

<sup>1</sup> Later on, in the third year of the drought, the LORD said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!” <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to appear before Ahab.

Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria. <sup>3</sup> So Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. (Obadiah was a devoted follower of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Once when Jezebel had tried to kill all the LORD’s prophets, Obadiah had hidden 100 of them in two caves. He put fifty prophets in each cave and supplied them with food and water.) <sup>5</sup> Ahab said to Obadiah, “We must check every spring and valley in the land to see if we can find enough grass to save at least some of my horses and mules.” <sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

<sup>7</sup> As Obadiah was walking along, he suddenly saw Elijah coming toward him. Obadiah recognized him at once and bowed low to the ground before him. “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?” he asked.

<sup>8</sup> “Yes, it is,” Elijah replied. “Now go and tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”

<sup>9</sup> “Oh, sir,” Obadiah protested, “what harm have I done to you that you are sending me to my death at the hands of Ahab? <sup>10</sup> For I swear by the LORD your God that the king has searched every nation and kingdom on earth from end to end to find you. And each time he was told, ‘Elijah isn’t here,’ King Ahab forced the king of that nation to swear to the truth of his claim. <sup>11</sup> And now you say, ‘Go and tell your master, “Elijah is here.”’ <sup>12</sup> But as soon as I leave you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you away to who knows where. When Ahab comes and cannot find you, he will kill me. Yet I have been a true servant of the LORD all my life. <sup>13</sup> Has no one told you, my lord, about the time when Jezebel was trying to kill the LORD’s prophets? I hid 100 of them in two caves and supplied them with food and water. <sup>14</sup> And now you say, ‘Go and tell your master, “Elijah is here.”’ Sir, if I do that, Ahab will certainly kill me.”

<sup>15</sup> But Elijah said, “I swear by the LORD Almighty, in whose presence I stand, that I will present myself to Ahab this very day.”

— 1 Kings 18:1-15

## ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Share something joyful you experienced since the last time your group met.

Have two or three people read 1 Kings 18:1-15 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In your own words, who is Obadiah? How would you describe him?

Some claim Obadiah was committed to God. Others fear he compromised his faith. What do you think and why?

Read Matthew 7:1-2. What is the danger of judging someone without having a relationship with them?

Do you ever feel like you are walking on a tightrope trying to balance being in the world and following God? Can you share an example?

Why is it important for Obadiah and for us to remember that God sees, hears, and understands our situations?

How does love help us navigate the tightrope?

How can your group pray for you this week?