

COUNTER CULTURAL

— A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF ELIJAH —

SERMON SERIES
INDUCTIVE STUDY
JOURNAL

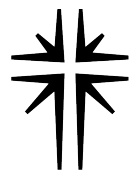
Version 1.0 - Copyright 2025. Westside Fellowship, Elon NC.
Created and edited by the pastors and staff of Westside Fellowship

Scripture taken from the English Standard Version
Copyright 2001 by Crossway.

This document may be reproduced and distributed freely, but you may not charge a fee greater than your own manufacturing costs. No section of this document may be modified without the written consent of Westside Fellowship, Elon NC.

COUNTER CULTURAL

SERMON SERIES INDUCTIVE STUDY JOURNAL



WESTSIDE
FELLOWSHIP

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE | 5 |
| MAP OF THE KEY PLACES IN THE LIFE OF ELIJAH | 6 |
| WEEK 1 | 7 |
| WEEK 2 | 11 |
| WEEK 3 | 15 |
| WEEK 4 | 19 |
| WEEK 5 | 27 |
| WEEK 6 | 33 |
| WEEK 7 | 39 |
| WEEK 8 | 45 |

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This inductive Bible study has been developed as a discipleship tool to be used to equip the body at Westside Fellowship. The overall goal of the study is to provide the disciples at Westside with a tool to deepen their understanding of God's Word. A secondary purpose of this resource is to be a study aid to come alongside the Sunday morning message series, in order to provide a more robust opportunity for discipleship throughout the preaching and teaching ministry at Westside Fellowship.

What is inductive Bible Study?¹

Inductive Bible study is a method of studying the Bible that allows you to discover for yourself what Scripture says, what it means, and how to apply its truths to your life. The goal of an inductive Bible study is to drive into personal interaction with the Bible and thus with the God of the Bible! By knowing God through His Word—and living by the truths the Holy Spirit reveals to you through Scripture—your life will radically change.

Inductive Bible study uses the Bible as its primary source of information about the Bible, so taking time to dig deeper into the passage of Scripture you're reading—by looking at cross references, doing word studies, and letting Scripture interpret Scripture—will take your personal study of the Bible to the next level. Not only will you know what the passage meant to its original audience, but you'll know how to apply it to your own circumstances.

How does this study work?

Like any other inductive Bible study, this sermon series study journal will guide you in studying God's word by asking three basic questions:

