



Group Discussion Questions

Week 1

Elijah Week 1

- Think of someone you consider to be a true Christ follower. What unique attributes of their character would you like to see in your own life? Why?

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

1 Kings 17:1 (NIV)

- God had more to do in Elijah before He could do more through Elijah. God is preparing each of us so that He can work through us. How have you seen God prepare you for His specific purposes throughout your life?

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan."

1 Kings 17:2-3 (NIV)

- In 1 Kings 17:2-3, God led Elijah to a period of hiding in the Kerith Ravine. Kerith means "cut off or cut down." Describe a painful experience that God used to shape you into who you are today.

You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17:4-6 (NIV)

- God taught Elijah to depend on Him daily for food and water. What are you daily trusting God for right now?
- Describe a time in your life when things felt very desperate but you saw God meet your needs. What did you learn from the experience?

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there."

1 Kings 17:7-9a (NIV)

- Describe a time when you decided to step out on faith and obey God even though that decision didn't seem to make sense to you at the time. Did that experience strengthen your relationship with God? If so, how?
- After the brook dried up, Elijah trusted God and moved on to Zarephath. Is there a "dry brook" in your life God is using to "motivate" you to move on to what He has next for you?

Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth."

1 Kings 17:24 (NIV)

Final thought: Just like Elijah, pain in our lives, can lead us to a total dependence on God and more intimate relationship with Him. Together, pray and ask God to help you see Him and depend totally on Him during the good times and the bad..



Elijah Week 1

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What was one of the worst pieces of news you've ever had to convey to another person? The best news?

Explore

Read 1 Kings 17:1-24

- What was the prophecy that Elijah took to Ahab, king of Israel? (17:1)
- After speaking with Ahab, why did God direct Elijah to hide? (17:2-3)
- How were Elijah's needs met while he was alone in the desert? (17:5-6)
- What two requests did Elijah make of the widow at Zarephath? (17:10-11)
- What step did Elijah ask the widow to take in faith? (17:13)
- What promise did Elijah make if the widow would be obedient to God? (17:14)
- What did the Lord do for Elijah, the widow, and her son? (17:15-16)
- When Elijah took the son from his mother, what question did he have for God? (17:19-20)

Reflect

- What was unusual about the ways God chose to provide for Elijah during the drought?
- What kind of faith is required for living with just enough for each day and no more?
- What is the importance of action to back up our words as believers?
- In what way do you find it easy or difficult to obey God when you don't know what the outcome will be?
- In what peculiar but sufficient ways is God meeting your needs today?

Apply

- What step of faith do you need to take at this time in your life?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read 1 Kings 17:1. Pray and ask God to continue preparing you for the great purposes He has in store for your life.

Day 2: Read 1 Kings 17:2-3. If you are going through any difficult circumstances right now, ask God to show you His purpose through these situations.

Day 3: Read 1 Kings 17:4-6. Pray and ask God to meet any needs you currently have. Pray for the needs of others that you know.

Day 4: Read 1 Kings 17:7-9. Have an honest talk with God by discussing a leap of faith that He is calling you to make. Commit to making that leap of faith.

Day 5: Read 1 Kings 17:10-24. Pray and ask God to help develop you into the man or woman that He has called you to be. Ask for His daily guidance in your life as He continues to work through you and transform you.



Elijah Week 2

- Is there a famous person (ie. athlete, entertainer, actor, musician, world leader, author, etc.) that you tend to idolize? What about that person do you idolize the most?

When (Ahab) saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals .

1 Kings 18:17-18 (NIV)

- False gods promise what only the one true God can provide.. What false gods do you see being worshipped in the culture around you?
- Christians believe there is one true God, but sometimes we unintentionally serve false gods. What are one or two false gods that continue to resurface in your life?
- What do these false gods promise you that only God can provide?

Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:19-21 (NIV)

- What might help you quit wavering between false gods and the one True God?

Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire — he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

1 Kings 18:24 (NIV)

So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

1 Kings 18:26 (NIV)

- Describe a time when you depended on one of the false gods you mentioned earlier instead of depending on God. What comfort did you think you'd find in that god? Did you find it?

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord-he is God! The Lord-he is God!"

1 Kings 18:36-39 (NIV)

- God answered Elijah's prayer and revealed Himself to Elijah and the people of Israel. How has God revealed Himself to you in the past? In what way is God currently revealing Himself in your life that may be new and different?

Final thought: False gods promise what only the True God provides. With your group, ask God to help you be aware of any false gods in your life. Ask God for strength and wisdom to leave the false gods behind and put your trust in Him in every area of your life.



Elijah Week 2

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- Why do you think people tend to idolize entertainers, musicians and athletes?

Explore

Read 1 Kings 18:1-46

- What did God tell Elijah to do after almost three years of drought? (18:1-2)
- What was Obadiah's story? (18:3-4)
- What attitude did Obadiah have toward Elijah? (18:7)
- What did Obadiah assume about Elijah's ability to escape the king? (18:12)
- Whom did Elijah hold accountable for Israel's troubles? (18:18)
- How did the people respond when Elijah confronted them with their double-mindedness? (18:21)
- How did the people respond to the confrontation Elijah proposed between Baal and God? (18:22-24)
- What happened to the altar of the Lord when Elijah prayed? (18:38)

- How did the people react when they saw fire burn up Elijah's offering? (18:39)

Reflect

- What measures did Elijah take to make the lighting of his sacrifice much harder than the sacrifice to Baal?
- What did Elijah perceive that God was doing in Israel through this showdown?
- Despite the drama of the fire consuming the sacrifice, why did Elijah not assume that God would come through with the promised rain?
- To what extent is God obligated to answer our prayers to vindicate His own name?

