

4-WEEK STUDY

ELIJAH

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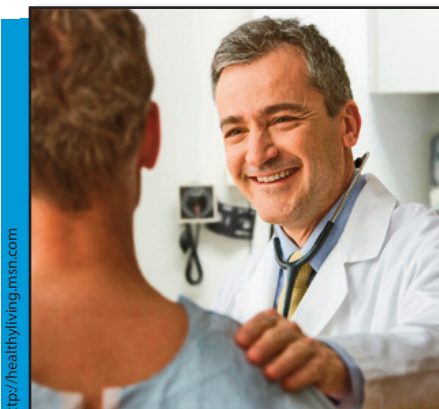
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The Making of a Man of God

Small Group Study

Kicking it off:

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



Key scriptures:

1 Kings 17:1-24

Discussion:

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

2. 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?

3. Read 1 Kings 17:2-6. 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.

4. God taught Elijah to depend on Him daily for food and water. What do you daily trust God for right now?

5. 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?

6. Describe a time when you decided to step out in 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?

7. After the brook dried up, Elijah trusted God and obediently 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?

Wrapping it up:

Just like Elijah, pain in our lives can lead us to a total depend-

ence on God and a 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.

Memory verse:

1 Kings 17:24

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."

Daily Devotions

Use these prayer tips to guide 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. Consider how God's provision followed Elijah's obedience. Is there any area

in which you are resisting being obedient to God and/or His Word? Take action now to walk in obedience to Him.

Day 4

As you do what the Lord tells you to do (*1 Kings 17:5*), pray and ask God to meet any needs you currently have. Pray for the needs of others that you know.

Day 5

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

Day 6

When you consider the story of Elijah in *1 Kings 17*, God raised up one man to stand against the evil king and the pervasive evil of the nation. Is it possible God has raised or is raising you to stand against evil in some capacity? Pray for the courage to take that stand.

Day 7

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.

Which God Do You Serve?

Small Group Study

Kicking it off:

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



Key scriptures:

1 Kings 18:17-46

Discussion:

1. Read 1 Kings 18:17-46 together. False gods promise what only the one true God can provide. What false gods do you see being worshipped in the culture around you?

2. 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 and what do these

false gods promise you that only God can provide? What might help you quit wavering between false gods and the one True God?

3. 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?

4. Read Ephesians 4:14-15. This verse describes immature Christians who waver in their faith and are easily enticed through deceit. Then in verse 22-44, we seem to see the remedy for this malady. What does this look like practically in your life?

5. 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?

Wrapping it up:

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 - without wavering.

Memory verse:

1 Kings 18:39

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

Daily Devotions

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week.

Day 1

Read 1 Kings 18:17-18. Pray and ask God to give you courage to confront false idols in your own life and the lives of others.

Day 2 *Read 1 Kings 18:19-21.*

The people of Israel were wavering in their faith and confidence in the One True God. *Read Ephesians 4:14-16.* Compare the people of Israel to the Ephesians whom Paul is addressing. What is the key to an unwavering faith? (see *Eph. 4:13*) Commit to growing in maturity so that you will have an unwavering faith.

Day 3 *Read 1 Kings 18:21 again.*

How did the people respond when Elijah confronted them with their double mindedness? Do you struggle with ignoring or denying your own lack of true faith?

Day 4 *Read 1 Kings 18:22-29.*

Notice when the people got no answer from Baal, no response, they only became more frantic in their worship. How might this compare with your reaction when being confronted with your own idol worship? Do you turn away from the error of your ways in repentance to God or become more headstrong in your foolishness?

Day 5 *Read 1 Kings 18:30-39.*

Stand in awe at the wonder of God's power.

Day 6 *Read 1 Kings 18:39*

again. How did the people react when they saw fire burn up Elijah's offering? When is the last time you observed the power of God and were humbled before Him as these people were?

Day 7 *Read 1 Kings 18:17-39 again.* Thank God for His faithfulness even when we are faithless.

Elijah Prays

Small Group Study

Kicking it off:

Describe one thing upon which you've spent the most earnest time and effort to accomplish or achieve?