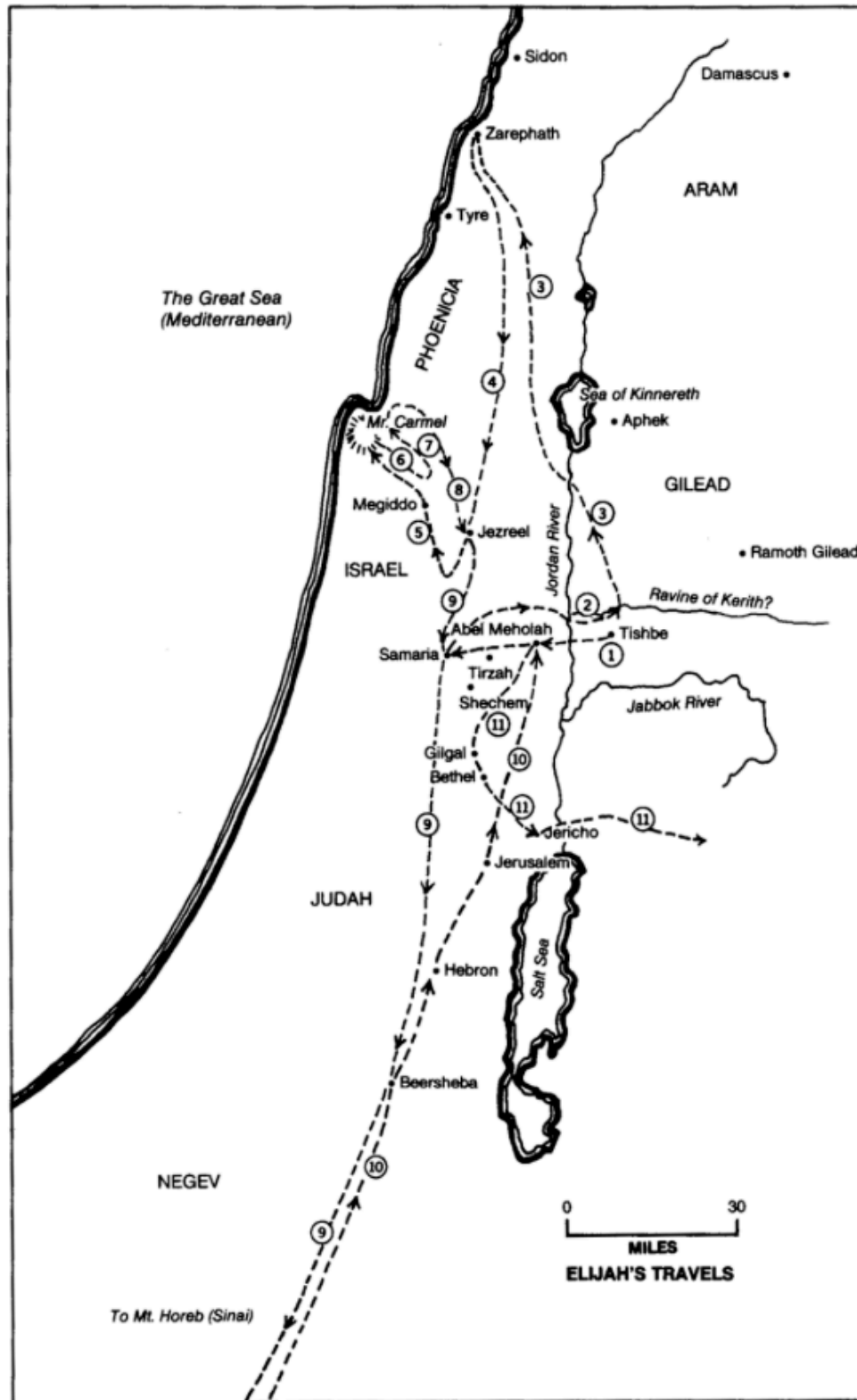
- 1) "What do I See?" (Observation)
- 2) "What does it mean?" (Interpretation)
- 3) "How does it work?" (Application)

Each of the questions are designed to guide you through this process or using the Bible to help you better understand and apply the Bible to your everyday life. Please note that the questions in this study journal are not all encompassing, they are simply intended to help you interact with God's Word in a deeper way, so that you are getting the most out of the Sunday morning sermon series. Therefore, we encourage you to spend as much time as possible reading and interacting with the text of Scripture, more than just answering these questions. These questions are designed to get you thinking, but only the Word of God has the power to transform your heart and change your life.

We pray that God will use this study in a mighty way to broaden your understanding of his Word and deepen your love for Him!

¹ <https://www.precept.org/2023/02/what-is-inductive-bible-study/>

MAP OF THE KEY PLACES IN THE LIFE OF ELIJAH²



² Thomas L. Constable, "1 Kings," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 522.

1. Read 1 Kings 16:29-34

1 Kings 16:29-34 — 29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. 31 And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32 He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. 34 In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

2. Pray

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. What things stand out to you from the text?
- b. Who is Ahab? What do you notice about Ahab’s character?
- c. Who is Ahab’s wife? Where is she from? Why might this be significant?
- d. Compare 1 Kings 16:34 to Joshua 6:26, what does this teach you about God’s Word?
- e. From what you learn about Ahab in 1 Kings 16:29-34, how might you describe the culture in Israel during the time of Elijah’s ministry, with regards to their relationship with Yahweh?

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. What are the “sins of Jeroboam” (v31)? Compare to 1 Kings 12:25-33 and 1 Kings 13:32-34.
- b. Read 1 Kings 16:21-28. How does learning about Omri (Ahab’ father) help you better understand Ahab, and the culture in Israel at that time in history?

- c. Read 1 Kings 17:1

1 Kings 17:1 — 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.”

What are three character traits that you begin to notice about Elijah?

Can you think of any Old Testament precedent to Elijah’s words to Ahab? Compare with Deut 11:13-17.

Application: “How does it work?”

1. Read 1 Kings 16:29 — 1 Kings 17:1 again.

From the character traits about Elijah that you noticed earlier, what is one way that you can follow Elijah’s example in your daily life this week?

Reflecting on the sins of Jeroboam, Omri, and Ahab, do you see any of those same sinful patterns in your own life?

