**Portraits of Prayer – Elijah**

Read 1 Kings 18:16-46 to get the context for Elijah’s prayer.

The confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel brought into focus how far the people of God had strayed from the 1st and 2nd commandments about putting God first (Exodus 20).

The idols that contend for our attention and ‘worship’ are not as obvious as carved images in wood or stone, they are more subtle, more reasonable, more accommodating.

* What are they? What so completely demands our time and attention that we could find ourselves drifting into idolatry without knowing it?
* What steps can we take to routinely examine ourselves and ‘guard our hearts’ (Proverbs 4:23) so as not to put other gods before God?

Observe Elijah’s prayer (1 Kings 18:36-37)

* What grounds did he have for being so confident that the hearts of God’s people were being turned back to him again?
* For whose heart are you praying, that God would turn back to Him again? Are you praying with the same confidence as Elijah or do you doubt? (What more can we learn about Elijah from this passage in the new testament? James 5:17-20)
* How confident are you to pray not just for people but with people? Do you feel held back by certain fears? What are they?
* What can we learn from Elijah and his confidence in who God is and who he was as his servant?
* How might this study inform how we grow in faith, courage and confidence in prayer and our relationship with God? What have you learnt today that you can apply to your situation?
* Pray for one another.