



This fall, we're studying the life of Elijah in the Old Testament. Elijah is known as one of the primary prophets who confronted idol worship in Israel. This Sunday, we looked into the New Testament to bring the mission and vision back into focus. The mission of our church is simple yet powerful—helping people find and follow Jesus. Our vision is that Coastline is united in reaching and discipling 1% of our community for Jesus. We have a big vision—a vision to see life change in our community: marriages healed, kids growing up in godly homes, people saved from addiction, and so much more. Study these questions to see how we can become a praying church.

1. Think of a time in your life when you needed to make a big decision. This decision was so significant that you couldn't afford to mess it up. Share with your group about that decision and the role prayer played in helping you make the choice.
2. Read James 5:17. James teaches us that Elijah was a human being just like us. So often in the Christian life, we put the heroes of the Bible on a pedestal. How does James' teaching help you see yourself differently?
3. Reflecting on our humanity, share some stories with your group about times you've seen God use ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His kingdom. This might include helping others, offering emotional support, or praying for others.
4. Read James 5:17. We learn that Elijah's life was defined by earnest prayer. What are some things you are earnestly praying for God to do right now? What distracts you from praying earnestly?
5. Throughout Scripture, we find examples of regular and faithful prayer. Read Mark 1:35, Psalm 5:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and Daniel 6:10. Looking at these examples, when is the best time for you to commit to praying?
6. Read James 5:17-18. We see that God answered Elijah's prayer. God is a God who hears the prayers of His people. Read Jeremiah 33:3, Mark 11:24, and Matthew 7:7-8. What are some prayers you are longing for God to answer right now?
7. At the end of his letter, James instructs the early church to bring people back from their wandering sin (read James 5:19-20). When you think about sharing your faith, what comes to mind? Does it scare you, thrill you, or are you somewhere in the middle?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for the strength to invite a friend to meet Jesus.