Apply

- How might God use you this week to confront someone you know that is worshiping a false god?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read 1 Kings 18:17-18. Pray and ask God to help you remove any false idols in your life.

Day 2: Read 1 Kings 18:19-21. Tell God about any idols that you seem to be constantly battling in your life. Ask for His help in defeating that idol.

Day 3: Read 1 Kings 18:24-26. Seek God's satisfaction and comfort in prayer.

Day 4: Read 1 Kings 18:27. Pray for those you know struggling with false idols. Ask God to release them from the hold these idols have on them.

Day 5: Read 1 Kings 18:36-39. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in prayer. Listen for His voice.



Elijah Week 4

- What types of things tend to get you down the most?

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. .

1 Kings 19:1-3a (NIV)

- How does fear sometimes create depression? What types of fears have a grip on your life?

When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep...

1 Kings 19:3b-5a (NIV)

- Immediately following a great victory, Elijah became depressed. 1 Kings 19:3-5 illustrates four common contributors to depression: Elijah wore himself out, shut people out, focused on the negative and forgot the faithfulness of God. Of these four, which one is your most common challenge in your own life?
- One of the most common factors that leads to depression is wearing ourselves out. In what areas of your life are you exhausted? What are some things you can do starting today to help relieve that exhaustion?

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:5b-8 (NIV)

- The most spiritual thing we can do is rest. While that sounds so easy, why is it so hard for most of us to rest? What are some things you can do to have more rest in your life?

There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

1 Kings 19:9-10 (NIV)

- Elijah honestly believed he was the only faithful one left. God replaced this lie with the truth: there were actually 7,000 others who still were faithful. Can you name a similar lie that you believed to be true? How did God reveal His truth to you?

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV)

- God spoke to Elijah with a gentle whisper. Describe a time when God spoke to you with a gentle whisper. What did He say to you?

The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NIV)

- God encouraged Elijah to eat and rest, to believe truth instead of lies, to listen to His voice and to get back to doing what prophets do. At this season in your life, which of these areas resonate with you most? Why?

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more.

2 Kings 2:11-12 (NIV)

Final thought: Even if your greatest fear or "what if" occurs in your life, God will be there for you to help rise above it. God will always be enough for you. Pray for those in your group that are struggling with depression, as well as those that are struggling with fears and exhaustion. Ask that God will work in them to remove these feelings from their life just as He did Elijah.



Elijah Week 4

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- Describe one of the loneliest moments of your life. How did you make it through such a difficult time?

Explore

Read 1 Kings 19:1-21

- What did Elijah pray when he had fled to a lonely place? (19:3-5)
- How did God miraculously care for Elijah in the desert? (19:6-9)
- What did God say to Elijah when the prophet had taken refuge in a cave? (19:9)
- How did Elijah express his despair about his circumstances? (19:10)
- What did God command Elijah to do? (19:11)
- What disturbances of nature did Elijah witness from inside the cave? (19:11-13)
- What question did God repeat in the "gentle whisper"? (9:13)

- What was Elijah's reply after seeing the demonstrations of God's power? (19:14)
- What "marching orders" did Elijah receive from God? (19:15-17)

Reflect

- Do you think Elijah was justified in being discouraged by his circumstances?
- Why do you think God revealed Himself to Elijah when the prophet was discouraged?
- What strikes you as unusual about God's question to Elijah in the cave?
- Describe a situation where it felt like you were the only believer?
- What important lesson did Elijah learn about how God chooses to speak to people?

Apply

- What are some ways that you can remind yourself that God is in control when you are in the middle of difficult circumstances?



Elijah Week 4

Putting it into Action

This week we saw how God brought Elijah out of a time of depression. It's likely we all know someone that is currently struggling with a difficult situation or may be battling depression. This person could be someone in your own group or just an acquaintance. Take what you have learned and put it into action by doing something this week to help that person through their difficult time. One idea is to use God's example of telling Elijah to rest by doing something for that person that would allow them some rest. You might also consider carrying out this task with your entire group. Here are some ideas you might want to consider in carrying out your task:

- Prepare some meals and take them to their house.
- Offer to help with housework, run errands or help with yard work.
- Help meet a financial need that person may have.
- Take that person out to dinner and a movie. Give them an evening of fun and fellowship.
- Help babysit their children to allow that person some time to rest.
- Send that person some letters, cards or emails from the members of your group letting them know you are thinking of them and praying for them.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read 1 Kings 19:1-3. Pray over the fears you are currently dealing with in your life. Ask God to help you overcome them and give you comfort and peace as you deal with them.

Day 2: Read 1 Kings 19:3-5. Pray over any depression you may be experiencing in your own life, or pray about those areas in your life in which you are exhausted. Ask God to help you find ways to better manage your time in these areas.

Day 3: Read 1 Kings 19:5-8. Ask God to help find ways to find more time to rest in your life. Spend your time in quiet prayer just resting in His presence.

Day 4: Read 1 Kings 19:9-12: Take time today to allow God to speak to you. Listen quietly for His gentle whisper.

Day 5: Read 1 Kings 19:15-16 and 2 Kings 2:11-12. Pray and ask God what He is wanting you to do in this season of your life? Ask if He wants you to continue what you are doing or see if He has something new in store for you.