



THE *Last* *Elijah*

*A Revival for Children,
Youth, and Adults*

Teacher's Notes

DON MACLAFFERTY

THE *Last* *Elijah*

*A Revival for Children,
Youth, and Adults*

Teacher's Notes

Don MacLafferty

Copyright 2024
In Discipleship
All Rights Reserved

Printed by
College Press
Collegedale, Tennessee

All quoted Scripture is from the
NASB (New American Standard Bible) version

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note of Thanks	3
Purpose of <i>The Last Elijah</i>	4
What is True Revival?	5
How to Prepare for Revival	6
How to Use <i>The Last Elijah</i> to Call for Revival	7
Principles for Calling for an Intergenerational Revival	13
The Last Elijah Revival	
Day 1 Stand Before God	14
Day 2 Live God's Word	18
Day 3 Find Heart Healing	24
Day 4 Come and Worship	28
Day 5 Cry for Fire	33
Day 6 Mentor Your Elisha	39
Day 7 Be an Elijah	44
Day 8 "What's Next?" Meeting	49
More Helpful Discipling Resources	
Appendices	
Appendix A: True Revival	53
Appendix B: Stories for the Appeal Each Night	
Day 1: "Every Moment Matters"	54
Day 2: "Crossing the Border"	57
Day 3: "Heart Surgery Miracle"	60
Day 4: "The Boy Next Door"	64
Day 5: "The Nurse Who Risked All for Jesus"	67
Day 6: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them"	69
Day 7: "Elijahs Young and Old"	71
Appendix C: Scripture to Call Young and Old to Prayer	73
Appendix D: Suggestions for Songs for Prayer	76

A NOTE OF THANKS

Special thanks to the following:

Jesus Christ. You have made the love of our Father God so real to me through Your written Word! You are the Bright Morning Star of Revelation 22:16, my Hope, Savior, Friend, and Lord. You are the Inspiration and the Heart to call all children, youth, and adults to a revival with You.

My wife April who lives in the peace of Christ without fear of tomorrow.

Susan Peña for editing and gathering such helpful insights from the following individuals from our volunteer revival and discipling team: Scott Anderson, Gerard Carter, Luis Antonio Dias, Mike and Sherl Fenton, Don and Connie Jones, Edith Kiggundu, April MacLafferty, Melody Mason, Elly Peña, Sharon and Shane Rivera, Richard and Cynthia Spears, and Barbara Wear.

Allan Barnes, Corrado and Elsa Cozzi, Konstantin Von Genebago, William Holt, Esther Knott, Rex Mangiliman, Virginia Petkov, Lyam Samson, and Chris Weber for taking the time to prayerfully give additional recommendations to make this resource easier to use.

Megan Marquez for the thoughtful care in the layout of this book along with the entire team at College Press who continues to deliver excellence.

PURPOSE OF *THE LAST ELIJAH*

Jesus is coming soon! Most of us are not ready to meet Him when He returns to take us home to heaven. Many of us claim Christ as our Savior but live each day as if He is merely a good option when we find Him convenient. Oh, how He longs to be our best Friend in these fearful times. He yearns for us to find our peace in Him as our Savior. He cries out for us to find our freedom in His Lordship.

Elijah was a man who walked with God. He lived each moment with holy purpose and immeasurable power from God. He had his weaknesses and failures as we do, but he found his hope in the grace of Christ.

The Last Elijah is a seven-session series of intergenerational messages designed to call children, youth, and adults to return to the worship of the living God and to live each moment by His written Word as an Elijah for these last days before the second coming of Jesus.

The Last Elijah is a tool in your hands to go wherever the Holy Spirit leads to call your family, friends, classmates, neighbors, co-workers, church members, and the people of your city to Christ before it is too late.

WHAT IS TRUE REVIVAL?

True revival is best defined by God Himself. Hear His heart cry in Joel 2:1,12,13,16:

“Blow a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near...‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.’ Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving kindness and relenting of evil...Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants...” Joel 2:1,12,13,16

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what true revival is based on this passage. Please list the principles you found for calling for revival:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

(Please go to Appendix A to compare your answers.)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR REVIVAL?

Revival begins with you!

1. Cry out to God to begin a revival with you. Surrender to Christ as Lord. Confess your sins to Him and receive His forgiveness and cleansing power.

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:7,8

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

2. Prayerfully study through each one of the seven messages with the purpose to know Jesus through His Word, and to live each challenge given - by the grace of the Lord.

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.” John 5:39

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matthew 7:24

3. Begin praying daily by name for the people in the place where you will be calling for revival. Ask for the names of that home, school, church, business, etc. and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare each one's heart for a full revival with Christ. As you sacrifice your time in prayer for each one, God will give you His love for each person.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

4. Ask God who you should mobilize for prayer among the people you will be calling to revival. Call them to also be praying every day by name for a portion of all the potential people coming for the revival.

“For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” Matthew 7:8

HOW TO USE *THE LAST ELIJAH* TO CALL FOR REVIVAL

ROLES

Revival Leader: The Holy Spirit

Presenter Responsibilities:

Before Revival:

1. Pray for every potential person coming by name before the revival and all through it. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in each heart and bring each one to a personal revival with Jesus!
2. Recruit daily coordinators for each day of the revival.
3. Recruit small group leaders.
4. Equip daily coordinators, small group leaders, and prayer leaders to be effective in their roles. Invest one evening before the revival begins to pray with and equip all coordinators, small groups leaders, and prayer leaders.
5. Prepare to share each of the sections in the list below.

During Revival:

6. Every meeting, meet with the daily coordinator for the meeting, small group leaders, and the prayer leaders for that meeting. Lead them in praying for the Holy Spirit to bless. Confirm that everyone knows what to do and when to do it.
7. Share the following for each meeting:
 - a. Ask the small group leaders to ask their group who did the 24-hour challenge.
 - b. Ask for a few testimonies.
 - c. Instruct the small group leaders to lead the connect activity.
 - d. Engage the small group leaders in leading their groups in exploring key Bible passages when prompted by the presenter.

- e. Share your own story that coordinates with the message or share the story (without having to be dependent on these notes) in the appendix.
 - f. Prayerfully share the appeal and pray for those who respond and those who do not.
 - g. Boldly share the 24-hour Challenge. Ask who will join you in doing it.
 - h. Close the meeting with thanking the people for being a part of what God is doing in this revival.
- 8. Follow through with all divine appointments God gives you with those attending the revival.
 - 9. Coordinate a "What's Next?" Meeting swiftly after the last day of the revival.

Meeting Coordinator Responsibilities:

- 1. Lead your group with the 8 intergenerational revival principles below with much prayer and Holy Spirit filled care for each group member so that your focus is not on leading a routine.
- 2. Recruit a young person to assist you in the welcome section.
- 3. Recruit a 2-person team (youth/adult) to lead all the small groups in prayer: praise for who God is, praise for what God does, confession, and asking for the Holy Spirit. Make sure they have their part ready and will not have to read their instructions! Model to them what is meant by the instructions. Sharing what a Scripture means to them should be a 30 to 60-second-maximum moment. Text them the instructions for their part the night before (at least!).
- 4. Recruit a few people to be prepared to lead songs that match each section. They will lead with one stanza only.
- 5. Ask your team (including small group leaders and song leaders) to come to the venue thirty minutes before the meeting to pray.
- 6. Pray for the Lord to do more than we can ask or imagine! Eph. 3:20

Small Group Leader Responsibilities:

1. Lead your group with the 8 intergenerational revival principles below with much prayer and Holy Spirit filled care for each group member so that your focus is not on leading a routine.
2. Lead with a child or a youth.
3. Get to know those who come to your group. Make them comfortable.
4. Pray for them daily by name.
5. Lead your small group according to the instructions given by the presenter.
6. Be available for the Holy Spirit's work with each one in your group.
7. Be ready to listen, to care for, and to pray with anyone.

SMALL GROUPS

Why form small groups when calling for revival?

The early church placed a high value on the fellowship of believers. They pressed together in one room for ten days as they prayed for the Holy Spirit. After they received the Holy Spirit, God's Word tells us, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

These believers worshiped together in the temple and also enjoyed the fellowship of eating together in each other's homes (See Acts 2:46,47.) Spiritual fellowship was very precious to them. The early church was known for worshiping, fellowshiping, praying, and being in God's Word together.

Revival is not dependent on a certain seating arrangement. We can sit in rows, on benches, on the floor, and out under the trees. The Holy Spirit works with our situation, our place to assemble, and our ways of organization. He meets us where we are!

I recommend you forming small groups of six people if it is possible in your setting. Here are some of the benefits:

1. Small groups create a family of faith to encourage growth.
2. These groups become a place to belong.
3. As trust grows, the groups offer meaningful prayer support.
4. Small groups encourage more participation in prayer and in learning together.
5. Small groups become a place for each one to report how God is working in their life.
6. If you are meeting in a place with fixed seating, it may be very difficult to form small groups of six. Consider organizing those attending the revival into smaller groups of three or four so they may simply turn towards those seated beside them.

How should you form small groups?