Do you notice any similarities between the culture in Israel during the time of Elijah and the culture of the United States today?

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 17:1-7

1 Kings 17:1-7 — 17 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.

2. Pray

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. As you continue getting to know Elijah, are there any character traits that you would add to the list that you made last week?
- b. How would you describe Elijah’s encounter with Ahab?
- c. Where did God send Elijah after the initial confrontation with Ahab? Why do you think this is significant?

Notice the geographic location of Cherith.

- d. How did God provide for Elijah’s physical needs while living by the brook Cherith?

How does this remind you of the way God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness? Compare with Exodus 16.

How does this remind you of what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount about the way God will provide for his children? Compare with Matthew 6:25-34.

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. What does it mean when Elijah told 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.”?

Using a Bible Dictionary, or some other study companion, spend about 5 minutes researching Baal worship. Afterwards, revisit the question above.

In light of what you now know about Baal worship, what is significant about Elijah focussing on the fact that Yahweh “lives”?

- b. What do you think that must have been like for Elijah as he watched his source of water, the brook, slowly dry up?
- c. How long do you think that Israel went without rain? Compare with Luke 4:25.

Application: “How does it work?”

- a. In your own words, describe the main idea that is communicated in 1 Kings 17:1-7.
- b. Has there ever been a time in your life when God has called you into a season of waiting like he called Elijah to? What did the Lord teach you during that time?
- c. In what ways do you need to be reminded of the Lord’s faithfulness to provide for his children?

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 17:8-24

1 Kings 17:8-24 — 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.” 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 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.’ ” 15 And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. 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.”

2. Pray

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. Write a brief summary of what we have learned about the life and character traits of Elijah thus far.

- b. Re-read 1 Kings 17:8-24. What are a few observations about this passage that stand out to you? Consider: people, places, repeated words, circumstances, promises, etc...

Using a Bible Atlas, can you find where Zarephath is located geographically? What is significant about this?

Who else is from this region of Sidon/Tyre/Phoenicia (Modern day Lebanon)? Compare with 1 Kings 16:31.

- c. Who does Elijah encounter in Zarephath? What do you notice about their circumstances in life?

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. What does it mean when Elijah says: “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.’ ”

Would you consider this a miracle? Why or why not?

What does this teach you about God’s power and character?

- b. Compare 1 Kings 17:14-16 with Mark 6:30-44. Do you notice any similarities between these two situations? If so, what are they?
- c. Re-read 1 Kings 17:17-18. What does the woman mean by asking: “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!” (V18) ?

- d. How would you describe Elijah's heart posture as he prayed to God in verse 20?
- e. Look at verse 24. What is significant about the woman's response to Elijah's actions?

In other words, what two truths did the woman come to embrace after witnessing the miracle that God performed through Elijah?

Compare 1 Kings 17:24 with 1 Cor 1:21-23. Since it appears that the signs and wonders performed by Elijah were intended to function as a means of authenticating both the man and the message of God, then what does that teach you about the signs and wonders performed through the apostles in the early church?

Application: "How does it work?"

- a. After studying 1 Kings 17 over the past two weeks, in what ways are you more willing to trust in the faithful provision of God?
- b. Read Hebrews 13:5-6. How can you be intentional to cling to this promise throughout the upcoming week?
- c. Is there a circumstance in your life with which you are currently struggling to trust the Lord? Would you be willing to confess that to him in prayer today?

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 18:1-46

1 Kings 18:1-46 — After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.” 2 So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. 3 And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, 4 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.) 5 And Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals.” 6 So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself. 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.

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” 18 And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

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.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. 31 Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," 32 and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." 34 And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. 35 And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

36 And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37 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." 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." 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." 42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. 43 And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. 44 And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.' " 45 And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. 46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

2. Pray

3. Write out **1 Kings 18:39** in the space below, and set a goal to memorize that verse throughout the week:

Observation: "What do I See?"

- a. After reading 1 Kings 18, what things stand out to you from the text?

- b. Re-read 1 Kings 18 and try to summarize the main idea of the chapter in 2-3 sentences.

