

LIFE GROUP LESSON July 8 to July 14, 2018

Praying with Authority (*1 Kings 18:19-39*)

●WELCOME God's People (15 minutes)

●WORSHIP God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise). You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

●Live by God's WORD (45 minutes)

God has given His children the privilege of calling upon Him for all they need, and what's more, He's promised to respond. He has also included the right to petition Him on behalf of others. In fact, Scripture tells us that the prayers of a righteous person can accomplish much ([James 5:16](#)).

To be righteous in the Father's sight, we must accept His offer of salvation. Before redemption, we were unrighteous people under His judgment ([Eph. 2:1, 3](#)). Through faith in Christ as our Savior, we are made new and declared holy in His sight. Then, after we are able to approach Him as righteous people, we must align our prayers with His will—that's the only way for our petitions to be powerful and effective ([1 John 5:14-15](#)). And the key to aligning our requests with His plan is getting to know our heavenly Father's character and priorities.

Elijah is a good example of someone who prayed with authority. The Lord sent him into battle against the evil king Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal. This was a spiritual conflict to prove who was the real God—Baal or the Lord of Israel. Elijah's weapons were his knowledge of the Father's plan and the authority he had in prayer as a prophet of God. His request—that Jehovah would make Himself known, voiced publicly before his opponents, matched the Lord's will ([Ex. 7:5](#); [1 Kings 18:37](#)). And when God responded to Elijah's prayer, the people declared, "The Lord, He is God" ([1 Kings 18:39](#)).

Are you a child of God? If so, you can pray with spiritual might by making sure your requests are in agreement with His will.

Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. How are your request according to God's will?
2. What's the basis for your confidence in His willingness to answer your requests?

●Impact God's WORLD (20 min)

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ●any planned group activity ●important church announcements ●next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

CLOSING – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.