

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Alternate Ending Message Series

The Death Threat
for the week of June 7, 2020

Opener: Are you a person who experiences getting hangry? (Becoming so hungry you get angry) What's your go-to snack when you're feeling hangry?

Leader note: *This is a very dense passage – there's a lot going on here! Don't feel like you have to use every question. Pick and choose the ones that best will challenge your people to grow.*

This Sunday we looked at the account of Elijah running for his life after defeating the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. There's a lot of details that pastor Jeff reminded us we need to be careful in how we apply because there are Old Covenant rules we encounter here.

Read Hebrews 8:6-13. It is clear that in Jesus there is a New Covenant that we can experience that is better than the Old Covenant. Remember, a covenant is a type of promise and agreement between two parties.

- If we are living under a New Covenant in Jesus, what are some of the mistakes we can make when reading and applying the rules of the Old Covenant to our lives now?
- How do you determine what is a timeless principle you can apply when reading the Old Testament versus instruction specific just for that time? (Hint: We shouldn't be challenging people of other faiths to sacrifice challenges on mountaintops today!).

Debate it: The only one of the Ten Commandments that Jesus does not reiterate specifically is to keep the Sabbath. So, should Christians keep a "day off" from work to focus on worship and rest? Why or why not?

Go back and read 1 Kings 19:6-8. It seems like God created us as people that need to rest, even as people who live under the New Covenant.

- How are you doing with creating a day in your week for rest and worship? Would taking a Sabbath day each week affect our use of Netflix, social media or watching the news? If so, how?
- If you know you need to get better at resting, what is one step you can take this week to create more space for that in your life?



RAINIER VIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Next, recap the account or read it from 1 Kings 19:8-13.

- Is it easy or difficult for you to listen for that still small “voice” from God (for most everyone it’s not an audible voice but an inner prompting)?
- Do you need to sit with and create more space to hear that still small voice this week?
- How is it comforting that someone like Elijah, who is set on par with Moses, doesn’t encounter God in these spectacular moments, but in still small moments instead?

Optional: Digging Deeper

Read in Mark 9:2-13 how Elijah is a very important figure in God’s Kingdom, on the same level as Moses. Here are a few of those parallels between Elijah and Moses:

- Moses asked God to take him home and wanted to die in the desert; God intervenes in his life there
- God provides miraculously for Elijah here with food and water in the desert (as God did for Moses)
- Elijah spends 40 days alone and there’s a culmination where Elijah meets God on the mountain
- Can you find or think of any other parallels between Moses and Elijah?
- What might be the reason for the connection being made between these two figures here? (Hint: showing continuity of God’s promise will be fulfilled).

Read 1 Kings 19:19-21. Lastly, we see in this account for our need to be known in intentional relationships.

- Who needs you to be more present this week? In particular, is there someone younger that you can invest in like Elijah does with Elisha?
- Most of us are getting excited about a return to more in person activities. How can you continue to prioritize relationships where you can be truly known when the busyness of life ramps back up?

Share time: Have everyone in your group share this week which area they want to work on growing in: rest, listening, or being known in intentional relationships. Spend some time praying for one another to take a small step towards growing in that area this week.