



Sunday School Study Plan
August 2024 with Dr. Dewayne Dickens and Mrs. Hazel Reed
Topic for August 4, 11, 18, and 25

"Elijah's Discouragement as a Model of Leaders Rediscovering Zeal"

Week 1 (August 4): The Context of Elijah's Leadership and Discouragement

Lesson Focus:

- Introduction to Elijah's leadership and his initial victory over the prophets of Baal.
- Understanding how a leader can move from triumph to fear and discouragement.

Scripture Reading:

- 1 Kings 18:16-40 (Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal)
- 1 Kings 19:1-4 (Elijah's fear and flight)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal reveal about his leadership and faith? (1 Kings 18:38-39)
2. How did Jezebel's threat impact Elijah's confidence and leadership? (1 Kings 19:1-2)
3. How can leaders experience sudden shifts from success to fear and discouragement? (Consider Psalm 55:4-8)
4. What might Elijah's flight into the wilderness symbolize for leaders facing discouragement? (1 Kings 19:3-4)
5. How can leaders today relate to Elijah's feelings of isolation and despair? (2 Corinthians 1:8-9)

WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
 - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
 - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
 - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

Week 2 (August 11): God's Provision for the Discouraged Leader

Lesson Focus:

- Examining how God provided for Elijah's physical needs and the importance of self-care for leaders.
- Recognizing God's compassion and care during times of discouragement.

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19:5-8 (God provides food and rest for Elijah)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does God's provision for Elijah in his moment of despair reflect His care for leaders? (1 Kings 19:5-6)
2. Why is physical rest and nourishment crucial for leaders under pressure? (Mark 6:31)
3. In what ways can leaders ensure they are taking care of their own needs while leading others? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
4. How does God's response to Elijah's needs demonstrate His understanding of our humanity? (Psalm 23:1-3)
5. What can leaders learn from Elijah about recognizing and relying on God's provision? (Philippians 4:19)

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2 Timothy 2:15, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



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Week 3 (August 18): Finding God's Presence in the Quiet

Lesson Focus:

- Understanding the significance of Elijah's encounter with God at Mount Horeb.
- Learning to seek God's presence and guidance in times of quiet and reflection.

Scripture Reading:

- 1 Kings 19:9-13 (Elijah's encounter with God at Mount Horeb)

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Elijah express his feelings of isolation and failure to God? (1 Kings 19:9-10)
2. What is the significance of God revealing Himself to Elijah through a gentle whisper? (1 Kings 19:11-12)
3. Why might God choose to speak to leaders in quiet, gentle ways rather than through dramatic events? (1 Kings 19:12)
4. How can leaders create space in their lives to hear God's gentle whisper? (Psalm 46:10)
5. What does Elijah's encounter teach leaders about seeking God's presence in solitude? (1 Kings 19:13)

Week 4 (August 25): Renewed Zeal and Mission for Leaders

Lesson Focus:

- Exploring how God renewed Elijah's mission and provided reassurance that he was not alone.
- Encouraging leaders to find renewed purpose and zeal in God's plan.

Scripture Reading:

- 1 Kings 19:14-18 (God's renewed mission for Elijah)

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God renew Elijah's sense of purpose and mission as a leader? (1 Kings 19:15-16)
2. What is the significance of God revealing that there were still 7,000 faithful people in Israel? (1 Kings 19:18)
3. How can understanding that they are not alone encourage leaders facing discouragement? (Hebrews 12:1-2)
4. In what ways can leaders support and encourage each other when facing challenges? (Galatians 6:2)
5. How can leaders discern and embrace God's renewed purpose for their lives and work? (Jeremiah 29:11)

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Self-Quiz Questions for Elijah Study for August 2024

1. **What challenge did Elijah present to the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel?*

- A) To see who could build the highest altar
- B) To see whose god would answer by fire
- C) To see who could shout the loudest
- D) To see who could gather the most people
- (1 Kings 18:24)