The Holy Spirit is ready to lead in the forming of small groups for this revival. Here is a simple way to form these small groups:

1. If available, place the chairs in circles of six. If this is not possible, proceed with the following steps anyway.
2. Ask the small group leaders to sit in their circle of chairs. If this is not available, have the leaders sit with room for 1-2 people on each side of them.
3. Invite all those attending the revival to stand in a large circle surrounding all the small group leaders. Have several volunteers pray that the Holy Spirit would lead each person to the group where they would grow the most during the revival.
4. Encourage families to sit together and to bring all children old enough to participate with the activities during the revival. Some families experiencing stress in their relationships, may want to sit in separate groups. Give grace for families to sit together or apart.
5. Keep the groups to a maximum of six people whenever possible. Keeping the group small is important as it allows enough time for everyone in the group to talk and to pray.

Planning Number of Sessions

This series is shared well in 8 sessions (day or night) with a light meal followed by the revival meeting. This provides time for those God has gathered to experience the power of the Holy Spirit through God's Word to bring repentance, life-transformation, and healing in relationships in an unrushed way.

You may find after praying that God is calling you to call for this revival even though you do not have the time available for 8 sessions on your calendar. Nothing is too difficult for the Lord! (See Jeremiah 32:17)

Consider the following outline if you only had four sessions available:

Session 1 - Stand Before God/Live God's Word

Session 2 - Find Heart Healing

Session 3 - Come and Worship/Cry for Fire

Session 4 - What's Next Meeting

****IMPORTANT:** True Holy Spirit-filled revival prepares the hearts to be disciplined to Jesus as Savior, Friend, and Lord, and to be equipped to be a disciple-maker! Follow up immediately on this revival series by intentionally discipling those whom the Holy Spirit has awakened with a desire to grow in Christ and in discipling others to Christ.

PRINCIPLES FOR CALLING FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL REVIVAL

1. We will gather and organize prayer partners to pray for every child, youth, and adult every day for as many weeks or months as possible before the revival. We will pray that the Holy Spirit prepares the hearts to receive the written Word of God.
2. The written Word of God will be our primary textbook. We will do all possible to make Bibles available to all able to read: children, youth, and adults.
3. We will call for revival with a personal commitment to daily:
 - a. Time alone with God in prayer and His Word
 - b. Surrender to Jesus as Lord
 - c. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. We will include all ages in small groups of six or less led by a student and an adult.
5. We will select our small group leaders through earnest prayer and waiting on God and will equip these leaders to lead their people as a disciple-maker.
6. We will include all ages possible in every part of leading this revival and will seek to make each part understandable to a ten-year-old child.
7. We will seek to lead each one to participate actively in each part of this revival rather than being a spectator.
8. We will surrender our plans for each meeting to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

THE LAST ELIJAH REVIVAL

DAY 1

Stand Before God

I Kings 17:1

Helpful items if available:

- 1 sheet of paper for every child, youth, and adult
- 1 pen or pencil

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share their first name and their city of birth with their group.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Father God, You are Holy. Jesus, You are the Savior. Holy Spirit, You are the Comforter.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: God, You created the world. You sent Jesus to this earth to be the Savior. You are the Giver of all good gifts.

- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for what God does.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- (After first day) Report in twos on what God did with the challenge given the night before.
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Give the small group leaders the following instructions:

1. Form teams of twos.
2. Ask each other: "What creature, activity, or object in nature has left you in awe? Why?"

B. Debrief with the whole group. Ask for a few responses.

All nature is full of the awesome wonder of the Creator God. In what ways do we see the attributes of the Creator in what we described? How much of it do we notice? Why?

C. Introduce

Join me in exploring the Word of God. Explore the life of a man who faced crisis, hardship, and turmoil with fearlessness. His name is Elijah.

D. Special Music: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

II. Message

Invite the groups to read 1 Kings 17:1. Discuss this question: Where is Elijah standing?

A. The Lord God of Israel LIVES.

1. God is NOT stuck in history.
2. God is ALIVE.
3. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
Heb. 13:8

B. Elijah knew where he stood.

1. He stood in God's presence.
2. He knew WHO God is.
3. He knew WHERE God is.
 - Revelation 1:20 identifies the lampstands as "the seven churches." God's church is God's people called out from the world.
 - Revelation 1:12-16 He stands among His people.
 - Revelation 2:1 He walks among His people.
 - Isa 43:1-3 He is with you through the fire and the flood.

C. Elijah stood fearlessly before man.

1. When you stand in God's Presence, you will:
 - a. Be who God calls you to be.
 - b. Say what God calls you to say.
 - c. Do what God calls you to do.
2. When you are in awe of God, you are in awe of no one else.
 - a. Your fears of what man may THINK of you have no more power over you.
 - b. You are not intimidated by what man may DO to you.
 - c. You are willing to go wherever He calls.

III. Conclusion

- A. Story: Share your own testimony of being in awe of God or share “Every Moment Matters”. See Appendix B, page 54 for the story.
- B. Appeal
Who surrenders their fear to God today? Who chooses to stand in God’s Presence and to be in awe of Him? Come.
- C. Appeal Song: (Example: “Give Me Jesus”). Then pray.
- D. Challenge
Read Isa. 43:1-3. Take a piece of paper. Draw a line across the middle of the page. Label the line with your birthdate on the left and today’s date on the right. Think over your life with its happy and sad times. Place a dot near the year of your life to match your triumphs and challenges. Write a short note by those times to share specific ways God provided for you. Bring this back tomorrow night.

Example:



- E. Closing: Thank you all for coming to be a part of what God is doing among us! See you tomorrow night!

DAY 2

Live God's Word

I Kings 17:2-5

Helpful items if available:

Nothing Extra

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share their first name and their favorite food.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for His character: God, You are Righteous, Merciful, Pure, and Kind.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise God for His work as Creator: God, You created the heavens and the earth by speaking it all into existence. You created the galaxies in their perfect order, the patterns on the butterflies with beautiful symmetry, the flowers with countless colors, shapes, and sizes.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for what God does.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit.
- Last meeting I gave you this challenge:
Read Isa. 43:1-3. Take a piece of paper. Draw a line across the middle of the page. Label the line with your birthdate on the left and today's date on the right. Think over your life with its happy and sad times. Place a dot near the year of your life to match your triumphs and challenges. Write a short note by those times to share specific ways God provided for you. Bring this back tomorrow night.
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, "What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?"
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity: Small group leaders:

Give these instructions to your group:

1. Think of who was the voice of authority in your home when you were a child.

2. Share a phrase that person would say with authority and invite your group to guess who it was. Give everyone a moment to share while everyone guesses.
- B. Debrief with everyone in the room.
Ask for a few volunteers to share who their voice of authority was when they were a child.
Who has authority in our life often changes over the years.
- C. Introduce
Join me in exploring the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. We will explore how to live by God's word as our highest authority. Elijah did. We may too!
- D. Special Music: "Wonderful Words"

II. Message

Invite the small groups to read 1 Kings 17:2-5.

Discuss two things:

1. What did God instruct Elijah to do?
 2. How did Elijah respond?
- A. God still speaks.
1. He speaks when we are strong, He speaks when we are weak.
 2. God speaks when we have all we want. He speaks when we are standing in need.
 3. God speaks when we have victory in temptation, when we face temptation, and when we fall to temptation.
 4. But do we hear God when He speaks? Or are we so caught up with the moment, that we miss the still small voice of God?
- B. Elijah lived by the Word of the Lord.
- Small Group Instructions: Take 7 minutes to search God's Word from I Kings chapters 17-19,21. List how many times God spoke to Elijah and how he responded. At the end of 7 minutes, ask for volunteers to share their discoveries.

1. The word of the Lord came to Elijah...
 - and he went to live by the brook Cherith (I Kings 17:5)
 - and he went to live at Zarephath (I Kings 17:10)
 - and he went to meet King Ahab (I Kings 18:2)
 2. Only once do we have evidence that Elijah forgot to live by the word of the Lord...and there were disastrous results!

I Kings 19:1-4 records what happened when he allowed himself to be overwhelmed with Jezebel's threat.

 - Elijah was afraid.
 - He ran for his life.
 - He gave in to depression.
 - He was suicidal.
 3. But even in Elijah's unfaithfulness, God had mercy on him! Read I Kings 19:5-9. How did He show mercy to Elijah?
 - God sent an angel to make him a meal twice and to give him something to drink.
 - God ran with Elijah while Elijah was running the wrong way!
 - God still spoke to Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- C. God is looking for those today who will live by His Word: Children, youth, and adults who:
1. **Depend on His Word** like a flashlight or torch in the darkness.
 - "Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105
 2. **Find victory in their darkest temptation with His Word** as Christ did when Satan tempted him in the wilderness.
 - "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4
 3. **Make daily decisions** about their marriage, their

children, their finances, their schooling, their job, their treatment of those who have less, the way they love the unlovable...BY THE WORD OF THE LORD.

- “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell - and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

III. Conclusion

A. Story: Share your own testimony of choosing to live by the word of the Lord or share “Crossing the Border”. See Appendix B, page 57 for the story.

B. Appeal:

- Will you live by your word or the word of the Lord?
- Will you live each moment by your desires or feelings or by the word of the Lord?
- Will your attitudes and actions be defined by what you want, what you wish, and what you fear...or by the word of the Lord?
- Choose today to live by the word of the Lord.
- What do you do when you go where God leads and the brook dries up? Zarephath is not where he probably wanted to go or would have chosen to go but that is where God provided. When you go where God says to go, He will provide. Who is going to live by the word of God today?

