

LIFE OF ELIJAH DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

1 Kings 18:1-18

Overview

Read the following overview:

During the third year of the famine, God tells Elijah, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth” (v. 1). Although the thought of rain after a three-year drought was likely encouraging to Elijah, showing himself to Ahab would not be easy.

On his way, Elijah meets Obadiah, who “feared the Lord greatly” (v. 3), and he learns that Ahab has been searching everywhere for Elijah, likely to kill him. And when Elijah tells Obadiah to go tell Ahab where he is, Obadiah pushes back. Obadiah knows if he tells Ahab he’s seen Elijah and then Elijah flees, Ahab will kill Obadiah instead. But despite the threat to his life, Elijah follows through on his commitment. When Ahab sees Elijah, he calls him “troubler of Israel” (v. 17). Elijah stands firm and calls out the king’s idolatry.

Elijah’s willingness to say “yes” to God and go to Ahab at risk of his life is a striking example for us. Instead of calling Elijah to safety, God calls Elijah into the fray to stand firm for him. Elijah could have fled to safety, but he chose to have faith. Though we likely won’t be called to confront kings, God calls each of us to go into the various areas of our lives (home, work, neighborhood, etc.) and to take a stand for him, even when it’s costly.

Scripture

Read 1 Kings 18:1-15 aloud together.

After reading, discuss: What stands out to you from this passage?

After discussing your initial observations, use the following questions to reflect on how this passage of Scripture applies to your everyday life.

Reflect Together

1. In this passage, Elijah chose to listen to God and go to Ahab even though he was risking his life. Are you someone who enjoys confrontation? Or do you naturally avoid conflict?
2. Elijah “stirs the pot” out of obedience to God. How have you seen people in our world seek to “stir the pot” for good or for bad? How do you decide when it’s good and helpful to disrupt the status quo?

3. *Christ Connection:* Read John 20:19-21. Jesus connects the work he came to do — rescuing us from sin and death through his life, death, and resurrection — with work he gives us to do. How does God sending Jesus *for you* help you see yourself as someone “sent” into your family, workplace, neighborhood, school, etc? What would it look like for you to approach life with a God-given “mission” to accomplish? Share a few examples.
4. Elijah risked his life to go speak to Ahab again. What are some costs you’ve endured for standing firm in your faith? What are some potential costs that might keep you from standing firm for Christ?
5. Question for everyone: What’s one specific way God might be inviting you to stand firm for him and “stir the pot” at home, at work, in your neighborhood, or elsewhere?

Practice for the Week Ahead

Read the following practice for the week ahead:

Throughout our Life of Elijah series, we’re encouraging our church to seek the Lord in quiet, hidden places like Elijah.

This week, plan to set aside 20 minutes or more at least 5 days a week just to be with the Lord. Use part of that time to reflect on the various areas of your life where God has called you. How are you standing firm for him in those areas? Where can you grow? Where is he inviting you to “stir the pot” for him?

End in Prayer

Depending on time, you might have one person pray or several.

Pray:

Thank God for allowing us to partner with him to advance his mission in the world, and for giving us all we need to be faithful to him.

Ask the Spirit to grow in each person a deeper vision for living “sent” in all areas of life, and standing firm for Christ despite the cost.