

“Looking the Fool”
A Personal or Small Group Experience

Faith is essential to effective praying! Faith trusts that God is everything that God says He is! Faith believes that in prayer we are engaging with God to be that big God in our lives and the lives of those we are praying for. The challenge in praying with faith is praying in such a way that if God doesn't show up I will “look the fool”! That is when it takes faith for me to pray! There are a couple things at work in this kind of faith filled praying! I need to be confident I know what God wants in a situation and I have to be willing to run the risk of “looking the fool” for Him. Safe praying that doesn't stretch faith doesn't provide much opportunity for God to pour out His greatness into our lives. It not only takes a desperate situation for God to show Himself strong but people of faith praying desperately for Him to move.

There are many examples in scripture where people are called to trust God in desperate situations. These are those situations where if God doesn't show up we are “toast” and if God doesn't hear and answer our prayers we will “look the fool” for the world to see!

We are going to take a journey with an old testament prophet—Elijah! Elijah ran hot and cold in his faith life—much like me! You might take these verses a section at a time when discussing!

1 Kings 17:1– 24, 1 Kings 18:16-46, 1Kings 19:1-18

As you walk though several stories in Elijah's life notice and discuss:

Where were the step of faith opportunities?

In what way would Elijah “look the fool” if God didn't show up?

How could Elijah be so confident?

Where do we see fear, questioning, depression, lack if confidence in Elijah?

What is all this saying to you and your group and our church?

How could we be more confident of what God wants and more confident in praying “look the fool” prayers?

What new horizon's of thought and faith open up for you and I as we consider that we can have the same life journey of faith and pray just like Elijah? **Check out James 5:17-18** (Notice the “just like us”!)



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week's theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week's message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - November 15-20

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart's attention.
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”
“How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Luke 11:1-8

Tuesday: Luke 11:9-13

Wednesday: Philippians 4:4-7

Thursday: Jeremiah 29:11-14

Friday: James 5:13-18

Saturday: Psalm 63:1-8