2. **How many prophets of Baal did Elijah confront on Mount Carmel?*

- A) 100
- B) 250
- C) 450
- D) 600
- (1 Kings 18:22)

3. **What did Elijah do to the altar of the Lord before calling on God?*

- A) Covered it with gold
- B) Repaired it and poured water on it
- C) Painted it
- D) Built it from scratch
- (1 Kings 18:30-35)

4. **How many times did Elijah pour water on the burnt offering and the wood?*

- A) Once
- B) Twice
- C) Three times
- D) Four times
- (1 Kings 18:34)

5. **What happened when Elijah called on the Lord at Mount Carmel?*

- A) The altar crumbled
- B) Fire from the Lord consumed the burnt offering
- C) A strong wind blew the altar away
- D) The sky turned dark
- (1 Kings 18:38)

6. **What did the people do when they saw the fire from the Lord consume the offering?*

- A) They ran away in fear
- B) They fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is God!"
- C) They shouted for joy
- D) They rebuilt the altar
- (1 Kings 18:39)

7. **Who threatened Elijah's life after the prophets of Baal were defeated?*

- A) King Ahab
- B) Jezebel
- C) The people of Israel
- D) Baal himself
- (1 Kings 19:1-2)

8. **Where did Elijah flee to after receiving Jezebel's threat?*

- A) Samaria
- B) Jerusalem
- C) Beersheba
- D) Bethel
- (1 Kings 19:3)

9. **Under what type of tree did Elijah sit and pray to die?*

- A) Olive tree
- B) Fig tree
- C) Juniper tree
- D) Oak tree
- (1 Kings 19:4)

10. **Who provided food and drink to Elijah in the wilderness?*

- A) A raven
- B) An angel
- C) A widow
- D) A shepherd
- (1 Kings 19:5-6)

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11. **How long did Elijah travel after being strengthened by the food and drink provided by the angel?*

- A) 7 days
- B) 14 days
- C) 30 days
- D) 40 days
- (1 Kings 19:8)

12. **Where did Elijah go after his journey of 40 days and 40 nights?*

- A) Mount Sinai
- B) Mount Carmel
- C) Mount Horeb
- D) Mount Zion
- (1 Kings 19:8)

13. **What did God first ask Elijah when he stayed in a cave at Mount Horeb?*

- A) "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- B) "Why have you come here?"
- C) "Where are you going?"
- D) "Who are you looking for?"
- (1 Kings 19:9)

14. **How did God reveal His presence to Elijah at Mount Horeb?*

- A) In a powerful wind
- B) In an earthquake
- C) In a fire
- D) In a gentle whisper
- (1 Kings 19:11-12)

15. **What was Elijah's complaint to God at Mount Horeb?*

- A) "I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."
- B) "I have done all you asked, but the people do not listen."
- C) "I am tired and cannot continue."
- D) "I need more power to overcome my enemies."
- (1 Kings 19:10)

16. **Who did God tell Elijah to anoint as king over Aram?*

- A) Hazael
- B) Jehu
- C) Ben-Hadad
- D) Ahab
- (1 Kings 19:15)

17. **Who was Elijah to anoint as the next prophet to succeed him?*

- A) Elisha
- B) Isaiah
- C) Samuel
- D) Amos
- (1 Kings 19:16)

18. **How many people did God say had not bowed down to Baal in Israel?*

- A) 1,000
- B) 5,000
- C) 7,000
- D) 10,000
- (1 Kings 19:18)

19. **What did Elijah do after receiving God's instructions at Mount Horeb?*

- A) He returned to his cave
- B) He went back the way he came
- C) He prayed for guidance
- D) He built another altar
- (1 Kings 19:15)

20. **Who met Elijah and followed him after he threw his cloak on him?*

- A) Hazael
- B) Jehu
- C) Elisha
- D) Gehazi
- (1 Kings 19:19)

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