



Life Group Discussion Guide

October 17 – 1 Kings 19:1-18 – The Fall of Elijah

Discussion Questions:

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the sermon?
2. Elijah had performed many miracles and had seen God's power in seemingly impossible situations, yet when he is threatened by Jezebel he is afraid, depressed, and even wants to die. Why do you think Elijah responded to this threat in this way?
3. For three years Elijah had not made a move without hearing from the Lord (1 Kings 17:2-3, 8-9, 18:1). But now Elijah fled from Jezebel (read 1 Kings 19:1-4) How do you go about your decision making? What role does the voice of the Lord play?
4. The angel of the Lord meets Elijah in the wilderness, but doesn't give him the answer he is seeking and gives him only enough food to sustain him on the next leg of his journey. Why draw out this encounter for 40 days? The number 40 is significant in the Bible. Can you think of anyone else who endured a trial for 40 days? What could we learn about God by reflecting on this pattern?
5. From watching the news, reading the paper, and scrolling social media we are inundated with information. Our bodies become over-stimulated. Elijah needed to rest his body and be restored (read 1 Kings 19:5-7). What are some ways that you try to restore and rest?
6. The Hebrew phrase translated "gentle whisper" is often understood as a still, soft voice, though the meaning of the phrase is actually unclear. Recently scholars have understood it to mean "sheer silence laden with a sense of holiness." God is made known in the silence and not in the loud manner of the earthquake or fire. Can you relate to this part of Elijah's story? Have you ever experienced God in the midst of silence?
7. Elijah felt lonely in his depression. Are you good at reaching out to people when you're discouraged? Why or why not?

8. In what ways can you relate to Elijah when he says, "I have had enough?"
9. Elijah complains that he is the only prophet still alive; yet, later in the chapter God tells him that hundreds of prophets are still alive (he had also met Obadiah who told him of 100 prophets who were still alive 1 Kings 18). Can you share a time when you were so afraid or frustrated that the fear distorted your sense of what was really true?
10. At the end of this passage, God tells Elijah to go back the way he came and to do something even more controversial – anoint someone else king. God's response to Elijah's trouble wasn't, "Oh, I'll take that difficulty away." Rather God said, "Go back to where I've called you." Have you ever experienced a time when God's presence helped direct you back to where he wanted you to be?