

ELIJAH—1 THE MAKING OF A MAN OF GOD

ELIJAH: MY GOD IS JEHOVAH.

Now *Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."* 1 Kings 17:1

- **ISOLATED PAIN**

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan." 1 Kings 17:2-3

Kerith—cut off (from the blessings), or cut down.

"It is doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." A.W. Tozer

- **TOTAL DEPENDANCE**

You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. 1 Kings 17:4-6

- **UNCONDITIONAL OBEDIENCE**

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. 1 Kings 17:7-9a

Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth." 1 Kings 17:24

Discussion Questions

- 1) In 1 Kings 17:2-3, God led Elijah to a period of hiding in the Kerith Ravine. Kerith means "cut off or cut down." Describe a painful experience that God used to shape you into who you are today.
- 2) God taught Elijah to depend on Him daily for food and water. What are you trusting God for right now?
- 3) After the brook dried up, Elijah trusted God's word to move on to Zarephath. Is there a "dry brook" in your life God is using to lead you to take a step of faith? Explain.

ELIJAH—2 WHICH GOD DO YOU SERVE?

- **FALSE GODS PROMISE WHAT ONLY THE TRUE GOD PROVIDES.**

When (Ahab) saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. 1 Kings 18:17-18

Monotheism—belief there is one God.

Polytheism—belief there is multiple gods.

- What is your false god?
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ELIJAH'S PROPHETIC MESSAGE

- **IT IS TIME TO QUIT WAVERING.**

Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. 1 Kings 18:19-21

Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire — he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good." 1 Kings 18:24

So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. 1 Kings 18:26

At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." 1 Kings 18:27

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." 1 Kings 18:36-37

Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord-he is God! The Lord-he is God!" 1 Kings 18:38-39

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Christians believe there is one true God, but often unintentionally serve false gods. What are one or two false gods that continue to resurface in your life?
- 2) What do these false gods promise you that only God can provide?
- 3) What do you need to do to quit wavering between false gods and the one True God?

ELIJAH—3 ELIJAH PRAYS

17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a

half years. James 5:17

WE MUST COME BOLDLY BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE

...Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. 43 "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." 44 The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." ... 1 Kings 18:42b-44

FOUR QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1) EFFECTIVE PRAYERS ARE HUMBLE PRAYERS.

*(Elijah)... bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.
1 Kings 18:42*

*...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
James 4:6b,10*

2) EFFECTIVE PRAYERS ARE SPECIFIC PRAYERS.

"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said... 1 Kings 18:43

...You do not have, because you do not ask God. James 4:2b

3) EFFECTIVE PRAYERS ARE PERSISTANT PRAYERS.

"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." 1 Kings 18:43

...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16b NKJV

4) EFFECTIVE PRAYERS ARE EXPECTANT PRAYERS.

44 The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" 1 Kings 18:44

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

45 Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. 46 The power of the LORD came upon Elijah... 1 Kings 18:45-46a

WHAT IS YOUR PRAYER NEED?

Life Group Questions:

- Do you currently have a faith filled consistent prayer life? if not, describe your prayer life.
- What specific prayer do you need to bring before God?
- What is one prayer that you have consistently prayed? If there is not one, who or what must you commit to praying for?

ELIJAH—4 DEPRESSION

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

3 *Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.* 1 Kings 19:1-3a

HOW TO GET DEPRESSED IN 4 EASY STEPS

When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep...

1 Kings 19:3b-5a

- 1) WEAR YOURSELF OUT.
- 2) SHUT PEOPLE OUT.
- 3) FOCUS ON THE NEGATIVE.
- 4) FORGET GOD.

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR OUR DEPRESSION

- 1) GOD SAYS TO EAT AND REST.

5b All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. 1 Kings 19:5b-6

7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:7-8

- 2) GOD REPLACES OUR LIES WITH HIS TRUTH.

9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 1 Kings 19:9-10

- 3) GOD SPEAKS IN A STILL, SMALL VOICE.

11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19:11-12

- 4) GOD GIVES US SOMETHING TO DO.

15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

1 Kings 19:15-16

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. 2 Kings 2:11-12

Discussion Questions

- 1) Immediately following a great victory, Elijah became depressed. 1 Kings 19:3-5 illustrates four common contributors to depression. Elijah wore himself out, shut people out, focused on the negative, and forgot the faithfulness of God. Of these four, which one is your most common challenge?**
- 2) Elijah honestly believed he was the only faithful one left. God replaced this lie with the truth: there were actually 7000 others who still were faithful to God. Can you name a lie that you believe to be true? What is God's truth?**
- 3) God encouraged Elijah to eat and rest, to believe truth instead of lies, to listen to His voice, and to get back to doing what prophets do. At this season in your life, which of these areas resonate with you most? Why?**