

STUDY GROUP 1 (1 KINGS 17)

"DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD"

ELIJAH: STUDY GROUP 1 – SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

Perhaps start with a summary of key background points – what was Ahab's reign like, the spiritual state of the nation.

V1 Ahab's Court

- What brought the drought on? Why did it happen? Cp ch18:17-18
- Why drought? Deut 11:13-17
- Jas 5, lessons on prayer.
- LORD God of Israel lives – lessons for us, how does this affect the way we live our lives?

V2-7 Brook Cherith

Why be sent to the brook, if his mission was to convert Israel?

Incident for Elijah's benefit, so he can learn some lessons. What lessons?

- Ravens and food unclean – abomination under God's law
- Elijah essentially saw Israel as an abomination, also saw gentiles in this way
- God preparing him for still small voice approach – "less is more"
- Preparation for widow of Zarephath – cp Peter and Cornelius Acts 10

Elijah went according to word of God – lessons for us (obedience)

V8-16 Widow of Zarephath

- Link between ravens and widow; still trusting in God to provide each day (note Prov 30:8-9, but also a symbol of how to teach effectively)
- Why was Elijah sent here? (gentile widow, Jezebel's homeland) – Lk 4:24-26 hiding from Jezebel's persecution.
- Does what God asked – believes in God's existence and power, trusts in Him.

V17-24 Healing The Boy

- Note trust that woman placed in Elijah, also her recognition of personal sin – how do we deal with trials? How should we? (Jas 1:2-4, Heb 12:13-14, Psa 55:22)
- Why does God give us trials?
- Elijah showing compassion, God responded. God working on Elijah's character. What other emotions are displayed by Elijah (who we normally think of as tough, unemotional)
- Identification with boy in his situation
- Again, praying for healing – link with Jas 5

TAKE HOME POINTS

1. Never underestimate the power of prayer – be persistent and have faith.
2. Be obedient to God – Trust, act. God lives (v1)
3. Approach to others – love thy neighbour, don't treat them as dirt (ravens, widow).