

In your own journey, describe times that your asking things of God resembled the prophets of Baal? What about times that have resembled Elijah's approach? What causes the different approaches?

Read the following passages from James and write down things you notice about prayer and asking God for things:

- James 1:2-8

- James 3:13-4:7

- James 5:13-18

How would you summarize James' teaching on prayer? How do James' words challenge or shape your approach to praying?

What are things that you are good at asking God about? What are areas that you could spend more time and effort asking God about?

How would your life be different if you sought to ask God about more things in your life and let him provide for you like a parent cares for their child?

What is one thing your Community Group can join you in asking God about this week?

Sermon Notes

Live Asking
Matthew 7:7-12

Nolan Donald
November 15, 2009



**WordServe. Shaped by God's Word;
serving God's world.**

Community Group Study Guide

For the week of November 15, 2009

Getting Started

If Nolan had to give an abbreviated version of Sunday's message, what two points or ideas would you tell him to include no matter what? Explain.

Describe a time when someone has asked you for help (a child, friend, family member, coworker, etc.). How did that make you feel? Why?

Growing up, were you a kid that tended to try and do everything on your own or always ask for help? How has that translated into your adult life? Explain.

What do you think causes people to not ask God for help?

Digging Deeper

Often times people improperly view God as one who wants to restrict or hinder their lives. Read Luke 18:1-8 and write down what God wants for his children. Compare this passage with Matthew 7:7-12. How does God view his children?

In the Old Testament, Elijah was a person who knew how to ask God for things, depended on God, and trusted that God would provide the "good things" he needed. Read 1 Kings 18:16-46. Write down things you notice and questions about the text.

Baal was the "popular, cultural, and trendy deity" of the day during Elijah's time. How does Elijah's question in v. 21 resemble the culture around us? While we don't worship Baal instead of God, what are things that our culture chooses over God?

Read vv. 36-37. What are the components of Elijah's prayer? What is his focus? How is his focus reflected in his words?

How does Elijah's surrendered spirit (declaring "you are God in Israel and I am your servant") change the focus of his praying?

Contrast the prayer of Elijah (vv. 36-37) with the prayer by the prophets of Baal (vv. 26-29).