



**What does the Bible teach?**

God calls us to trust him when life is out of control. (v. 1-5)

God provides for us when life is out of control. (v. 6-16)

God desires to hear from us when life is out of control. (v. 17-24)

**What should they do?**

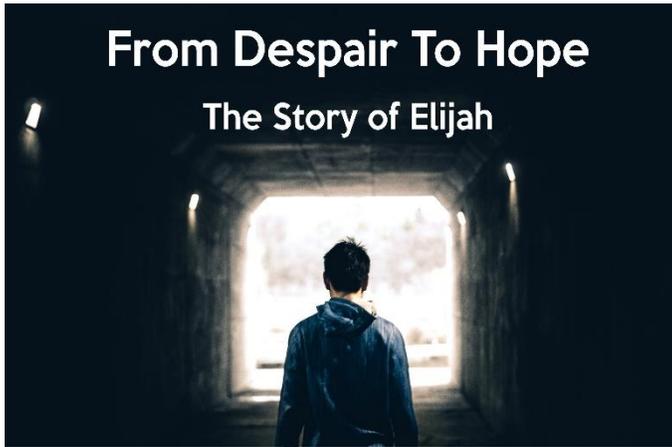
Trust God and be obedient *all the time*.

Trust God to provide what is needed *all the time*.

Trust God to hear your prayers *all the time*.

# From Despair To Hope

## The Story of Elijah



LIFEGroups@BBC

# Faith When Life is Out of Control

## Group Discussion

### 1. What does the passage say?

What is the writer ultimately trying to communicate to his readers? What issue is the writer addressing?

### 2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?

How would a 1st Century Christ-follower receive this message?

### 3. What does this passage tell us about God?

Explain what you understand about God from the text. Is that a new idea or truth for you?

### 4. What does this passage tell us about man?

In your own words share what this passage encourages us to do to follow Jesus more fully and faithfully?

### 5. What does this passage demand of me?

Personally speaking, what areas of living in relationship with Jesus do you need to address? How should you live in light of what this passage says?

### 6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

What does this passage communicate about the need for grace and humility in community with others? Whom should I invite to seek Jesus?

### 7. What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

Are you in need of forgiveness or repentance? Do you need to intercede for others? Do you need an "extra measure" of faith to follow Jesus or engage the community and world?

## 1 Kings 17:1-24

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"

2 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide at the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan. 4 You are to drink from the wadi. I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."

5 So he proceeded to do what the Lord commanded. Elijah left and lived at the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan. 6 The ravens kept bringing him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he would drink from the wadi. 7 After a while, the wadi dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 "Get up, go to Zarephath that belongs to Sidon and stay there. Look, I have commanded a woman who is a widow to provide for you there." 10 So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, there was a widow gathering wood. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup and let me drink." 11 As she went to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."

12 But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I don't have anything baked—only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare it for myself and my son so we can eat it and die."

13 Then Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid; go and do as you have said. But first make me a small loaf from it and bring it out to me. Afterward, you may make some for yourself and your son, 14 for this is what the Lord God of Israel says, 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the surface of the land.'"

15 So she proceeded to do according to the word of Elijah. Then the woman, Elijah, and her household ate for many days. 16 The flour jar did not become empty, and the oil jug did not run dry, according to the word of the Lord he had spoken through Elijah.

17 After this, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. His illness got worse until he stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, "Man of God, what do you have against me? Have you come to call attention to my iniquity so that my son is put to death?"

19 But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upstairs room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, have you also brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?" 21 Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, please let this boy's life come into him again!"

22 So the Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy's life came into him again, and he lived. 23 Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upstairs room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Look, your son is alive."

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