C. Appeal Song: (Example: “Ancient Words”). Then pray.

D. Challenge for tomorrow:

Practice living by the word of the Lord in your attitudes and actions over the next 24 hours. Follow the still, small voice of God to honor Jesus with what you see, hear, and do with all your choices. Find the divine peace, joy, guidance, and care of walking by God's Word.

- E. Closing: Thank you for being a part of this revival. God bless you as you live by the Word of God. See you tomorrow!

DAY 3

Find Heart Healing

Malachi 4:5,6

Helpful items if available:

Nothing extra needed.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share who their greatest encourager was when they were a child.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for His love: Your love is higher than the heavens, deeper than the seas, and beyond our imagination.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise God for sending Jesus to this planet: You gave up your Son freely, fully, and with all Your heart.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for what God does.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Last meeting, I gave you this challenge:
Practice living by the word of the Lord in your attitudes and actions over the next 24 hours. Follow the still, small voice of God to honor Jesus with what you see, hear, and do with all your choices. Find the peace and joy and guidance and care of walking by God's Word.
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, "What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?"
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Small group instructions:

1. Invite each person to share a quick example of something that was broken or sick that was healed.

2. Share the example using only one sentence.
- B. Debrief with everyone in the room. Ask for a few volunteers to answer this question: What type of healing has the most far-reaching results? Why?
- C. Introduce
Join me in the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. The message of Elijah is the message for these last days before Jesus comes again! It is a healing message.
- D. Special Music: (Example: "Softly and Tenderly")

II. Message

Invite the small groups to read Malachi 4:5,6 and to discuss what God is promising.

- A. Before Jesus returns, God will send Elijah's message to young and old.
 1. "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." Malachi 4:5,6
 2. God is **sure** about this prophecy for the family in these last days! God says He is going to do this! God says "He **will** restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."
- B. Jesus offers us a gift of healing for our hearts. This gift is timely for the healing God prophesies as happening for children and their parents before He comes to take us home to heaven.

Jesus offers us a heart surgery!

Invite the small groups to read Ezekiel 36:26,27 and then to read it again and count how many specific promises God gives in these two verses. After a few minutes ask everyone in the room to raise their hands

with the number of fingers that correspond to the number of promises they found.

- “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” Ezekiel 36:26,27

III. Conclusion

A. Story: Share your own testimony of God’s “heart surgery” or share “Heart Surgery Miracle”. See Appendix B, page 60 for the story.

B. Appeal:

- Who needs God to give you a heart surgery so you can love and forgive your parents, your children, or some other member of your family? Who is impressed by the Holy Spirit to have the heart surgery of Ezekiel 36 right now? Come forward by faith in the Lord Jesus.

C. Appeal Song: (Example: “I Surrender all”). Then pray.

D. Challenge for tomorrow:

As the Holy Spirit leads you, follow through with the heart surgery God has given you today. God may lead you to another step for your healing with someone you have hurt or who has hurt you. Go in person, if possible, write a letter, or send a text and forgive those who have hurt and wronged you within your own family. Your forgiveness does not make their wrong right, but it does free you from bitterness and frees you to love like Jesus loves so you can respond to His call on your life.

E. Closing: You are not taking this step of faith alone. God is with you. God bless you! See you tomorrow night!

DAY 4

Come and Worship

1 Kings 18:30-32

Helpful items if available:

12 large rocks big enough to be seen by everyone in the room.
Large table strong enough to bear the weight of the rocks.
Tarp or cardboard to protect the table from the rocks.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share their favorite subject in school.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for being worthy of worship: You are Sovereign over all other gods, King over all kings, and Lord above all lords.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise God for His justice: You judge fairly, rule wisely, and sentence without partiality.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for what God does.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Last meeting, I gave you this challenge:
As the Holy Spirit leads you, follow through with the heart surgery God has given you today. God may lead you to another step for your healing with someone you have hurt or who has hurt you. Go in person, if possible, write a letter, or send a text and forgive those who have hurt and wronged you within your own family. Your forgiveness does not make their wrong right, but it does free you from bitterness and frees you to love like Jesus loves so you can respond to His call on your life.
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, "What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?"
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Small group instructions:

1. Invite everyone to act out something that consumes a lot of people's time each day.
2. As each one shares, see if the small group can guess the time-consuming activity.

B. Debrief with everyone in the room. Ask for a few volunteers to respond.

C. What distracts people the most from worshipping God in their homes? Why?

D. Introduce

Join me in the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. Explore Elijah's steps to call God's people back to true worship. It's time for every home to be a place where we worship Jesus Christ as Lord.

E. Special Music: "In the Garden"

II. Message

A. Elijah faced walls against the true worship of the living God.

1. The Wall of Silence

- Elijah challenged God's people, "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. **"But the people did not answer him a word."** I Kings 18:21
- You may also face silence when calling your family to worship. Silence can be disinterest or even hostility.

2. The Wall of the Majority

- "Then Elijah said to the people, **"I alone am left a prophet of the Lord,** but Baal's prophets are 450 men."

3. The Wall of Broken Altars

- Invite the small groups to read I Kings 18:30. Take a few moments to discuss this question: What was so spiritually dangerous about this altar?

- Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down.” I Kings 18:30
 - The altar was a symbol of worship. When an altar was broken down it represented broken down worship.
- B. Elijah built up what had been purposefully torn down. (Have 12 large rocks near the front of the room. Have a large table up front that will hold the weight of the rocks. Ask for volunteers to come and build the altar on top of the table while you read I Kings 18:30-32.)
1. Elijah “**repaired** the altar that had been torn down.” I Kings 18:30
 God’s people had purposefully torn down the altar to the true God. The altar had not been destroyed by natural means: lightning, wind, or rain.
 2. Elijah “took twelve stones...[and] with the stones he built an altar.” I Kings 18:32
 Elijah built the altar in the way that would remind them of their history with the true God.
 3. Elijah built the altar “**in the name of the Lord.**” I Kings 18:32
 Elijah did not build the altar in his own name, or in the name of the king to flatter him, but simply in the name of the Lord.
- C. Today is a day to call us to repair what has been broken in our own lives. God calls us to come and worship Him in our brokenness individually, in our family, in our community, and in our career. The worship of the Lord Jesus is often confined to public places of worship. The worship of the living God, Jesus Christ, must return to our hearts and to our homes.

What can you do to make your home a place of worship for Jesus Christ?

- #1 Pray for everyone in your family every day that God will call each one to love, worship, and serve Jesus Christ.
- #2 Clear an area in your home of any distractions for true worship.
- #3 Gather your family in a loving way for a short time to worship Jesus Christ together.
- Pray for God to bless His Word.
 - Do a quick, fun activity together as a family that prepares the hearts for the topic of God's Word.
 - Read a short story or passage in God's Word with the focus of searching for what it says about Jesus.
 - Discuss together how to practice what you read in God's Word.
 - Pray for God's blessings on each family member.

III. Conclusion

- A. Story: Share your own testimony of repairing the altar of true worship in your home or share "The Boy Next Door". See Appendix B, page 64 for the story.
- B. Appeal:
- Who is God calling today to repair the altar of true worship in your home? Come and rededicate your hearts to making every day a day to call your family to worship the Lord Jesus.
- C. Appeal Song: (Example: "Nothing Between"). Then pray.
- D. Challenge for tomorrow:
Sometime in the next 24 hours gather your family to worship the Lord in a way that will call young and old to Jesus through His written Word.
- E. Closing: God bless you today as you go home. God is with you to help you worship Him. See you tomorrow night!

DAY 5
Cry for Fire
1 Kings 18:33-39

Helpful items if available:

12 large rocks big enough to be seen by everyone in the room.
Large table strong enough to bear the weight of the rocks.
Tarp or cardboard to protect the table from the rocks.
4 large plastic pitchers or containers.
Blanket to hide the 12 rocks.

Recruit 4 volunteers with instructions to quietly take away all 12 altar rocks when speaker is praying Elijah's prayer at Mount Carmel and to hide them from the congregation's view while their heads are bowed for this prayer.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share their most memorable gift.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for the Holy Spirit: Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, and the Spirit of God.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does. (See Appendix D.)

- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise the Holy Spirit for revealing truth, convicting of sin, and bringing the peace of Jesus.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for what God does.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Last meeting, I gave you this challenge:
Sometime in the next 24 hours gather your family to worship the Lord in a way that will call young and old to Jesus through His written Word.
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, "What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?"
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Small group instructions:

1. Invite everyone to think of a time in their life when fire made all the difference.
2. Describe such a time with a one sentence story.

Give everyone in the group an opportunity to share.

B. Debrief with everyone in the room. Ask for 2-3 people to answer this question:

A fire on a camp out can warm cold fingers, provide needed light, cook raw vegetables, and encourage weary campers. Which of the stories shared best illustrates a desperate need for fire? Why?

C. Introduce:

Join me in the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. Elijah cried out to God to answer his prayer. He was calling for fire from heaven. It is time we call for the true fire of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for Jesus' soon return.

