**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How can I experience God’s power?**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” ([John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12))

*For this volume, we’ll focus on God’s power. More specifically, we’ll ask and address the question: How can I experience God’s power in my life? Even a skim through the Bible reveals that God expresses His power in many ways. From Genesis to Revelation, the entire Bible is filled with accounts of impossible things becoming possible with God. And God’s power continues in believers’ lives today. We can experience miracles, have bold faith, believe for healing, and know God answers our prayers.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Five blindfolds* *• Five sets of five items (twenty-five total) that might be difficult to identify by touch (e.g., uncooked spaghetti noodles, cereal, stuffed animals, pennies)* *• Twenty-five containers (e.g., paper bags) to conceal the items until volunteers are blindfolded* *• Long table* *• Optional: Tablecloth* *• Optional: Paper towels or hand wipes if the selected items are messy****Getting Ready*** *• Set up the long table and add tablecloth, if needed.* *• Keep all items hidden in the containers until the activity begins.* *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

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| **QUESTION**What’s the funniest or most unusual gift you’ve ever asked for? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for the generosity of others. Thank Him for being involved in each person’s life and intervening in our situations when we call to Him. Ask the Lord to help the students gain a new understanding of the power of prayer.*

**Introduction**

Today we’re talking about trusting God to answer our prayers. The power of prayer is beneficial on multiple levels. Not only can prayer change our circumstances, but maybe more importantly, prayer changes us. Today we’re going to discuss how prayer influences the world around us as well as our own heart. Prayer is a tool God uses to shape us and mold us for our own good and for His glory.

**Group Activity**

**What Do You See?**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Five blindfolds* *• Five sets of five items (twenty-five total) that might be difficult to identify by touch (e.g., pennies, uncooked spaghetti noodles, cereal, stuffed animals)* *• Twenty-five containers (e.g., paper bags) to conceal the items until volunteers are blindfolded* *• Long table* *• Optional: Tablecloth* *• Optional: Paper towels or hand wipes if the selected items are messy****Getting Ready*** *• Set up the long table and add tablecloth, if needed.* *• Keep all items hidden in the containers until the activity begins.* |

Sometimes things can be right in front of us, but we can’t see them. That’s what happened to Elisha’s servant in today’s Bible story. So, I thought we’d start with an activity where everyone who participates is blindfolded. We need five volunteers.

• *Choose students to participate. Have them come and stand behind the table.*

We’ll place the same item in front of each volunteer. When I say, “Go,” pick up the item and try to guess what it is. The first person to correctly call out what it is wins a point. For example, if the item is an apple, then just say, “Apple.” The one with the most points wins the game. Let’s play.

• *Blindfold the students.*

• *Distribute the items one round at a time.*

• *Declare the winner after the game is over.*

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| **QUESTION**How much harder was it to guess the item when you couldn’t use your eyes? |

When it comes to spiritual things, we often need God to help us see the truth. Today, we’ll consider how we can experience God’s power in our life through conversations with Him. We’ll read about a miracle and talk about the life-changing power of prayer. Let’s start with a video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

We’re going to look at the life of Elisha again. This time we’ll read about an encounter he had with an entire enemy army. Prayer played a big role in what happened before, during, and after this encounter.

**Prayer Can Help Us See God’s Power**

Read [2 Kings 6:14–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki6.14-17).

Just before the verses we just read, the Bible tells us that the king of Aram was at war with Israel. Over and over, Elisha had ruined his attacks by telling the plans of Aram’s king to the king of Israel before they happened. This frustrated the king of Aram so much that he sent a whole army to take on this single prophet of God.

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| **QUESTION**How might Elisha’s servant have felt before Elisha prayed? |

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| **QUESTION**What did the servant see after Elisha prayed? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Elisha was able to see the horses and chariots, and his servant wasn’t? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think there are things in the supernatural world around us that we don’t see? |

This passage reminds us that when we pray, we can gain a new perspective on our situation. The negative circumstances surrounding us are not nearly as big as our God. While we may truly be surrounded by opposition and difficulty, prayer can make us aware of God and His work in our situation.