Mike Cardew/Akron Beacon Journal

Key scriptures:

James 5:17, 1 Kings 18:42-46, James 4:2, James 5:16, Mark 11:24

Discussion:

1. Read *James 5:17*. When you consider that Elijah was a man “just like us,” what you do think differentiates his prayers and ours?

2. Have you ever prayed as earnestly for something equal to the effort you put into the accomplishment or achievement mentioned in the “kicking it off” question? Why not?

3. Read *1 Kings 18:42*. If you are physically able, assume the posture that Elijah does in this passage. Discuss with one another how it feels to be in this position as you pray before God.

4. Pastor Jeff described four qualities of effective prayers: humble, specific, persistent and expectant.

a. Give an example of a recent specific prayer you prayed. How did God answer?

b. Share a prayer you have been persistently praying for awhile now. What struggles have you encountered with being persistent?

c. Give an example of an expectant prayer you might have prayed. What challenges might you have in being expectant of God in given areas?

5. What specific prayer might you need to bring before God?

6. Read *James 5:16b*. Is there any prayer that you need to commit to praying for? Share with the group and pray about it together.

Wrapping it up:

Commit to one specific, expectant prayer and pray daily for the next 30 days about it.

Memory verse:

James 5:17

"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years."

Daily Devotions

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week.

Day 1

Read *Mark 11:24*. Meditate upon how faith plays into our prayer life. What does it mean to "believe that you have received it" and how does this relate to expectant prayers?

Day 2 Read *Luke 18:1-4*. Why do you think Jesus told this parable? How does this encourage you when it comes to persistent prayer?

Day 3 Read *Luke 18:9-14*.

What does this parable teach you about humble prayers? How can you apply that to your life today?

Day 4 Read *Matthew 6:5-8*.

How does this passage help you to understand humility in prayer?

Day 5 Read *Matthew 6:9-14*.

Here Jesus is teaching His disciples how to pray. What stands out to you from Jesus' teaching?

Day 6 Read *Matthew 6:14*

again. What role does forgiveness or harboring unforgiveness play in the effectiveness of our prayer lives? Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Day 7 Read *Mark 11:25*. What does this passage teach us about the condition of our hearts as it relates to our prayers?

Depression

Small Group Study

Kicking it off:

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



Key scriptures:

1 Kings 19:1-21

Discussion:

1. After experiencing one of the most victorious moments of his life, Elijah went into a deep depression. What did Elijah pray when he had fled to a lonely place? (19:3-5) Do you think Elijah was justified in being discouraged by his circumstances?

2. *1 Kings 19:3-5* illustrates four common contributors to depression: Elijah wore himself out, shut people out, focused on the nega-

tive and forgot the faithfulness of God. Of these four, which one is your most common challenge? Discuss these together in your group.

3. How did God miraculously care for Elijah in the desert? (19:5-9)

Why do you think God revealed Himself to Elijah when the prophet was discouraged? Can you describe a time when God revealed Himself to you in the midst of discouragement?

4. Elijah took refuge in a cave (19:9). How did Elijah express his despair about his circumstances? (19:10) Has there ever been a time where it felt like you were the only believer?

5. What disturbances of nature did Elijah witness from inside the cave and what question did God repeat in the "gentle whisper"? (19:11-13) What important lesson did Elijah learn about how God chooses to speak to people? How does that apply to us?

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

Wrapping it up:

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.

Memory verse:

1 Kings 19:12

“After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Read 1 Kings 19:1-3. How does fear sometimes create depression? What types of fears have a grip on your life?

Day 2 *Read 1 Kings 19:3-5.* One of the most common factors leading 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?

Day 3 *Read 1 Kings 19:5-8.* Sometimes 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?

Day 4 *Read 1 Kings 19:9-10.*

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?

Day 5 *Read 1 Kings 19:11-12.*

God spoke to Elijah with a gentle whisper. Have you been taking the time to be still so that you can hear the still small voice of God? Commit to a time of silence and solitude today.

Day 6 *Read 1 Kings 19:15-16.*

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?

Day 7 *Read 1 Kings 19:19-21.*

Immediately following this encounter with God, and in response to his obedience, God provided Elijah with an apprentice, someone to help him carry the load of his vocation of being a prophet. Look for God’s provision in your life as you walk in obedience to Him.

GROUP AGREEMENT

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we:

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place? Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

HELLO



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