D. Special Music: "Spirit of the Living God".

II. Message

Invite the small groups to read I Kings 18:33-35. Discuss the meaning of Elijah's preparations for the sacrifice. After a few minutes, ask for a few volunteers to share the meaning of Elijah's preparations.

A. Elijah taught God's people where God's true fire comes from.

(Invite four children to come up and to take an empty container and go back to the back of the room to "fill it up" symbolically and to return. Have them act on this story as you read I Kings 18:34,35 again. The children should bring back their containers 3X and pour the "water" on top of the 12 stone altar placed there last night.

1. "And he said, "Fill four pitchers of water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time" and they did it a second time." And he said, "Do it a third time," and they

did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water." I Kings 18:34,35

2. Elijah flooded the sacrifice, the wood, the altar, and the trench with water so no one would say he himself had produced the fire. Why water? Water was scarce, no question that God is able to work miracles and provide.
 3. Elijah was making a clear contrast between heaven-sent fire and man-made fire.
- B. Elijah risked everything to call for God's fire.
(Arrange ahead of time for four teenagers to quickly and silently remove the stone altar from the sight of the groups while you pray the prayer of Elijah. You will need to invite everyone to kneel and bow their heads as you pray the real prayer of Elijah. You will need to pray this prayer slowly and deliberately so that by the time you complete Elijah's prayer, all stones have been completely removed from sight!)
1. Elijah had already made a public agreement with the people that both the priests of Baal would call on the name of their god, and he would "call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." I Kings 18:24
 2. If God did not answer his prayer, he knew the people would see him as a false prophet and would kill him.
 3. Elijah risked his life to call for God's true fire, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
 4. "At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You O Lord, are God and that You have turned their heart back again." I Kings 18:36,37.
- C. God's fire consumes everything.

1. When Elijah finished his prayer, "Then the fire fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust and licked up the water that was in the trench." I Kings 18:38
Everything Elijah had touched with his own hands in the preparation of the altar was burned up completely. There was nothing left as a monument to Elijah. Man could get NO credit.
2. When the fire of God fell, notice how the people responded in I Kings 18:39:
"When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God"

I invite you to stand with me. Let's raise our right hand and shout together: "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."

(Lead everyone in shouting this together.)

3. Many years later John the Baptist would point people to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and would say: "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:11,12

* Illustration: Pastor Ted grew up on a wheat farm in Saskatchewan, Canada. One day as we were on the road, he stopped by a wheat field and invited me to pick one head of wheat, which is called the spike. He instructed me to swiftly rub the wheat between both hands. He told me to do it faster and faster until I could feel the heat from the friction. Then he told me to open up my hands. The friction had separated the wheat kernels from the husks, called the chaff.

4. Jesus is ready to baptize us as His people with the Holy Spirit and to burn off the chaff in our lives (our secret and public sins) with the fire of afflictions and trials so that we may be left with the pure kernels of His character.

III. Conclusion

- A. Story: Share your own story of the Lord burning up the chaff in your life and filling you with the Holy Spirit or share "The Nurse Who Risked All for Jesus". See Appendix B, page 67 for the story.
- B. Appeal:
 - God calls us all to ask for and to receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit so He can grow our character to be like Jesus and so that we can be a fearless witness for Christ every moment of our lives. If this is your desire, please kneel where you are. Let us all repent of our sins and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- C. Appeal Song: (Example: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"). Then pray.
- D. Challenge for tomorrow: Begin today with asking for the Holy Spirit daily. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as in agreement with the written word of God.
- E. Closing: God longs to fill you and me daily with the true Holy Spirit. Go with God! See you tomorrow night!

DAY 6

Mentor Your Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-21

Helpful items if available:

Large, much used overcoat

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share who makes them laugh.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for Jesus: Jesus, You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise Jesus for what He does: Jesus, You intercede for Your people, bring salvation, and heal broken hearts.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)

- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God’s Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Last meeting, I gave you this challenge:
Begin today with asking for the Holy Spirit daily. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as in agreement with the written word of God.
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, “What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?”
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Small group instructions:

1. Invite everyone in your group to think of someone that mentored them to do something meaningful that positively impacted their life.
2. In one sentence, share who mentored you and what did they teach you to do. (Example: My grandpa taught me to fish.)

B. Debrief with everyone in the room. Ask for a few people to answer these questions:

Ask: Why did someone mentor you? What would motivate you to mentor someone to do something you know how to do?

C. Introduce:

Today join me in the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. Elijah invested his life in raising up a younger man to replace himself. His name was Elisha. Discover today how to disciple your Elisha.

II. Message

A. God called Elijah to anoint and, therefore, mentor Elisha.

1. God told Elijah, "Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place." I Kings 19:16
2. What a sacred trust God was giving His runaway prophet to mentor Israel's future spiritual leader!

B. Elijah called Elisha to follow him.

(Invite a senior citizen and a teenager or young adult to come up front to act on the story as you read these verses. Supply the senior citizen with an overcoat that he will use in the story.) Read I Kings 19:19-21:

1. Elijah "found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him. He left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them, and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him." I Kings 19:19-21
2. Elijah called Elisha to drop what he was doing and to follow him. Elisha followed him wherever he went for a number of years.

3. Elijah's mantle represented the calling and authority of the living God. When Elijah tossed his mantle on Elisha, it was a clear invitation to follow the calling of God and to represent the authority of God to Israel.
- C. Elijah showed Elisha how to cross the Jordan River.
1. "Elijah took his mantle and folded it together and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground." 2 Kings 2:8
- D. Elijah left his mantle with Elisha.
1. Elisha "took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan." 2 Kings 2:13
 2. Invite the small groups to read 2 Kings 2:13-15 and to answer this question in their groups: What were the results of Elisha taking up Elijah's mantle? After giving them a few minutes to read and to discuss, ask for a few volunteers to share their answers.
- E. Results of Elisha taking up Elijah's mantle:
1. Elisha confronted his Jordan with Elijah's mantle. (2 Kings 2:14)
 2. Elisha crossed the Jordan. (2 Kings 2:14)
 3. The 50 prophets saw God's power in Elisha. (2 Kings 2:7)
 4. These prophets testified, "Surely the spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." (2 Kings 2:15)

III. Conclusion

- A. Story: Share your own testimony of calling and discipling your Elisha or share "A Little Child Shall Lead Them". See Appendix B, page 69 for the story.
- B. Appeal:
1. Where are the Elijahs who will choose now to cross their Jordans by faith in the living God, who will go invest their lives in an Elisha?

2. Where are the Elijahs who will give these young people their mantle? (Invite those responding to be an Elijah to come to the front of the room. Pray for them.)
 3. Where are the Elishas who will choose to be mentored by someone older than you?
 4. Where are the Elishas who are willing to pick up the leadership of those who have gone before you so that you will also cross your Jordan Rivers by faith? (Invite those responding to be an Elisha to form a circle with the Elijahs standing in a circle behind them. Invite one of the Elijahs to pray for all the Elishas who came forward.)
- C. Appeal Song (Example: "Go Light Your Candle").
Then pray.
- D. Challenge for tomorrow:
Ask God for your Elisha...a young person of your same gender that you can pour your life into for Christ. Who will commit to finding your Elisha and to begin investing in your Elisha within the next 7 days? Young people - your challenge is to pray for God to prepare you to be mentored by an Elijah. Who will commit to praying for your Elijah?
- E. Closing: Each one of us here has a role to play as an Elijah or an Elisha. God bless you! See you tomorrow!

DAY 7

Be an Elijah

James 5:17, Luke 1:11-17

Helpful items if available:

Nothing extra needed.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome!

Small Group Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Ask each one to share where they would like to visit.

CALL ALL AGES TO PRAYER & GOD'S WORD

Praise - for WHO God is!

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God for WHO He is (See Appendix D.) and motion for those in the small groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHO God is. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for Who He is. For example: Praise God for His mercy: God, You are Merciful, Forgiving, and Gentle of heart.
- Invite each person to stand with their group and to pray very short prayers of praise for who God is.

Praise - for WHAT God does!

- Sing a song of praise for WHAT God does. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture of praise - for WHAT God does. (See Appendix C.)
- Model praising God for what He does. For example: Praise God for giving the best gifts: You gave us Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit to be with us everywhere, and Your grace that is beyond comprehension.

Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about our need for God's grace. (See Appendix D.)

- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite each person to kneel, if possible, and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God or between them and others.

Ask

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Read a scripture about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix C.)
- Invite one person in each group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart as we study God's Word.

Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about the Holy Spirit. (See Appendix D.)
- Last meeting, I gave you this challenge:
Ask God for your Elisha...a young person with your same gender that you can pour your life into for Christ. Who will commit to finding your Elisha and to begin investing in your Elisha within the next 7 days? Young people - your challenge is to pray for God to prepare you to be mentored by an Elijah. Who will commit to praying for your Elijah?
- Small group leaders: Invite your group to form teams of two. Ask each other, "What did God help you do with the challenge given last night?"
- Begin singing one more stanza of a song as a way to call all groups together.
- After 3-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers in the room to share what God did in their hearts as they did the challenge.

I. Introduction

A. Connect Activity:

Small group instructions:

1. Share around your group names of men, women, and youth who were unafraid to champion a worthy cause at great risk.
2. When you share such a name, also share a positive result from this person's risk.

