

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: — 1 Kings 18:36-37, John 4:5-6, Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

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.

Elijah is not trying to make his name great, but the name of God great (vs 1-3)

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.

Spiritual work is not harder than physical work, but it is heavier (vs 4-8)

We should get alone, but only to seek God (vs 4)

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is sleep and eat. (vs 5-6)

Both the spirit and the body need to be fed (vs 7-8)

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?”

God is asking Elijah to restore Elijah, not reject Elijah (vs 13-14)

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.”

Grace restored Elijah, and obedience redirected Elijah. (vs 15-17)

God's response to Elijah is both full of Grace, and full of Urgency (vs 15-18)

Put into Practice:

- ☐ Make God's name great.
- ☐ Don't isolate.
- ☐ Don't fight Hangry.

Small Group Discussion Questions

The Lord's work is both highly spiritual and deeply physical.

In 1 Kings 18:36-37

- 1. What was Elijah's primary goal in confronting the prophets of Baal?**

In 1 Kings 19:4-8

- 2. What does God's care for an exhausted Elijah teach us about our physical needs?**

In 1 Kings 19:4, 10

- 3. How can isolation become dangerous during seasons of fear, disappointment, or exhaustion?**

In 1 Kings 19:9-14

- 4. Why did God ask Elijah, “What are you doing here?”**

In 1 Kings 19:15-18

- 5. How did God correct Elijah's belief that his ministry was finished?**

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God's Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

In 1 Kings 18:36-37

1. What was Elijah's primary goal in confronting the prophets of Baal?

Biblical answer: Elijah wanted God's name—not his own—to be exalted. He prayed that Israel would recognize the Lord as God, trust His word, and return their hearts to Him (1 Kings 18:36–37). Likewise, our service and prayers should point people toward God rather than draw attention to ourselves.

In 1 Kings 19:4-8

2. What does God's care for an exhausted Elijah teach us about our physical needs?

Biblical answer: God gave Elijah sleep, food, water, and additional rest before sending him forward (1 Kings 19:4–8). This shows that caring for our bodies is not opposed to spiritual faithfulness. We need physical rest and nourishment as well as the spiritual nourishment of God's Word (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).

In 1 Kings 19:4, 10

3. How can isolation become dangerous during seasons of fear, disappointment, or exhaustion?

Biblical answer: Elijah withdrew into the wilderness believing that he was alone and that his ministry had failed (1 Kings 19:4, 10). Yet God created us for relationship and community (Genesis 2:18). We may withdraw temporarily to rest and seek God, but we should not allow isolation to become our permanent home.

In 1 Kings 19:9-14

4. Why did God ask Elijah, "What are you doing here?"

Biblical answer: God was not seeking information; He was graciously inviting Elijah to examine how fear and discouragement had affected him (1 Kings 19:9–14). God's question was meant to restore Elijah, not reject him. The Lord met Elijah personally, spoke to him gently, and called him out of the cave.

In 1 Kings 19:15-18

5. How did God correct Elijah's belief that his ministry was finished?

Biblical answer: God gave Elijah new assignments, told him to appoint Elisha, and revealed that seven thousand Israelites had remained faithful (1 Kings 19:15–18). Elijah could see only his immediate hardship, but God was still advancing His purposes. Therefore, believers can remain steadfast, knowing that their labor in the Lord is never in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Timothy 2:2).