

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: — Luke 1:19, James 1:22, Romans 12:2, 2 Timothy 3:16–17, John 14:15

READ THE PASSAGE

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

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."

Elijah-means The Lord is God! (vs 1)

Idolatry is less about statues and more about self-promotion (vs 1)

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.

Obedience to the Word of God, rarely comes with full understanding of the Word of God (vs 2-5)

The issue is when our want collides with God's will.

Obedying God's Word leads us to trust God more (vs 2-5)

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.

God is the Promise Maker and the Promise Keeper (vs 6-7)

God is deepening our dependence when He changes our direction (vs 7)

Put into Practice:

[] Pray Scripture.

[] Stand in God's Presence.

[] Trust God, not God's provision.

Small Group Discussion Questions

God's Word always leads us where God's will wants us.

1. Elijah stood before King Ahab with confidence.

- Where did his confidence come from, and where should our confidence come from today? (vs 1)

2. It was said on Sunday: "Before asking, 'What do I want?' ask, 'What has God already said?'"

- Why is this an important question for followers of Jesus? (vs 1)

3. Elijah obeyed God before he understood everything. (vs 2-5)

- Why does God often call us to obedience before giving us the whole picture?

4. Can you think of a time when God asked you to take one faithful step instead of showing you the entire journey?

- What did you learn? (vs -5)

5. Elijah depended on God rather than the brook or the ravens. (vs 6-7)

- How can we unintentionally begin trusting God's gifts more than God Himself?

6. The brook eventually dried up, but God had not abandoned Elijah. (vs 7)

- How can seasons of change or loss actually become opportunities for deeper dependence on God?

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

1. Elijah stood before King Ahab with confidence.

- Where did his confidence come from, and where should our confidence come from today? (vs 1)

Biblical Answer:

Elijah's confidence did not come from his personality or position but from standing in the presence of the living God and speaking God's Word. Likewise, our confidence comes from abiding in Christ and trusting His Word rather than ourselves.

Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 4:12, Joshua 1:9, 2 Corinthians 3:5

2. It was said on Sunday: "Before asking, 'What do I want?' ask, 'What has God already said?'"

- Why is this an important question for followers of Jesus?

Read: Psalm 119:105; 1 Kings 17:1

Biblical Answer:

God's Word is our authority and guide. Our feelings and culture constantly change, but God's truth remains constant. Spiritual maturity is learning to submit our desires to God's revealed will.

Supporting Scriptures: James 1:22, Romans 12:2, 2 Timothy 3:16–17, John 14:15

3. Elijah obeyed God before he understood everything.

- Why does God often call us to obedience before giving us the whole picture?

Read: 1 Kings 17:2–5

Biblical Answer:

God grows our faith through dependence, not complete explanations. Obedience demonstrates trust in God's character even when we cannot yet see His plan.

Supporting Scriptures: Proverbs 3:5–6, Hebrews 11:8, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Isaiah 55:8–9

4. Can you think of a time when God asked you to take one faithful step instead of showing you the entire journey?

- What did you learn? (vs -5)

Biblical Answer:

Throughout Scripture, God typically leads His people one step at a time. As we obey what He has already revealed, He faithfully directs our next step and deepens our trust in Him.

Supporting Scriptures: Philippians 2:12–13, James 2:17, Matthew 6:33–34

5. Elijah depended on God rather than the brook or the ravens.

- How can we unintentionally begin trusting God's gifts more than God Himself?

Read: 1 Kings 17:6–7

Biblical Answer:

God often uses people, jobs, finances, or circumstances to provide for us, but those are merely instruments. Our hope must always remain in the Giver rather than His gifts.

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 20:7, Matthew 6:31–33, Philippians 4:19, James 1:17

6. The brook eventually dried up, but God had not abandoned Elijah.

- How can seasons of change or loss actually become opportunities for deeper dependence on God?

Read: 1 Kings 17:7

Biblical Answer:

When God removes one source of provision, He is often preparing us for the next step in His plan. Our circumstances may change, but God's promises and His presence never do. Trials teach us to depend more fully on Christ.

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 41:10, Romans 8:28, Lamentations 3:22–23, 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, Deuteronomy 8:2–3