- B. Debrief with everyone in the room. Ask for a few volunteers to answer these questions:

Ask: What motivated these people to take risks to champion their cause? Were most of the names we mentioned from long ago or within our lifetime? Why do you think this is?

- C. Introduce:

This week we have explored and prayed through the life of Elijah. Every night we have been challenged to take a step of faith as he did. But our danger is to return to the way we lived before we began this revival.

Let's explore how the Word of God calls us, who live in these last days before Jesus returns, to be an Elijah NOW.

II. Message

- A. God sent Elijah the prophet to ancient Israel centuries before Christ's first coming.

1. Elijah risked his life to call Israel to repentance and to return to God.
2. He was a real person with passions and failures like us.
3. Invite the small groups to read James 5:17-18 and to discuss the meaning of this text. After a few minutes ask for a few volunteers to answer these questions:
 - What does James 5:17-18 tell us about Elijah?
 - How should this text encourage us to be an Elijah?
4. Elijah had his failures and faults, yet he lived his life in full faith and acted on His faith in God's Word.

- B. God sent John, son of Zacharias the priest, as a type of Elijah, hundreds of years later, just before Jesus' first advent.

1. God sent an angel to Zacharias to prophesy the coming ministry of John the Baptist.
2. Invite the small groups to read Luke 1:11-17 and to list exactly what was prophesied about John. After 4-5 minutes, ask for a few volunteers to share what was prophesied about John.

3. Focus on the last two verses. Read Luke 1:16,17 out loud to all the groups.

- “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, **so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord**” Luke 1:16,17.

4. Turning the hearts of fathers back to their children was a powerful part of turning the hearts of the people back to God Himself before Jesus came the first time 2,000 years ago.

Like Elijah:

- a. John also risked his life to call Israel to repentance and to return to God.
- b. He was a real person with doubts and fears like us.
- c. He lived his life in full faith and acted on His faith in God’s Word.

C. Today, God has placed you on this planet NOW to be an Elijah NOW before Jesus returns. You, like John the Baptist, are called to be an Elijah. John the Baptist did the following by the power of the Holy Spirit and so can you:

- He called fathers back to their children...and so can you.
- He turned people back to God...and so can you.
- He prepared people for Jesus’ coming the first time... and you can prepare people for Jesus’ coming the second time!

Like John, you are called to be an Elijah!

III. Conclusion

A. Story: Elijahs Young and Old

God is raising up young and old to live like Elijah NOW. God is giving His followers a voice to call children, youth, and adults back to Christ before He returns.

Share a few examples from your own experiences and/or use those in Appendix B, page 71. These examples in Appendix B will remind you of your own stories.

B. Appeal:

1. God has chosen YOU to live on this planet NOW.
2. YOU are called to be an Elijah NOW before he returns.
3. Will you covenant with God to call young and old to return to Jesus NOW, and to prepare to meet Him soon?

C. Appeal Song (Example: "Go Light Your Candle").
Then pray.

D. Challenge for tomorrow:

Within the next 24 hours, set aside unrushed time to tell the Lord, "Help me LIVE as an Elijah every day in the Word of God and in prayer." Then ask God, "Where are You sending me to be an Elijah?" Wait on God and seek His answer on this...for He has called you and each of us now to be - The Last Elijah!

E. Closing: Tomorrow night will be the conclusion of this series. Tomorrow night is called a "What's Next?" Meeting. Come tomorrow and be a part of seeking God's leading personally, for your family, church, and community.

DAY 8

“What’s Next?” Meeting

Helpful items if available:

1 large board with 4 “sections” created OR 4 small boards on stands for putting sticky notes on.

Sticky notes for board or small note paper with tape to attach to board.

Markers and paper to make titles for board(s).

(If you have a dry erase board then bring dry erase markers).

Why?

Holy Spirit-led revivals are not meant to end. Revivals need to be followed up immediately with gathering God’s people together to pray and seek His agenda. The danger is falling back into old routines and losing the momentum that God created during the revival for life-transformational change!

What?

This is a meeting to seek what God is calling us to do next in four areas:

1. Personal
2. Family
3. Church Family
4. Community/World

How?

This is a suggestion for how to run the meeting. Pray and ask God if He has anything to add or subtract from this outline for your church.

Keep everyone in small groups. (Ideally, everyone should be invited to be in the same groups as they were in the revival. Ask your small group leaders from the revival to continue to lead their group in this meeting.) Have families sit together.

Welcome and Prayer

Connect Activity: Invite everyone in the small groups to do the following:

1. Name one life event that you felt most prepared for.
2. After everyone has shared, name one life event that you felt least prepared for.

Worship God with Thanksgiving:

1. Sing a song of thanksgiving (See Appendix D.)
2. Invite volunteers to share what Jesus Christ did in their life during the revival.
3. Sing another song of thanksgiving.
4. Invite all the small groups to have one person pray for the Holy Spirit to come and direct this meeting.

Read Ephesians 3:20,21 in front of all the groups. Ask for volunteers to share how this promise should influence how we prepare for what is next.

Place 4 dry erase boards up front marked: Personal, Family, Church Family and Community/World.

Give instructions: We are seeking God for specific next steps He is asking of us in four areas. We are not asking for general ideas, but rather specific ideas that are measurable. (Example: Not "Be more spiritual," but rather, "Have unrushed time alone with God in His Word and prayer BEFORE breakfast every day.")

Personal

1. Give everyone a sticky note page and a pen. Include all ages.
2. Invite all to have a moment of silent prayer. Ask God for one thing He is calling you to do personally as a next step for your own ongoing revival with Jesus.
3. Write it down in one short phrase or sentence and invite all to stick them up on the whiteboard under "Personal."

Family

1. Make sure all couples/families sit together.
2. Give each family one sticky note page.
3. Invite them to pray together. Ask God for one thing that would help their family to grow most in keeping a daily revival with Jesus going!
4. Discuss.
5. Write it down in one short phrase or sentence and invite each family to post it on the "Family" board.

Church Family (Match this to your target audience: home, school, business, church etc.)

1. Give every circle of 6 one sticky note for the group.
2. Invite them to pray. Ask God for one thing that would most help our church family to keep having a daily revival with Jesus as a whole congregation for the next 30 days and beyond.
3. Discuss.
4. Write it down in one sentence and post it on the "Church Family" board.

Community/World

1. Give every circle of 6 one last sticky note for the group.
2. Invite them to pray. Ask God for one thing that would be a timely way to reach out to your community and world with the good news of Jesus.
3. Discuss.
4. Write it down in one sentence and post it on the "Community/World" board.

Make a circle and pray for God to bless these next steps.

Tell the church that the pastors and elders will study the input, pray over it and make recommendations to the church board and church at large for the NEXT STEPS.

APPENDIX A

True Revival...

Principles from Joel 2:1,12-17,23

1. Gets everyone's attention and gathers them. (V.1)
2. Is for both God's remnant people and for the community. (V.1)
3. Is filled with the urgency of Jesus' soon return! (V. 1)
4. Comes with godly sorrow for sin with a focus on returning fully to Jesus. (V. 12)
5. Is preceded by fasting with humility. (V.12)
6. Seeks God to break open your heart and call you to repentance. (V. 13)
7. Is motivated by God's heart of grace and compassion. (V. 13)
8. Involves fasting as a community of believers. (V. 15)
9. Includes infants, children, youth, and adults. (V. 16)
10. Mobilizes the pastors and elders to intercede with godly sorrow for God to intervene on behalf for His people. (V. 17)
11. Calls for us to receive the Holy Spirit now in preparation for us to receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit soon to come with much more power. (V. 23)

APPENDIX B

Stories for the Appeal Each Night

(Some names in these stories have been changed to protect privacy.)

Day 1

Stand Before God

God Still Lives

Chapter 10: Every Moment Matters

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

Col. 4:5,6 NKJV

Over and over again, I’ve seen how God can make ordinary moments turn into a single moment that really matters in someone’s life. This story is another one of those testimonies of how God led and blessed in a powerful way.

It had been another long flight back across the ocean headed home. The hours ticked by slowly for me in my cramped row of seats.

“God,” I repeatedly prayed, “Who on this plane do You want me to encourage or pray with?”

Over the course of the flight, He had shown me many people who were hungry to know the Lord. God had even arranged divine appointments with flight attendants who had been so kind and helpful. I remember going to the back of the plane and telling them how much I appreciated their work and what a difference their service was making in my long flight. God used that conversation to open the way for me to pray with a couple of those flight attendants. I gave them one of my books. A little bit later, one of those same flight attendants came to my seat and asked, “We have more of our colleagues who want to know if they can have a book too. Could they have a book?” I was delighted.

I went back again to the area where the flight attendants all worked and asked them to gather as many flight attendants as they could for a brief moment. I gave them my books, signed them, and then asked them if I could have a prayer of blessing for them. They all agreed! It was wonderful to have a prayer meeting on the long flight.

This kind of adventure happened again and again on that flight. As I waited in line for the restroom, God would also repeatedly arrange for me to meet people hungry for more of Him. I was in awe of His perfect timing.

Finally, the plane started its descent. I went back to my seat as I heard the message over the loudspeaker, "We need all passengers to please take their seats. We are beginning our final descent into our destination."

