



This Home Group Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however, we encourage you to check out one of our warm and friendly Small Groups.

**LESSON AIM:** to help you become a fully devoted follower of Christ by committing to find God's direction and power in your life through prayer.

### Connect .....15 min.



**PRAYER:** Begin your time with prayer. We encourage you to quiet yourself, acknowledge God's position, and ask God to open your mind and heart to the lesson aim for today.

**ICEBREAKER:** What kind of garden have you planted? How long did it take for the flowers or food crop to appear? Were you patient of impatient in the waiting?

What makes it hard for some people to pray?

### Strengthen .....35-40 min.



**KEY PASSAGE:** *"Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops."*

**James 5:17-18 NLT**

1. During David's message on Sunday he shared five things that we need to do to receive God's Direction and Power in our lives. (*Hunger for God, Examine Myself, Listen, Pray Bold, and Wait Well*) Which one is the easiest for you and which one is the most difficult? Why?
2. He began his message talking about the key passage above and the effectiveness of Elijah's prayer. James remembered the past and reminded the church that we can have a very effective prayer life. Talk about what it takes to have an effective prayer life like Elijah.

3. Read Romans 8:26-27. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? (v.26) For whom does the Spirit intercede? (v.27) What is the relationship between God and the Spirit? (v.27)
4. In v.26, Paul tells us that the Spirit prays for us when we don't know what to pray for. How does it make you feel to know that the Spirit is praying for you when you don't know how to pray?
5. Do you ever encounter times in your life when due to your anger or frustration you don't want to pray? How does it make you feel to know that God knows that about us and prays for us when we feel that way?
6. Do you ever struggle with knowing what God's will is for your life? How does it make you feel that God's Spirit always intercedes for you in accordance with God's will whether you know what it is or not?
7. How does it make you feel that God felt prayer was so important that He did not leave it up to your feelings or knowledge but gave you His Spirit to make sure you were prayed for effectively. How does God's feeling about prayer encourage you to be more faithful in prayer?

### Bless .....15 min.



Who do you know that needs God's direction and power in their life and how can you join with God's Spirit in praying for them this week?

### Invite .....10 min.



Who are the people in your life that do not know Jesus. Make a list of at least three people that are not Christians and commit to pray for them for the next year.

### Celebrate .....15 min.



Turn your prayers into praise because God cares about us enough to pray for us and empowers us to pray for ourselves and others. Praise him because Him because he cares about us enough to listen and to answer our prayers.

Pray for the praises and needs of the group members.

# Clear View: Navigating & Refueling through Prayer

David Carothers - January 23, 2011

*“For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!”* **2 Timothy 3:2-5 (NLT)**

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*As for me, I look to the LORD for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.”* **Micah 7:7 (NLT)**

*“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.”* **Romans 8:26 (NLT)**

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*“Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.”* **James 4:2b (NLT)**

*“I do not trust in my bow; I do not count on my sword to save me. You are the One who gives us victory over our enemies; You disgrace those who hate us. O God, we give glory to You all day long and constantly praise Your name.”* **Psalms 44:6-8 (NLT)**

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*“My soul thirsts for You; my whole body longs for You in this parched and weary land where there is no water. ...I will praise You as long as I live, lifting up my hands to You in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise You with songs of joy. I lie awake thinking of You, meditating on You through the night. Because You are my Helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of Your wings. I cling to You; Your strong right hand holds me securely.”* **Psalms 63:1b, 4-8 (NLT)**

*“You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)**

**Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”* **James 5:17-18 (NLT)**

## Our Values

We desire to demonstrate committed, authentic and passionate lives in Christ individually and corporately. Therefore we value...

**Value #3** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, ‘The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer.’”* **Matthew 21:12-13 (NLT)**

## I Receive God’s Direction and Energy When I...

• \_\_\_\_\_ for God

*“When the poor and needy search for water and there is none, and their tongues are parched from thirst, then I, the LORD, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will never abandon them.”* **Isaiah 41:17 (NLT)**

*“After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things He had done for Israel.”* **Judges 2:10 (NLT)**



• \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s Presence

*“It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.”* **Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)**