

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- John began his message by asking the question, “What are you missing out on by praying safely?” Why don’t we pray more courageously, instead of praying for safety, blessing, and a “hedge of protection”? How would you respond to that question?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Pastor John taught us that dangerous prayer gives us intimacy in heaven and purpose on earth.**

Three Secrets of Elijah’s Prayer Life (Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 for context):**1. Elijah was a human just like you (James 5:17a)**

- John said, “The Bible works more like a mirror than a poster.” Stories of people in the Bible aren’t written for us to idolize those people, but so that we see a reflection of ourselves in their lives.
- Who are some Bible characters you relate to most? Do you ever feel like those characters are so much more “godly” than you that you could never do the things they did? Why or why not?
- Elijah wasn’t divine, he wasn’t royalty, he wasn’t special in the eyes of the world - just like most of us. Why do you think God chooses to answer the prayers of ordinary people like Elijah and us? What does that tell us about God?

2. Elijah prayed God’s will (James 5:17b)

- Elijah prayed dangerous prayers because he knew God could come through and fulfill His Word (see Deuteronomy 11:16-17). As a group, talk about some of the passages of Scripture you could pray. Pick two or three passages to pray together out loud as a group. If you’re looking for a place to start, try Psalm 67 or Ephesians 3:14-21.

3. Elijah prayed with patient fervency (James 5:17-18)

- When God doesn’t answer your prayers the way you want Him to, how do you respond?
- John gave us three responses to God’s answers to prayer. Which of these is the hardest for you:
 - Rejoice when He says “yes”; Trust when He says “no”; Keep asking when He says “wait”
- If it’s true that prayer is more about intimacy than results, how will your prayers change this week?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Respond in prayer to something you’ve learned or have been reminded of today.