- c. Looking at 1 Kings 18:1, how much time appears to have passed since Elijah approach Ahab in 1 Kings 17:1? (Compare with Luke 4:25 and James 5:17)

- d. Now that you have read 1 Kings 18 two or three times, use the space below to make a list of the key people in this passage and attempt to write a short description of each person beside his or her name:

ex. Ahab: King of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Wicked ruler. Married to Jezebel

- e. What do you notice about Obadiah's response to seeing Elijah? (1 Kings 18:7-16)

Why do you think that Obadiah responded this way? (V14)

- f. Using the space below, list 3 - 5 comparisons and/or contrasts between Obadiah's response and Elijah's response to the current circumstances in Israel.

| Obadiah | Elijah |
|---------|--------|
| | |

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. What does it mean when Ahab refers to Elijah as a “troubler of Israel?” (V17)

What does this demonstrate about Ahab’s spiritual condition?

What is significant about Elijah’s response? (V18)

- b. Why do you think that it is important to Elijah for ‘All Israel’ to gather at Mt Carmel? (V19)

- c. Re-read vv 20-40 again, notice the drastic difference in the behavior between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. What does this Elijah’s difference in behavior demonstrate to you about the character of God?

- d. What appears to be so significant about Elijah pouring so much water on the burnt offering and on the wood? (V33-35) (Hint: *How well do water and fire mix together?*)

- e. What was the purpose of this showdown on Mt Carmel? (Hint: *Refer back to your memory verse for this week*)

Application: “How does it work?”

- a. After studying 1 Kings 18 this week, what aspects of God’s character do you see that are magnified in this chapter? (*i.e. power, faithfulness, mercy, etc....*)

- b. Do you think that this particular encounter with the power of God would have changed the way that they thought about the LORD in their daily lives?

How might this weeks’ encounter with the word of God in 1 Kings 18 change the way that you think about the LORD in your daily life? How about this upcoming week?

- c. Read Colossians 1:15-18. What are three things that you notice that Paul is teaching us about Jesus as the second member of the Godhead?

- d. Re-read Col 1:18. If Jesus is to have preeminence over all things, what is one way that you can seek to put Jesus first in your daily life this week?

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 19:1-21

1 Kings 19:1-21 — 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.

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?” 10 He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 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?” 14 He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 15 And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. 17 And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of

Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” 21 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

2. Pray

3. Write out **1 Kings 19:18** in the space below, and set a goal to memorize that verse throughout the week:

Observation: “What do I See?”

a. After reading 1 Kings 19, list FOUR things that stand out to you about this chapter.

b. How would you describe Elijah’s reaction to Jezebel’s threat in vv2-3?

Given Elijah’s previous experiences with God through his life thus far, does it seem surprising to you that he was so afraid? Why or Why not?

What do Elijahs’ emotions teach us about Elijah as a man? (Compare James 5:17)

- c. Bible scholars agree that “the Angel of the LORD” is generally understood to be a reference to Jesus pre-incarnate. With that in mind, how does that detail change the way that you think about vv 4-8?

- d. Read Matthew 17:1-13. Compare the event in Mt 17 to the event in 1 Kings 19:4-8, and consider how cool it is that in 1 Kings 19, Jesus is encouraging Elijah; but in Matt 17, Elijah is encouraging Jesus.

What does this demonstrate to you about the character of God?

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. What does Elijah mean in v10 when he says: *“I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”*?

Compare this with Paul’s quotation of this passage in Romans 11:3. Given that Paul is quoting 1 Kings 19 in its literal, grammatical, and historical context, what does that teach us about how Paul read and interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures?

- b. What is significant about God speaking to Elijah in the sound of a low whisper? (v12)

- c. Why do you think that God often uses the *wilderness* as a place to prepare his people for their next ministry opportunity?

- d. What is so important about God's words to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:18?

According to Paul's usage of this passage in Romans 11:1-6, what does this teach us about God's faithfulness toward his covenant people, Israel?

Application: "How does it work?"

- a. Read Romans 8:31. How do you see this truth about the faithful character of God illustrated in 1 Kings 19?

- b. Has there been a time in your life when you felt like Elijah in verse 10? How did God use that season in your life to teach you about his faithfulness?

- c. Read 1 Kings 19:19-21. Who in your life has discipled you to grow in Christ-likeness? Who are you discipling right now?

