



FAITH UNDER FIRE



EVERY NATION
ABU DHABI

FAITH UNDER FIRE

BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR C.O.R.E. GROUP
DISCIPLESHIP



EVERY NATION
A B U D H A B I



Provision

- Share an experience where you were desperately in need (i.e., finances, work, etc).
- Who is your go-to person when you are in need and why?

LET'S READ

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." ² And the word of the Lord came to him: ³ "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴ You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." ⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the Lord. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. ⁶ And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. ⁷ And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

1 KINGS 17:1-9 ESV

Elijah confronted King Ahab and declared a severe drought on Israel as a punishment to him because he did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him (1 Kings 16:30). He led Baal and Asherah worship that provoked God's anger. God instructed Elijah to hide by the brook Cherith where ravens miraculously fed him. But after the brook dried up, God directed Elijah to go to Zarephath where a widow would provide for him.

How did God come through for you during a desperate need?

What would you consider 'great needs' that will require God's miraculous provision?

1. Times of lack

³ "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴ You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." ⁷ And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

1 KINGS 17:3,4;7-9

The Lord's instruction for Elijah was to go eastward and wait in the brook Cherith. God miraculously provided for him through the ravens. God may not use ravens to provide for our needs today as He did for Elijah, but He will surely provide for our needs through unexpected means.

2. Times of uncertainty

¹² And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." ¹³ And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son."

¹⁴ For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'"

1 Kings 17:12-14

Elijah encountered a poor widow in Zarephath who had nothing but food for their last meal. He told her not to fear and instructed her to make him some bread. Humanly speaking, we would prioritize our own needs first before that of others. But in times of uncertainty, God assures us of His provision through His Word.

*What would make you
decide to give your only
resource to others?*

3. Times of loss

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

1 KINGS 17:17-24

Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead after he fell ill. God has compassion for those who are in despair. The widow acknowledged Elijah as a man of God, affirming the truth of the Lord's word through the prophet. In times of loss, God comforts and supports us through it.

*How did God provide
you with comfort and
support when you lost
a loved one?*

LET'S PRAY

- *Pray with your CORE group for God's provision in areas of need.*
- *Pray and declare God's Word about His provision.*

LET'S APPLY

- *Like the widow in Zarepath, be ready to help someone in need even if you yourself are in need.*
- *Use God's Word to encourage someone you know who is going through a difficult time.*

- Have you ever encountered a terror teacher in school who threatened to give you a failing grade? How did you respond?
- Share an experience (if you had any) when you had to obey someone in authority that compromised your integrity.

⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?" ⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'" ⁹ And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?" ¹⁰ As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. ¹¹ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here."'" ¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. ¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"; and he will kill me.'" ¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

1 KINGS 18:7-16 ESV

Elijah encountered King Ahab's chief servant, Obadiah, who recognized and asked him to deliver a message to Ahab. Obadiah expressed his fear of being handed over to Ahab to be killed because he had hidden many prophets of the Lord during Jezebel's reign and had provided them with food and water. Elijah reassured him that he was not being handed over but he was to inform Ahab that Elijah was present to call on the people to gather around Mount Carmel because he would challenge Baal's prophets.

How do we show our trust in God's protection amidst danger?

1. When we fear Him over man.

*And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household.
(Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly...)*

1 Kings 18:3

Obadiah hid 100 of the Lord's prophets in caves and supplied them with food and water to save their lives from the evil Queen Jezebel's purge against the prophets. He demonstrated faith and defiance against evil even at the risk of his life.

To what extent will you trust God in the midst of a great threat?

2. When we fulfill our work for the Lord.

(... and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 18:4

Obadiah, the devout palace administrator for the wicked King Ahab, demonstrated his faithfulness to God by secretly hiding and providing for one hundred of the Lord's prophets whom Queen Jezebel was trying to kill.

What courageous act
are you willing to do
for God's kingdom?

3. When we faithfully submit to God's will.

¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

1 Kings 18:15-16

Obadiah acted as a mediator to deliver the message that the prophet Elijah had returned to confront King Ahab. At first, Obadiah expressed hesitation and fear for his life if Elijah didn't show up. But Elijah reassured him that he would present himself to Ahab.

What promises of
protection from God are
you holding on to?

LET'S PRAY

- Pray for boldness to stand firm in your faith amid adversity.
- Ask God for protection for you and your loved ones.