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| **QUESTION**How is it helpful to understand that God is present in our situations, even if we can’t necessarily see Him at work? |

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| **QUESTION**Has your perspective on your circumstances ever changed as a result of you or someone else praying? Tell us a little about that experience. |

**Prayer Can Make the Impossible Happen**

Read [2 Kings 6:18–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki6.18-19).

Elisha prayed an interesting prayer, and God immediately performed an impossible miracle. Such a huge answer to a very short prayer shows us that it doesn’t take long, fancy prayers for God to respond in a big way. While extended times in prayer can be very impactful for us, God hears His people even when they only have time for a few words.

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn about God from Elisha’s prayer? |

God got involved in Elisha’s circumstances. When we pray, He gets involved in our life too. He’s willing to intervene when we trust Him in prayer.

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| **QUESTION**How could your daily life be impacted by believing and practicing that prayer can make the impossible possible? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God wants us to pray when He already knows what we need? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the most daring prayer you have ever prayed? |

**Did You Know?**

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| The city of Samaria is only twelve miles south of the town of Dothan. However, travel between the two locations was not simple. Dothan was in a small valley that served as an outcropping off the greater Jezreel Valley, a place where chariots famously had access and ease of movement. Samaria, on the other hand, was located in the hill country of Manasseh with only a direct path through the narrow Dothan Pass to link the two locations. Although the size of the force sent to Elisha isn’t known, his task of leading this force from Dothan to Samaria by the sound of his voice would have been a far more complicated task than we might imagine.  |

**Prayer Can Produce the Best Outcome for Everyone**

Read [2 Kings 6:20–23](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki6.20-23) and [Matthew 5:44](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.44).

Elisha had his enemy within his grasp. Even the king of Israel was ready to attack this vulnerable enemy. Yet, surprisingly, Elisha chose mercy and kindness.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Elisha told the king to give the Arameans food and drink and to send them home? |

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| **QUESTION**What emotions do you think the enemy army felt as they experienced what we just read? |

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn from Elisha in this instance? |

Prayer changes the way you see the world. Prayer can lead to seeing the impossible becoming possible. And prayer can change how we see others. Through prayer, we view everything differently—even our enemies.

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| **Question**Do you believe it’s important to pray for our enemies? Why? |

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| **Question**Think of someone you don’t get along with. How much time have you spent praying for them? |

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| **Question**How might praying for our enemies affect how we treat them? |

Elisha chose to care for his enemies when he could have had them all killed. His prayers and relationship with God literally transformed the reality of the world around him.

**Reflect**

**I Trust That God Answers Prayer**

Believing that God answers prayer is central to being one of His followers. It’s one of our best ways to connect with Him. Truly trusting that God answers prayer should motivate us to make time in our life to spend in prayer. When we pray, we provide opportunities for God to move powerfully in our circumstances, in the lives of others, and in our own heart.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates what we’ve learned from the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**What activities, behaviors, or relationships might get in the way of you having a consistent prayer life? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think your life would change if you spent more time praying for those you dislike? |

**Activate**

Our actions reveal what we truly believe. If we truly believe that God answers prayer, then we should talk with God frequently and consistently about what’s going on in our life and in the life of those around us.

Everyone, please bow your head. I want you to think of the one thing you need most or would like God to do in your life. *(Pause to give students time to respond.)* Now, pray and ask God to help in that situation. I look forward to hearing how God answered your prayers.

• *Give time for students to pray on their own.*

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*The most important prayer anyone prays is when we first reach out to God for His forgiveness and invite Jesus to come into our life. God listens to you when you call out to Him. He leans in with love when you reach out to Him in prayer.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

God, I know Your ear is tuned in our direction. When Your people pray, You respond. You do something inside us and often move in our circumstances. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to develop a consistent and vibrant prayer life. Teach us to pray effectively and confidently. As we pray, change our heart toward You and toward others. As we pray, please do the impossible. Amen.

**Conclusion**

God answers prayer! He is calling us to be people of prayer. When we develop the discipline of prayer, we set ourself up to see miracles, build bold faith, and love our enemies. We can have peace about our situations and grow in our affection for God. Choose to make your default response going to God in prayer.

Remember to engage with your devotions this week. Be sure to not only read them, but to pray as well. All the devotions are on the Bible Engagement Project app.