"God," I prayed again, "You are impressing me to ask You one more time, 'Is there one more person that You want me to pray with on this flight?'" Just as I prayed that prayer, one of the young male flight attendants walked past my row of seats. He had not been particularly friendly during the whole flight, although he was doing his job in a very professional and efficient way. He seemed to have a lot on his mind.

"Go tell that young man how much I love him and ask him if you can pray with him," God instructed me.

"But God," I argued, "the message has already come over the loudspeaker that we are making our final descent, and we are to stay in our seats."

Just as I was having that conversation with God, another message came over the loudspeaker, "Please make sure all your seat belts are buckled. We will soon be landing."

Stronger the Holy Spirit spoke again, "Don, go and pray with that young man now."

Again, I argued. "But God," I said, "Everybody is already in their seats on this whole huge flight. We are going down."

Now I noticed that this young flight attendant had gone to the front of the plane and pulled the curtain around his workstation. It was obvious that he did not want to be disturbed. He was taking the final few minutes to put everything in order. I shared these observations with God. God was not impressed with my logic.

"Don, go immediately!" He told me one last time.

Knowing that I was about to make a spectacle of myself, I got up, and I started walking down the long aisle to where this flight attendant was busy doing his final work. People were looking at me. Some of them were motioning for me to go back and sit down. It was embarrassing, and that's why I had been avoiding going in the first place.

Finally, I got up to where the curtain was drawn, and pulled it aside. The young flight attendant looked up at me with surprise. "Sir, you should be sitting down," he told me. "Just one more thing," I said, but he interrupted me firmly, "It's time to sit down!"

I took a deep breath, gathered my courage, and looked him in the face as I declared, "I just want to tell you that God loves you very, very much. And I'm impressed by God to ask you, may I pray with you?"

The man's face went white, and he stepped back. He was in shock.

"Oh my! This is amazing!" he told me. "I was just telling God, 'God, if there is a God, if You're really there, would You please do something—do something to show me that You care about me, something to show me that You're really there?'"

He continued, "I've been so discouraged with God, and I've given up that He even cares, that He even exists. I'm not happy with my life and where I'm going. And just moments ago, I was pleading with God, 'If You're there, show me something. Show me something that lets me know You see me, and that You hear my cry.' And just now you came in to tell me that God loves me. You came in and said, 'May I pray for you?'" He paused as he fought to keep his emotions in control.

"Yes, you may pray for me!" he told me.

And so, I prayed. I really prayed. The young man had tears in his eyes when I finished. "God really did hear me," he whispered in amazement. "Now, you really do need to go back to your seat," he said with a smile.

I walked back to my seat, past rows of people staring at me, some with puzzled expressions, some with solid disapproval. But what they all thought about me did not matter anymore. I sat down and put my seat belt back on. A few moments later, the plane landed. I closed my eyes and grinned, "God, thank You. You are the God of every moment. Every moment matters!"

Day 2

Live God's Word

Live Like Elijah

Chapter 3: Crossing the Border

April and I had our faith put to the test after we left our paid ministry. We told God, "Send us anywhere you want us to go!"

His answer surprised us: "Lacombe, Alberta, Canada!"

We sent in all our paperwork to the Canadian government, so that we could move to the place where God was calling. After months of waiting for the proper permits to move, we faced a dilemma. Our daughter Jessica needed to start school in a couple of weeks, but we were told that we would have to wait four or five more months.

Yet, God said, "I have urgency for you to move to Canada! Call for revival there before the school year begins."

In prayer, I shared why that was not possible at that time. God challenged us, "Go put your feet in the Jordan! Go to the border by faith!"

Our friends kindly advised us that we should not leave our home and travel 1,000 miles north to cross the border into Canada without having a permit in hand. "If you were told it would take four to five more months to get your permit, then that is what it will be." But God said, "Go!"

So we packed up everything we could into a moving truck and gave the rest away. I drove the truck, and April drove our van behind me. Jessica bounced between us to give us much-appreciated company.

We headed north by faith, sure that God would work a miracle before we came to the US/Canada border. We encouraged each other, "Even though the Canadian officials said it would take four to five more months, God can do anything! He will send us our permits in the next few days before we reach the border!"

So we drove through great forests, dry wastelands, and along roads where we saw no one for long stretches. Each day we eagerly checked our email to see if God had worked a miracle. There was nothing.

Finally, the big day arrived! We drove right up to within a mile of the border and stopped and checked our email with great hope and expectation for a miracle.

Guess what? There was nothing!

"What do we do now, Lord?" we asked in prayer.

"Put your feet in the Jordan. Go cross the border." He spoke to our hearts.

We drove up to the border feeling like fools, parked, and stepped into the crisp, clean office. The official looked over our documentation. "You have no permit from Canada to move here. Where is your permit?" he asked with concern.

"We don't have a permit yet. We were told it would take four to five more months." I bravely answered.

"Follow me!" The border control officer said. We followed him outside to the truck. "How far have you come? I hope you still have a home to return to! It is impossible for me to do anything to help you move into Canada without your permit." He shook his head and walked away. That was all!

We looked blankly at each other. It wasn't supposed to work like this. We were supposed to put our feet in the Jordan, and God was supposed to part the waters. I silently prayed, *God, help! Help us get across this border. We are here by faith in Your command!*

The officer immediately spun around and walked back to us, as if he had heard my silent prayer to heaven. "What were you hoping I would do today for your family?" he asked incredulously.

"I don't know if you believe in God or not, but God has called our family to move to Canada to help families mentor their children to be disciples of Jesus."

He stared at us, his face impassive. "Follow me!" he ordered.

For one hour, this officer, who said it was impossible to get us across the border, worked to find a solution. Two hours went by, and he asked one more officer and then another to help him. Three border officers worked tirelessly to find a way we could enter Canada—after stating it was completely impossible in our situation.

After five hours, the officer called from the desk, "MacLafferty family!" We came up to the desk. Thump, thump, thump, we heard as he quickly stamped each of our passports. "Welcome to Canada!"

We were overjoyed! "Sir, I don't know if you believe in God, but do you mind if I thank God right here for how He used you to be a part of His miracle?" I asked with a great smile. He

looked warily to the left and then to the right, lowered his voice, and said, "Follow me!"

He led us out to our truck and turned to us. I looked him in the eye and said, "God just did a mighty miracle through you today!" I could not read his expression.

Haltingly, he shared, "What you don't know is that I used to believe in God! I have become discouraged lately with God and church and gave up on both. Today I choose to believe in God again. I will go home after my shift and tell my wife what God did today that I know was impossible. We will believe in God again and make our home a place to worship Him."

In awe of this living God, we all bowed our heads for prayer. We waved goodbye to the officer and drove into Canada with less than a hundred dollars to spend. We had no home and no job, but God was calling, and we trusted in His care.

Trust God as you follow His call.

Day 3

Find Heart Healing

Heart Surgery Miracle

By Connie Jones

The testimony I am sharing with you is a testimony of our God, Who is the Great Restorer and Healer of a bitter and broken heart.

I was born into an Adventist home and my father was a pastor. He was loved and highly respected by our church family and all thought we were a normal, happy pastoral family. But, as we all know, looks can be deceiving. No one knew the sadness and pain that existed in our home.

I was awakened at a very young age to what sounded like fighting in my parents' bedroom. What I saw was something no child should ever see: the abuse of my mother and the raging temper of my father.

We moved a lot. In my child's mind, I didn't understand why we moved more than other pastors' families. I would settle in and make friends, then we would move again, changing schools every few years.

As I grew into middle school and was old enough to understand, I became aware of why we moved so often. You see, my father was having affairs with the women in our church, so we had to keep moving.

As I grew into my teen years, I struggled spiritually and lost my connection with my Lord. I started letting go of His hand. When I heard people speak of our Heavenly Father's unconditional love, I couldn't relate. How could I relate to a Father of unconditional love, a God who heard and answered prayers, when I had never experienced the unconditional love of my earthly father, only a father of anger and abuse?

When I was 16, my parents separated. My father took a leave of absence from the ministry, and my mother and I moved to Collegedale, Tennessee. The rumors about my father were spreading, and I was humiliated and ashamed. Friendships were destroyed. During this time, I attended a different academy every year. Bitterness started to fill my heart.

Thankfully, even though I was letting go of my Heavenly Father's hand, He never let go of mine. He had a plan for me. He knew what lay ahead for my family and that I would need

someone's hand to hold. During my senior year in academy, He brought Donnie Jones into my life, the love of my life for 45 years now. He would be the hand I would hold and give me the strength to face what was to come. My Heavenly Father was with me through it all, even though I didn't love and trust Him.

My parents reunited, and my father returned to the ministry, but nothing changed. The rages, affairs, and abuse of my mother continued. Donnie and I married, and three years passed. Finally, after many broken hearts and broken lives, the Lord said it was enough, and my father was told he would have to leave the ministry.

My parents divorced, and the Lord gave my mother the strength to walk away from the abuse and shame. It was then that I swore I would never have anything to do with my father because of the choices he had made. He would no longer be a part of my life, and bitterness and hatred grew in my heart.

For 35 years, this bitterness and hatred grew, and I would have nothing to do with my father. I felt I had every right to make him suffer for what he had done to our family. But, my loving Heavenly Father had a different plan. In February 2019, Pastor Don MacLafferty came to the Collegedale Church, and he and his daughter, Julie, gave a revival.

