



## STUDY GUIDE – August 23, 2020

**Message Title:** ENOUGH  
**There Is A Cloud**  
**Teaching Pastor:** Brian Hughes

*This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.*

### **Warm-up/Icebreaker:**

Which situation would cause you the LEAST stress? Which would be MOST stressful?

- Driving your car in rush hour traffic;
- Getting a last minute work assignment;
- Trying to motivate someone who doesn't want to be motivated;
- Budgeting;
- Being blamed for something someone else did; or
- Waiting for someone else to complete a section of a project so that you can start your contribution?

### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, please clear our hearts and minds from distractions that abound, so that we may completely give you our attention. Thank you, Father, for the ability to gain more insight as we learn from the example of Elijah. Let us deepen our understanding of how prayer is the bedrock of our relationship with You. In Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

### **Get Started:**

"Elijah's story should inform us when it comes to this idea of prayer. For him, prayer wasn't a thing you simply did over a meal or at bedtime, it was the bedrock of his relationship with God. And if we're going to learn from Elijah, we'll make prayer the essential element of OUR connection with God, too." ~Pastor Brian Hughes

### **Read Psalms 4:1, 17:6, 141:2, 145:18**

- Which Psalm speaks to you either about how you view (or would like to view) your own prayer life and why?
- If someone were to ask you "Why do you pray?" how would you respond?

### **Watch and Discuss video:**

Pastor Brian discussed the characteristics of Elijah's prayer as the following:

1. Persistent
2. Expectant
3. Deliberate
4. Unending

This was balanced, however, with the awareness that Elijah wasn't telling God something He didn't already know. So what was Elijah praying for? The will of God, already revealed to him. But even if he wasn't sure, his ultimate prayer was for the will of God, no matter what.

- Are these characteristics embedded in your own prayer life? Which is your strength, which needs more focus?

### **Reflect and Commit:**

#### **Read James 5:16-18.**

- How would you pray differently today if you truly, deeply believed that you're no different than Elijah?

#### **Read 1 Kings 18:41-46.**

- Why do you think we are not told what Elijah's prayer is about?

We say, "what should we pray for" or "I'll pray for you" which is to say, we have to have a point to our prayer. But what if GOD is the point of our prayer. What if connection is the point. What if receiving the voice of God is more important than giving God our voice. What if we would entertain the notion that What God wants to say to us is far more important than what we want to say to God? Maybe Elijah isn't praying for rain...Maybe Elijah isn't praying for anything other than the word of God to be spoken clearly to Him. There has to be a reason that we're not told what Elijah prays about.

"Elijah's journey illustrates something really important: the point of prayer is to position me closer to where God is, not the other way around. Don't most of our prayers ask God to move, instead of asking God to move US?" ~Pastor Brian Hughes

### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, help us remember that You are completely faithful to what You promise. Enable us to be as faithful to you as You are to us. Let us believe like Elijah, that the drought is ending and that the rain cloud is on the way, that what You promised us is on the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.