

Powerful prayers

Week 3: March 15-21

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: Iron sharpens iron. Small group is an opportunity for us to sharpen each other into the image of Christ. Let's recognize that we have an opportunity to become more like Christ together as a group.

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: Exodus 14:10-31 (The Parting of the Red Sea)

5min

Hook Question: James 5:17 tells us "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." Who would you want praying for you if you were in terrible trouble? Why?

2min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Ahab was the 7th king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He ruled for 22 years and was an evil king. One great evil he did was bringing the foreign god, Baal, into Israel and led Israel to worship it. This provoked God to anger more than any king before him.

Elijah was a righteous man and a prophet. God sent Elijah to tell King Ahab there would be no dew or rain in the land except by Elijah's word. When Elijah told Ahab this, God told him to flee to a brook east of Jordan. There, God would send him ravens to bring him bread and meat in the morning and evening to eat. He would drink water from the brook. Eventually the brook dried up because there was no rain.

In James 5, the Bible says that Elijah prayed that there would be no rain... and there was no rain for three and a half years! That is a powerful prayer. Elijah's prayer was powerful because he put action to his faith. He risked his life to speak the word of the Lord to King Ahab. God honored Elijah's faith and obedience by responding powerfully to his prayers. Elijah didn't just pray – he acted in faith.

After the brook dried up, Elijah confronted Ahab. He told Ahab to gather all the prophets of Baal and the people of Israel. When they gathered, he told the people of Israel to stop being fickle in who they worshipped. To help them choose who to worship, he challenged the prophets of Baal to a competition. God used Elijah in a powerful way to defeat the prophets of Baal. Then Elijah turned to Ahab. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from 1 Kings 18:41-46: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

12min

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from 1 Kings 18:41-46: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head Questions:

Quicker tempo.

- What stands out to you about this story? Why?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand Questions:

Slow down & wait!

- How do you need to apply this story to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.

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Week 3: Jesus the Great Administrator

The past two weeks, we have seen how Jesus was a great administrator. He was a great administrator first because he was confident in his calling as a leader. Second, he was constantly casting vision to those who followed Him. Today we are going to see how Jesus recruited a team to join Him in His mission.

Luke 6:12-16 says, “At that time Jesus went to a mountain to pray. He spent the whole night in prayer to God. When it was day, he called his disciples. He chose twelve of them and called them apostles. They were Simon (whom Jesus named Peter) and Simon’s brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (who was called the Zealot), Judas (son of James), and Judas Iscariot (who became a traitor).”

Some people may wonder, “Why would Jesus need to recruit a team? He is God after all?” But Jesus recruited a team of young men to teach and train to take the message of what He did and was going to do to the entire world. There is power in recruiting people to become warriors for the Kingdom of God.

Paul also understood the need to recruit people to train and send out. Paul tells Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:2** “What you have seen and heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” Paul gives us an outline of what to look for in recruiting people to your team. Look for people who are Faithful, Available and Teachable (F.A.T.). People who are F.A.T. are not always who you would expect. But they are the people who support you and each other the best in advancing God’s kingdom.

Who do you need to recruit to be on your team?