One night, Pastor Don read the verses in Ezekiel 36:26-27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." He said that if we wanted to be used by the Lord, we needed to search our hearts and empty our hearts of any bitterness and hatred so that the Holy Spirit could dwell in our hearts. I knew the Holy Spirit was speaking to me that night. I had that heart of stone. I knew what I had to do. The 35 years of bitterness and hatred in my heart were turning me into someone I didn't like. So, after the meeting, Donnie and I met with Pastor Don, and I told him my story, and he prayed with us. For days Donnie and I prayed that the Lord would give me a new heart, but the bitterness, pain, and hatred were too deep. I hadn't fully surrendered it to the Lord, but He was still there and waiting for me to totally surrender it to Him.

One morning as my husband Donnie and I knelt in prayer together, we prayed for God to heal my stony heart. I got up

from my knees, feeling no different. I had not slept well for days struggling with this, and I was exhausted. I told Donnie that I was going to lie down and try to get some sleep. I knelt by our bed again and poured my heart out to the Lord. I pleaded with Him to remove my stony heart full of bitterness and hatred and to change me. I didn't want to carry this burden any longer, and after 35 years, I finally surrendered it to Him and lay it at His feet. I asked Him to do His heart surgery on my heart. I crawled into bed, but I tossed and turned. And then a peace came over me like I have never felt before or have felt again. It was as if my loving Savior reached His nail-scarred hands into my chest, removed my stony heart, and gave me a heart of flesh filled with His peace. I felt as if He was saying, "You have carried it long enough, my child. Now you have surrendered it to Me; it is no longer yours to carry."

I got up from our bed and went downstairs. I told Donnie what the Lord had done and what I knew I had to do. I needed to go see my father. When I got to my father's house, I was warmly welcomed. I knelt by his side and took his hand. I said, "Daddy, God has done a wonderful thing for me, and I am here to ask your forgiveness for all the hatred and bitterness I have held in my heart for you for 35 years." He graciously forgave me, and then I turned to his wife and asked her forgiveness for my bitterness towards her for having a part in this. Once again, I was graciously forgiven. We prayed together, and as we started to leave, my Dad said, "There is just one more thing I would love to be able to do before I leave this world: ask your mother for forgiveness for what I have put her through." They had not seen or spoken to each other since their divorce 35 years ago.

You see, the Lord had sent the Holy Spirit to work on my father's heart, too, to bring healing to our family. God made that moment happen. He spoke to my sweet husband's heart to bring my parents together. My father was given the opportunity to ask my mother's forgiveness, and she was able to forgive. God brought healing to a hurting and broken family.

My friends, our precious Savior forgave as He hung, dying on the cross and cried out, "Father, forgive them." How can we not also forgive those who have hurt us and caused us pain? He truly is the Healer and Restorer of bitter and hurting hearts. The Master Heart Surgeon.

Connie Jones is retired and spends her time with her husband loving their grandchildren and volunteering their time with In Discipleship Ministries. This story is shared with permission of Time To Get Ready Ministries.

Day 4

Come and Worship

Inside Out

Chapter Twelve: The Boy Next Door

Darren just showed up! Jason, Julie, and I were playing soccer in our front yard. Julie said, "Dad, there is a kid standing right behind you!" I whirled around to see who was there. A tall, skinny kid stood staring with wistful eyes at our soccer game.

"Do you want to play?" I asked him. "Sure!" he said as he ran into the game. And that was the beginning of our family's friendship with Darren.

Just weeks before meeting Darren, our children had been asking April and me, "Who should we be sharing Jesus with? Does everybody on our street already know Him?" We had begun to pray that God would help us connect with those around us who were already looking for Jesus.

Now when you pray for God to help you find someone for Him, you don't get to pick who He sends you! You take whomever He sends. God is the Quarterback. Each one of us is the Receiver. He calls the plays.

In the weeks that followed Darren's first soccer game with us, he was in our yard almost every day to play with our kids. He was clearly looking for friendship. Soon, if we were working in the yard, Darren showed up. If we were hiking in the woods behind our house, he tagged along.

"Daddy, Darren doesn't know too much about God yet," our kids told me a few days later after playing with Darren for the afternoon. "Why do you say that?" I asked them. "Well, he doesn't know about Jesus. He doesn't know Jesus wants to be his friend or that Jesus died for him. He doesn't know any Bible stories," they explained.

We decided to begin praying every day that God would help our kids and us share Jesus with Darren. "Daddy, Darren says bad words sometimes. Should we quit playing with him?" our kids wondered. "What would Jesus do?" I asked. Our kids wrinkled up their foreheads as they pondered the question. "Well, we guess He would play with Darren anyway!" I agreed.

A few weeks later, Jason and Jessica came up to me laughing, each child's face was an enormous grin. "Dad, guess

what happened today with Darren?" they asked. Their eyes were laughing with the fun they were about to tell me. "Today we explained to Darren that Jesus loves him and is with him all the time." "What's so funny about that?" I asked.

Beside themselves with glee, they explained, "Darren climbed up on our rock wall in front of the house. He looked up to the sky and shouted, 'God, you can see ME! So watch this!' Darren jumped off the wall and rolled over and over and over down our lawn!" Our children were bent over laughing as they told me the story. "I guess Darren is very excited that God sees him all the time!" Jason mused.

In our home, we set aside a time every evening when we worship Jesus Christ. We sing songs about Him, we read stories about Him, we talk about what the Bible is saying, and we pray together. Our kids have grown up with family worship. It's easy to take for granted. Our kids decided that they should invite Darren to join us.

One early evening, the kids had just finished playing a marble game on our living room floor. "Time for worship!" I called. "Hey, Darren, why don't you stay for worship?" our kids said. "Worship?" Darren's eyebrows went up. "What's worship?" Our kids tried to explain. "Worship is singing about Jesus, reading the Bible, talking, and praying together."

"Sure. I'll try it." Darren responded cautiously. We sang songs that he didn't know. Darren fidgeted with the marbles on the floor. We prayed for God to bless our worship. Darren looked at us with curiosity. We read a short Bible story. Darren looked absolutely lost. We discussed what we learned. Darren was so bored, he looked like he was in great pain. When we said, "Amen," at the end of our prayers, a look of relief flooded his face. He jumped up and walked out the door. "That sure went well." I rolled my eyes. "We need God to help us know how to make worship interesting to Darren."

Darren loves action. He is always moving. If he's still for more than a few seconds, we suspect that he's ill. So with this in mind, we prayed, "Lord, you're alive, full of joy and power. Please help our family worship to connect Darren with You as His living God!" And we experimented.

Days passed before Darren was brave enough to join us for worship again. He approached worship like a kid facing a teaspoon of sour-tasting medicine. He knew we thought it was

good, but he sure didn't like the taste! But, out of a hunger for friendship, he tried it again.

"Darren, today we're going to worship Jesus outside! Come on, let's go." He scrambled to his feet as a spark of interest glittered in his eyes. "Come with us!" yelled our children. Out we went into our backyard. "Somewhere out here is a little lost lamb. See how quick you all can find it." Darren exploded into high gear. He ran his hands through the tall irises in our flower bed. He searched through the tall weeds along the fence. He raced over to an old tree stump. "I found it! I found it!" he hollered triumphantly as he held the stuffed toy lamb high in the air.

"Darren, how long would you have looked for that little lamb?" I asked. "I would've looked till I found it!" he exclaimed. "How does it feel to be lost, like the little lamb?" I probed. "Really bad. It's scary," shivered Darren.

"Today we're going to read a story from the Bible about a lost sheep," I explained. We prayed and then read the story in the back yard, right where he and our children had been hunting for the lamb. "Darren, Jesus told this story to show us what God the Father is like" I explained. "After hearing this story, what do you know about God?" I asked. Darren looked deep in thought. "He loves me so much. He keeps looking for me until He finds me!" "Darren, you're so right. God loves you so much He is looking for you right now!"

Worship is quite simple in our home, but it has become more alive—because of the boy next door.

Day 5

Cry for Fire

“The Nurse Who Risked All for Jesus”

I met Erika and her young friends in a country hostile to Jesus Christ. They had secretly gathered together with a hunger to live as a disciple of Jesus. During the week we had together with her friends, she joyfully received Jesus as her Savior, surrendered to Him as her Lord and learned how to enjoy unrushed time alone with Him in His written Word and in prayer. With wonder she began daily asking for and receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the final evening, I challenged her and her brothers and sisters in Christ to live the prayer of Jesus in Luke 10:2,3 where Jesus taught His disciples:

“...Beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go: behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”

I asked the young men and young women to pray in twos that the Lord of the harvest would send out workers into His harvest and to begin by hurling them individually into His harvest at any cost. Each team of two went to a different part of the room and began to pray this prayer.

After a few moments, I heard someone crying. I looked up and Erika was crying as she prayed this prayer. Her crying turned into weeping. When the little group came back together, she could not stop crying.