- d. Compare 2 Timothy 2:1-2 with 1 Kings 19:19-21. What similarities do you see? What patterns for discipleship do you notice in each of these passages?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 20 - 21

Briefly summarize the main idea of 1 Kings 20

2. Re-Read 1 Kings 21:1-29

1 Kings 21:1-29 — 21 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.” 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” 4 And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?” 6 And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’” 7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. 9 And she wrote in the letters, “Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. 10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” 11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, 12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.”

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.” 16 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. 19 And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Have you killed and also taken possession?” ’ And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.” ’ ”

20 Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD.

21 Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. 22 And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin.

23 And of Jezebel the LORD also said, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.’ 24 Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.”

25 (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. 26 He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.)

27 And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. 28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 “Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son’s days I will bring the disaster upon his house.”

2. Pray

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. After reading 1 Kings 21 again, note three to five things that you find interesting from this passage? Are there any unfamiliar words, geographic locations, or newly introduced people that you would like to learn more about?
- b. What appears to be the main issue(s) in each of the following sections of this passage:

vv 8-14 —

vv 15-24 —

- c. In your own words, describe Ahab's behavior after Naboth refuses to sell the land? (V4)
- d. How does Jezebel propose to solve the problem? (V8-10)
- e. How did Ahab react to this most recent encounter with Elijah in verse 20? What do you think he responded in this way?
- f. What are TWO words that you would use to describe Elijah's character in vv17-24?
- g. Re-read vv27-28. How does the LORD respond to Ahab's repentance?

Interpretation: "What does it Mean?"

- a. What is significant about Naboth refusing to trade or sell his land to Ahab? (Compare with Lev 25:23-38 ; Num 36:7)
- b. Why was it important to Jezebel for 'two worthless men' to be set opposite Naboth? (Compare with Deut 17:6-7)

- c. Read 2 Kings 9:30-37. Do you think this is a fulfillment of what the LORD said through Elijah in 1 Kings 21:23?
- d. Given such a literal fulfillment of God's word above, what does this indicate about how we should expect God's promises to be fulfilled in the future?

Application: "How does it work?"

- a. In Matthew 5:13-14, Jesus calls His disciples to be the salt and light to this dark and decaying world. In what way(s) did Elijah function as salt and light in 1 Kings 21?
- b. After reading 1 Kings 21, in what ways are you challenged to be more intentional to serve as salt and light within your circles of influence?
- c. In 1 Kings 21, it appears that Ahab allowed the desires of his eyes to come before his obedience to the Word of God. Read 1 John 2:16, in what ways do you notice yourself doing the same thing? How so?
- d. Read 1 Kings 21:27-29 again. Then read about God's faithful forgiveness in 1 John 1:9. Is the Lord using this study to illuminate any sin tendencies in your daily life that need to be confessed to him? (*To confess means to 'agree with God about your sin'.*)

Is there anything in particular in the daily rhythms of your life that you need to agree with God about its sinfulness in your life, and ask him to forgive you and to help you in walking humbly and faithfully before him daily? Would you do that today?

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Read 1 Kings 22:1-53 and 2 Kings 1:1-18

Briefly summarize the storyline of 1 Kings 22:1-53

2. Re-Read 2 Kings 1:1-18

2 Kings 1:1-18 — 1 After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.

2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness.” 3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? 4 Now therefore thus says the LORD, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ” So Elijah went.

5 The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, “Why have you returned?”

6 And they said to him, “There came a man to meet us, and said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ” 7 He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?” 8 They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

9 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’ ” 10 But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

11 Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king’s order, ‘Come down quickly!’ ” 12 But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

13 Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, “O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. 14 Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight.” 15 Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he

arose and went down with him to the king 16 and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?—therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ”

17 So he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son. 18 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2. Pray

3. In the space below, write out 2 Kings 1:8 and take time this week to memorize it.

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. What historical transitions do you notice that have taken place? (1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Kings 1:1)
- b. Who is Ahaziah? (1 Kings 22:51-53)

How does scripture describe Ahaziah’s spiritual condition?

What does this imply about the pattern of parenting among the leaders in Israel during this time? (1 Kings 16:25-26 — Omri ; 1 Kings 16:30-31 — Ahab ; 1 Kings 22:51-53 — Ahaziah).

- c. Locate and underline each time that “the Angel of the LORD” is referenced in 2 Kings 1:1-18.

Briefly summarize what “the Angel of the LORD” instructed Elijah to do?

