayer might you have unknowingly believed? (“This kind of power isn’t for me,” “God probably won’t answer,” “I shouldn’t ask again.”)

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah sent his servant 7 times to check on the rain. Elijah had a deep sense of persistency mixed with expectation.

- How do you usually respond when prayer seems unanswered or when “there is nothing there”?
- What does Elijah’s posture (humility + bold expectation) teach us about the difference between expectation and presumption?

What got your attention during the message/discussion this week?

- Why did it get your attention? (What made you mad, sad, glad or go hmm?)
- What might God be saying to you about this?
- What might God be saying to do/be about this?
- What ways do you need to step more fully into a true follower of Jesus?

