Day 1: Effective Prayers are Earnest Prayers

Read James 5:17
Elijah was a man <u>just like us</u>. He <u>prayed earnestly</u> that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. James 5:17

- Why does the Bible say Elijah was just like us? How might that encourage you in your prayer life?

Day 2: Effective Prayers are Humble Prayers

Read 1 Kings 18:42; James 4:6,10
(Elijah)… bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. 1 Kings 18:42

…God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble…Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:6,10

- Why do you think humility is key when it comes to God answering our prayers?

Day 3: Effective Prayers are Specific Prayers

Read James 4:2
…You do not have, because you do not ask God. James 4:2

Read Matthew 7:7-8
7"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

- What do you think you might not have, simply because you have not asked God?

Day 4: Effective Prayers are Persistent Prayers

Read 1 Kings 18:43
"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." 1 Kings 18:43

Read James 5:16
"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16b NKJV

- What have you quit praying for that you need to start praying for again?

Day 5: Effective Prayers are Expectant Prayers

Read Mark 11:24
Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Read James 1:6-8
But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:6-8

- Figure out your primary prayer need(s), and make a commitment to pray humbly, specifically, persistently and expectantly for that particular area of your life.