How does Elijah respond to the instructions from “the Angel of the LORD”? (V4, v15).

- d. How do Ahaziah's messengers describe Elijah's physical appearance in verse 8?

Compare the description of Elijah's physical appearance with the description of the John the Baptist's physical appearance in Matthew 3:4. Do you notice any similarities?

What do you find interesting about those similarities? (Compare with Malachi 4:5, Luke 1:17, and Matthew 17:12)

Interpretation: "What does it Mean?"

- a. After studying Elijah's life and ministry thus far, and after having compared the life and ministry of Elijah with the life and ministry of John the Baptist, what does it mean when Luke 1:17 says that John the Baptist *"will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."* ?
- b. Why is that the Angel of the LORD is so disappointed with Ahaziah inquiring of Baalzebub? (Compare with 1 Samuel 28)
- c. What does verse 17 teach us about the character of the Word of God?

Application: "How does it work?"

- a. In your own words, briefly summarize the storyline in 2 Kings 1:1-18.

- b.** In your opinion, does it appear as if Elijah's trust in the Lord has strengthened over the course of his life and ministry? Why or Why not? (Compare 1 Kings 19 with 2 Kings 1)

- c.** What does 2 Kings 1:1-18 appear to indicate about the significance and trustworthiness of the God's Word?

- d.** Giving an honest reflection, how significant of a role would you say that God's Word has in your daily life? (Ref. 2 Tim 3:16)

Would you say that your daily life is characterized by obedience to the Word of God?
(Psalm 1)

What is ONE practical action step that you can take THIS WEEK to make reading God's Word more of a priority in your life?

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Read 2 Kings 2:1-14

2 Kings 2:1-14 —2 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3 And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. 5 The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. 7 Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” 10 And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.”

11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. 13 And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

2. Pray

3. In the space below, write out 2 Kings 2:11 and take time this week to memorize it.

Observation: “What do I See?”

- a. In your own words, briefly summarize the storyline and the main idea of 2 Kings 2:1-14.

Who are the primary people in the narrative?

Where are the primary geographic locations throughout the narrative? (Refer to map on page 6)

Are there any repeated words or phrases that you should pay attention to?

- b. Locate and underline each time that you notice the phrase “the sons of the prophets”.

What patterns do you begin to observe regarding “the sons of the prophets”?

- c. Understanding that this passage takes place at the end of Elijah’s ministry, how would you characterize Elijah’s attitude and demeanor?

What about Elisha’s attitude and demeanor?

- d. Using the map, trace the geographic landmarks given in 2 Kings 2:1-14. Then compare them with the geographic landmarks described in Joshua 3-6. Do you notice any similarities? What are they?

Interpretation: “What does it Mean?”

- a. Read 1 John 2:1. Given the way that familial language is often used in the Bible to describe the discipleship relationship, what would be your best guess as to what kind of relationship “the sons of the prophets” might have had with Elijah?

How does this potentially impact the way that you understand Elijah’s purpose for visiting them as one of the last things he does before being translated to heaven?

- b. What evidence do you see from the text that Elijah, and others, knew that he was about to be taken off of the earth?

Who else in the Old Testament was translated to heaven without dying physically? (Ref Gen 5:24).

- c. What is significant about Elisha’s request in vv 9-10?

Application: “How does it work?”

- a. Briefly summarize the general storyline and the main idea of 2 Kings 2:1-14.
- b. Over the years a few skeptics have struggled with the idea that Elijah was miraculously translated bodily to heaven, without dying physically. Why do you think that those people find this idea so controversial?

What do you think? Why?

- c. Compare 2 Kings 2:11 with 1 Thess 4:16-17 and 1 Cor 15:51-52.

What similarities do you notice?

What differences do you notice?

Just like there are people who struggle with the idea of Elijah being miraculously translated to heaven in 2 Kings 2:11, there are also many people who struggle with the idea of Christians being miraculously translated bodily to heaven, in an event that is often referred to as the *Rapture*. What do you think about the Rapture?

Why?

- d. How do the historical events in 2 Kings 2:1-14 strengthen your hope in the promises of Christ in John 14:1-3?
- e. After having studied much of what the Bible says about the life and ministry of Elijah, what have been TWO things that have impacted you the most?

How will you allow each of those things to deepen your trust in the Lord and to transform your life from the inside out?

[illegible]

[illegible]