“Do you want to share with us why you are crying?” I gently asked her in front of her new friends that had become like family. Between sobs, she blurted out, “I am scared of praying this prayer. I am afraid of what will happen to me when I pray this prayer. I have worked several years in this country in a large business without anyone knowing I am a follower of Jesus. If I ask Jesus to hurl me into the harvest, I know He would want me to share Him with my boss and my coworkers...and that is illegal in this country. To share my faith would result in me losing my job.” She started sobbing again, “and they would throw me in prison, and they could torture me or take my life. I am so afraid of praying this prayer, but I want to honor Jesus. I know the Holy Spirit will show me what to say.”

I asked the little group, "How many of you are also afraid, just like Erika, of praying and living this prayer Jesus asked us to pray?" Everyone raised their hands. "If the Holy Spirit is convicting you to surrender your fears to Jesus so that He can send you into His harvest, please join me on your knees." Everyone quietly knelt on the floor, including Erika!

We all surrendered our fears in that upper room to Jesus. I flew home to my land of liberty. A few days later Erika found a way to send me a short message: I am praying the prayer of the harvest every day. The Holy Spirit sent me today to share Jesus with my boss and to pray with her. I do not know what will happen next...but I know I have gone where my Savior sent me. Pray for me!"

That was the last message I ever received from her.

Day 6

Mentor Your Elisha

"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

Jeff came into our training session for revival late with his mother. He plunked down on his chair, his legs swinging without touching the floor. He was a child around 9 years old, surrounded by a little group of adults who were very uncomfortable with leading small groups for the revival.

"Who will lead a small group this coming week of revival," I asked. The adults looked down at their shoes. Some fidgeted with their phones. One or two muttered, "We are so busy this coming week!" No one volunteered.

Jeff studied the faces of the adults, and then quickly raised his hand, "I would like to be a small group leader if my mom would help me! You would help me, wouldn't you, Mom?" He looked up at his mom with great admiration and enthusiasm. His shy mother gulped and stammered, "Why, of course I will help you!" Within seconds all the rest of the adults were volunteering!

Every night Jeff came with his mother. Every night she helped him prepare so he could lead a small group of adults in discussion and in prayer. Every night she encouraged him and prayed with him.

After several nights, Jeff asked, "Isn't there something else I can do to help you call my church to Jesus?" I prayed with him and his mom and gave her instructions to prepare him to call everyone to prayer the next night.

The next night Jeff came dressed up in a suit and tie! He approached the mic and tried to reach it. I pulled it down so he could speak.

"Don't we have a beautiful church?" He asked. Everyone smiled and nodded their heads. "But we have a big problem, don't we?" he asked somberly. "We don't love each other very much in our church, do we?" No one said a word. His mother looked nervously at her hands. This was NOT what she had prepared him to say.

Jeff looked quietly over the room full of many small groups. The Holy Spirit spoke through him with power as he lifted up his little arms to the heavens and cried out, "We need to repent!"

We need to ask Jesus to forgive us for the way we have treated each other!”

He got down on his little knees and asked, “Who will get on your knees with me and repent and ask Jesus to forgive you?” A hush fell across the room. One by one, prominent leaders, and many old enough to be his parents or grandparents, awkwardly got down on their knees while he cried out to God on behalf of his church. Then he said, “Now it is your turn to pray with the people around you.” And God’s people prayed. Some wept. And the Spirit of God began a revival in that church.

Someone invested in Jeff like Elijah did for Elisha. That someone was his mother.

Day 7

Be an Elijah

Elijahs Young and Old. Here are a few examples:

Charley heard God's call to be an Elijah and retired early so that he and his wife could go anytime and anywhere to call for revival and make disciples. He has lived a quiet and successful life, shunning public speaking, and excelling in caring for people one on one. The Holy Spirit called Charley to surrender his fear of public speaking. He surrendered his fears. The love of God and the urgency of preparing a people to meet Jesus when He comes, moved his heart mightily. Now he and his wife call people of all ages to revival. They disciple people online and in person. They are always looking and praying for just one more! Charlie and his wife are Elijahs!

Natalie is a young adult, broken, but healed by the blood of the Lamb! She could let the past hurt rule her life, but she has discovered that she is a daughter of the King. She sings of God's faithfulness and speaks to her community as well as going around the world to make disciples for Jesus. Natalie is an Elijah!

Jimmy is a college student who loves to run. He is full of life...but often also full of pain. Because of his health, he has every reason to be sidelined, but he is a disciple of Jesus and a disciple maker. He refuses to be silent. Jimmy is an Elijah!

Silvia sat listening to early morning revival meetings and her heart was moved mightily. She knew how to teach but had never dared to call a church to revival. She asked for the speaker's notes, traveled to a far country, and cried out for revival...and the people listened, and cried, turned to Christ, and repented. Silvia is an Elijah!

Katara was a child when she first became a disciple of Jesus. She attended a school in a nation hostile to Christ with strict rules against even speaking His name. She shared Christ anyway on the soccer field, whispering the name of Jesus and answering the questions of her classmates when out of her teacher's hearing. She is a teenager now. She stands up and speaks up for Christ. Katara is an Elijah!

Chris rolls up his sleeves and you know when you see his arms that he had another life apart from Christ. He knows that

some stare, but he knows he is redeemed by the Savior Himself and he is one of His disciples. His mother prayed for him for years with tears...waiting...watching for the Lord to get through to him. Chris is a young adult today, calling his church to revival and risking his friendships to call others to Christ. Chris is an Elijah!

APPENDIX C

Scripture to Call Young and Old to Prayer

Praise for God Himself

I Chronicles 16:9,10
Psalm 24:1,2
Psalm 24:7-10
Psalm 29:1-4
Psalm 92:1,2
Psalm 93:1,2
Psalm 95:1
Psalm 96:1-6
Psalm 97:1
Psalm 100:4 (2nd part)
Psalm 103:1
Psalm 104:1-3
Psalm 113:1-6
Psalm 117:1,2
Psalm 145:1-7
Psalm 150:1-6
Revelation 4:8-11
Revelation 15:2-4
Revelation 19:1,4-6

Praise for God's Mighty Acts

Psalm 18:1-3
Psalm 19:1
Psalm 23
Psalm 44:1-7
Psalm 46
Psalm 82:1
Psalm 91
Psalm 98:1-6
Psalm 105:2,3

Confession & Forgiveness

Nehemiah 1:5-7
Psalm 32:1-5
Psalm 51:1-4

Psalm 51:5-9
Psalm 66:18-20
Isaiah 1:18
Daniel 9:4-10
Daniel 9:11-19
Micah 7:18,19
James 5:16-18
I John 1:9

Repentance

Proverbs 28:13
Isaiah 59:1,2
Jonah 3:7-10
Acts 2:36-39
Acts 3:17-20
Revelation 2:4,5
Revelation 2:14-16
Revelation 3:1-3
Revelation 3:15-20

Revival

I Samuel 7:3,4
I Kings 8:46-50
2 Chronicles 7:14
Psalm 51:10-13
Psalm 51:14-19
Ezekiel 36:25-27
Hosea 10:12
Joel 2:12-17
Matthew 5:6
Mark 1:8
Acts 19:18-20
Romans 8:6-11
2 Corinthians 4:16-18
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Ephesians 2:4-7
Colossians 1:27-29
Titus 3:4-7
I John 5:11-13
Revelation 22:17

Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11,12

Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-12

Luke 11:11-13

John 3:34

John 7:37-39

John 14:16-18

John 14:26,27

John 16:7-11

Acts 1:4,5

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:17

Acts 4:7-13

Acts 4:31

APPENDIX D

Song Suggestions For Prayer

Praise for WHO God is!

1. I Love You, Lord
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, SDA Hymnal #012
3. Oh, Worship the King, SDA Hymnal #083
4. Oh, How I Love Jesus, SDA Hymnal #248
5. Praise Him! Praise Him! SDA Hymnal #249
6. Praise to the Lord, SDA Hymnal #001
7. To God Be the Glory, SDA Hymnal #341

Praise for WHAT God does!

1. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, SDA Hymnal #334
2. How Great Thou Art, SDA Hymnal #086
3. I Sing the Almighty Power of God, SDA Hymnal #088
4. Jesus Paid it All, SDA Hymnal #184
5. Sing a New Song to the Lord, SDA Hymnal #033

Confession

1. Amazing Grace, SDA Hymnal #108
2. Be Still My Soul, SDA Hymnal #461
3. Have Thine Own Way Lord, SDA Hymnal #567
4. Just As I Am, SDA Hymnal #314
5. Open My Eyes That I May See, SDA Hymnal #326
6. Rock of Ages, SDA Hymnal #300
7. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, SDA Hymnal #290

Ask for the Holy Spirit

1. Come Holy Spirit, I Need You
2. Into My Heart
3. Open My Eyes That I May See, SDA Hymnal #326
4. Spirit of the Living God, SDA Hymnal #672
5. Sweet, Sweet Spirit, SDA Hymnal #262
6. We Are One in the Spirit

Thanksgiving (Meeting 8)

1. Let all Things Now Living, SDA Hymnal #560
2. Now Thank We all Our God, SDA Hymnal #559
3. Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!, SDA Hymnal #27



Don and his bride April live in Apison, Tennessee. God has blessed them with three children. Don and April love hiking, nature, Divine appointments with people around the world, and singing to their Creator. They have dedicated their lives to building champions of young and old who mentor the new generations to trust, follow, and share Jesus with Holy Spirit power.

