

- Effective Prayers -

ICE-BREAKER:

Share a story of a time when God answered your prayers in a surprising way.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Read 1 Kings 18:42; James 4:6,10**
   Effective Prayers are Humble Prayers
   - Why do you think humility is key when it comes to God answering our prayers?

2. **Read Matthew 7:7-8; James 4:2**
   Effective Prayers are Specific Prayers
   - Why do you think we often avoid being specific in our prayers?
   - What might you be missing, simply because you have not asked God?

3. **Read 1 Kings 18:43; James 5:16; Luke 18:1-8**
   Effective Prayers are Persistent Prayers
   - Why do you suppose Elijah had to pray seven times before God answered him?
   - What do we learn from the story of the persistent widow?

4. **Read 1 Kings 18:44; Mark 11:24; James 1:6-8**
   Effective Prayers are Expectant Prayers
   - Whether God answers your prayers the way you would like or not, why is it important that you pray with the expectation that God is going to work in your situation?

APPLICATION:

Figure out your primary prayer need. Perhaps you could ask yourself the question: *'What have I quit praying for that I need to start praying for again?'* Then make a commitment to pray humbly, specifically, persistently, and expectantly for that need.