LET'S APPLY

- *Allow God to show you areas of weakness in times of danger and pray with someone to be encouraged.*
- *Declare Psalm 91 over your life.*

- Have you ever purchased something cheap only to find out it didn't work the way it should?
- How can you distinguish between an authentic and fake merchandise?

LET'S READ

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken." ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." ²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

1 KINGS 18:20-29 ESV

This was the time of Israel's spiritual decline because King Ahab and Queen Jezebel promoted the worship of Baal that led the people away from the Lord. Elijah confronted the people of Israel and challenged them to choose between the Lord and Baal but they remained divided. Elijah then proposed a test: Baal's prophets shall choose a bull, prepare it, and set it on fire, while Elijah would do the same, but not set it on fire. The people agreed, and Baal's prophets went first but there was no response from Baal. Elijah then prepared the other bull and called on the Lord, who answered by devouring the offering with fire from heaven, demonstrating that the Lord is the true God.

LET'S LEARN

How can you encourage others who are struggling about their faith in God?

How do we experience the One true God?

1. By putting our faith in Him

²³ "Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God."

1 Kings 18:23,24

Elijah's trust in God during the challenge to the prophets of Baal was a testament to his faith and commitment to God's command. He wanted the people to witness the power of the one true God. Like Elijah, our faith can encourage other people who are confused and unsure about theirs.

2. By believing in His power

"Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

1 Kings 18:37

Despite the people's unbelief, Elijah's actions demonstrated his unwavering belief in God's power and His ability to perform miracles. He knew that God would answer his prayer and was committed to bringing the people's faith back to Him.

How has the power of
God worked through
your faith in Him?

3. By praising Him for what He has done

³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God..."

1 Kings 18:38,39

After the power of God over Baal was clearly demonstrated, the people of Israel believed and worshipped the Lord. The people responded with enthusiasm and recognized Yahweh as the true God, rejecting Baal.

How have you responded
when God demonstrated
His power over your and
other people's lives?

LET'S PRAY



Pray with your CORE group and help strengthen each others' faith.



Reach out to someone this week who needs to know the Lord.

LET'S APPLY

- *How can your faith be a testimony to your community?*
- *How can you inspire others to know and believe in the One true God?*

- Have you ever been burned out because of an overwhelming task? How did you cope?
- Who do you turn to when you are in great fear or need and why?

LET'S READ

¹ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

1 KINGS 19:1-8 ESV

After Elijah's victory over Baal's prophets, King Ahab told Queen Jezebel about it. This news angered her and she vowed to kill Elijah. Frightened and emotionally exhausted, Elijah fled for his life, ran into the wilderness and prayed that God would take his life because he thought he was the only faithful prophet left.

How does God comfort us when we feel like giving up?

1. He sustains us with His provision

And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

1 Kings 19:6

Elijah found himself under a broom tree. An angel appeared and offered him bread baked over hot stones and water. This was a divine provision that showed God's care and strength in times of despair, reminding believers of His faithfulness.

When was the last time that you experienced God's provision for your need? Share this with your CORE group.

2. He strengthens us to carry on

⁷ *And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."* ⁸ *And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.*

1 Kings 19:7-8

God had sustained Elijah, allowing him to walk for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. This moment illustrated that even in moments of weakness, exhaustion and fear, God can provide strength and guidance. He demonstrated this to Elijah. This story serves as a reminder to us to trust God's faithfulness, regardless of the circumstances. God promises supernatural ability to renew our strength and empower those who trust in Him.

Isaiah 40:29 (CEV) says, "The Lord gives strength to those who are weary." How does this verse apply to you?

3. He speaks to us through His Word

⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:9,11-13

After fleeing from Jezebel, Elijah sought refuge in a cave where he encountered God again. This encounter bared Elijah's deep despair while it brought God's comfort and reassurance of His presence and purpose for the prophet.

*How has God
comforted you in your
deep struggle?*

LET'S PRAY

- Pray for God's comforting presence for each of you.
- Ask God to use your CORE group members to encourage a friend or someone they know who is in some trouble.

LET'S APPLY

- *Share your testimony of God's comforting presence to encourage your CORE group.*
- *What Bible verse about God's presence do you hold on to? Declare it over your life now.*



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