**Power up part 5 – The Power of Prayer 1Kings 17,18 James 5:16,17**

**Leader Notes**

1. **When was the last time your car needed a boost? Who helped you?**

The story of Elijah is one of a powerful praying prophet. There were five things he prayed for:

**2. The first thing Elijah prayed for was drought**. 1 Kings 17:1 “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.” Why would Elijah pray for drought? (Ahab was leading the country into evils of idol worship, and drought was a way to get the king’s attention. For background on Ahab, look up 1 Kings 16: 30)

**3. Have you ever prayed for God to bring hardship into someone’s life to turn them back to God?** Share your story. **What do you sense God is doing in Alberta with $45 per barrel oil?** Sometimes we have to pray for drought, for the justice of God. Read 1 Cor. 5:1-5. Paul prays for some harsh consequences for someone who is living in sin. **What should be our overarching concern when we pray?**

**4. The second prayer of Elijah was for miraculous provision**. 1 Kings 17:14

“The jar of flour won’t be used up and the jug of oil won’t run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.” **Who do you know that needs a miracle of provision?**

**5. The third prayer of Elijah was for healing:** 1 Kings 17:21“O LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” **How** **does healing impact unbelievers?** (The widow said to Elijah: “Now I know that you’re a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.” When miracles happen, they become a sign to unbelievers that God is real and He loves us.) **Do you have a story of someone whom God healed physically? Whom do you know that needs relational or physical healing?**

**6.The fourth prayer of Elijah was for fire:** 1 Kings 18:36 “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

**How did Israel respond to unexplained fire from heaven?** 1 Kings 18:39 (The response of the people was to fall flat down on the ground and cry out: “Yahweh is God! Yahweh is God.”)

We can pray for things that will turn the hearts of those we love back to God. James 5:20 says, “Whoever turns a sinner away from his error will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” Jesus gave us the keys of the kingdom, powerful prayer that opens and closes the door for sinners to come to Jesus. We’ve got to use those keys!

**7. The fifth prayer of Elijah was for rain to end the drought:** 1 Kings 18:42-44

**Do you ever keep your eyes open when you prayer? Have you ever seen “little clouds” that encourage you to pray more or believe more for what you’re praying about?**

(At first Elijah didn’t see any response to his prayer. Seven times Elijah asked his servant to look for the beginning of an answer. As soon as the answer started to appear on the horizon, he was certain God was answering.)

8. James 5:16,17 says, “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us.” **Could we see answers to prayer in our church like God answered Elijah? What might be some differences between our prayers and his prayers?** (Sometimes we ask for selfish things. Read James 4:3 “When you ask, you don’t receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” Sometimes we aren’t very earnest, passionate or desperate in our praying.)

**9. What are some reasons we don’t pray more often?** (Busyness, we don’t see answers to our prayers, we have little faith).

10. One of the keys to powerful praying is found in 1 Kings 18:36: “let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.” If you want more power in your prayer, you have to listen for what God wants you to pray about.Elijah didn’t just pray about things he wanted to see happen. Elijah listened for what God wanted to happen, and he prayed those very things. Elijah leaned in to the will of God in his praying. **What are some things you believe God is calling our small group/church to pray more for?**

**11. This is a part of pastor Perry’s conclusion to his sermon on prayer.**

“If we’re going to see the power of God manifested, we’ve got to do more preparation around the altar. If we don’t have any time to pray, we shouldn’t be surprised that we’re powerless, and that there’s no supernatural fire in our midst. E.M. Bounds says it clearly: “Much prayer, much power; little prayer, little power; no prayer, no power.” The only way we’re going to experience a fire on the altar of our wet wood is if God sends it from heaven. We’ve got to get back to the altar of God as a lifestyle and not just a place we go when we’ve got a problem. We need revival.”

**What would “more preparation around the altar” look like in the life of our church?**

**How can we get more power in our spiritual life?** (More prayer!)

Pray with your small group!