

# STUDY GROUP 4 (1 KINGS 19:1-18 & 2 KINGS 1) "GOD DEVELOPING US FOR THE KINGDOM"

## ELIJAH: STUDY GROUP 4 – SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

### 1 Kings 19:1-2 Jezebel's threat to Elijah

Elijah is back in Jezreel on a high and is now awaiting Ahab's confirmation that Jezebel has been overthrown and that reformation has begun. Jezebel realises her dire political situation and threatens Elijah.

#### Discussion ideas

- What indications are there in the text to show us Jezebel gave an empty threat?
- Jezebel boasted. What does scripture say about boasting? Cp Prov 27:1; Jas 4:13-16

### V3-8 Elijah's trip into the desert

Prior to dealing with this section, make sure you have at least read through pg 101-103 of the notes

Elijah travels into the desert and shows classic signs that he's suffering depression. His symptoms include

- Leaves a good support network
- Body rejects new information
- Focussing on himself
- Self pity
- Tunnel vision
- Unrealistic fear
- Distorted thinking
- Fatigue
- Exaggeration of his position

God's provision for Elijah is the model that we need to use in dealing with people with depression

- Providing immediate needs in love
- Being there in comfort
- Providing wise counsel

#### Discussion ideas

- When we are depressed, how can we help ourselves? Any passages?
- How can we implement God's methodology when dealing with depression? Practical ideas?
- How do we deal with a person who is suicidal?
- How can we identify if a person is depressed or not?

### V9-14 Elijah's motives questioned

Elijah goes to Horeb with the intention of seeing God as a God of judgement, while God uses the situation to show him that He is a God of love.

Look up the following links with How Elijah thought (Ex 19-32) and what God wanted to show him (Ex 33-34). NB – all this happened in the same space of time Elijah was on the mountain

| Events of Ex 19-32                               | Elijah's mind                             |
|--|---|
| We'll do what Yahweh says (19:8)                 | Yahweh, he is the God (18:39-40)          |
| Thunder, lightning, cloud, earthquake (19:16-18) | Earthquake, wind, fire (19:12)            |
| Fear and quake (Heb 12:18-21)                    | Possibly what Elijah wanted Israel to see |
| 12 pillars according to 12 tribes (24:4)         | 12 stones according to 12 tribes (18:31)  |
| 40 days and nights in mountain (24:18)           | 40 days and nights in mountain (19:8)     |
| God was like a fire (24:17)                      | This is what Elijah wanted to see (19:12) |
| <b>Does Elijah see history repeating itself?</b> |   |
| Golden calf incident (Ex 32:1-6)                 | I only am left (19:10,14)                 |

The difference between Elijah and Moses is that Moses prayed FOR Israel, while Elijah prayed AGAINST them. Cp Rom 11:1-4 with Ex 32:10-14

Contrast where Elijah's mind was with what God wanted him to see. i.e. His character in Ex 33-34.

| Ex 33-34                        | How God wanted Elijah to connect with this chapter |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Yahweh talked with Moses        | Word of Yahweh came to Elijah (v9)                 |
| God knows him by name           | What doest thou here Elijah (v9)                   |
| God's glory passes by           | God passed by (v11)                                |
| Hidden in cleft of a rock       | 'the' cave (v9)                                    |
| Only person in the mount        | No one else with Elijah (v3)                       |
| Pulled veil over his face       | Wrapped his face in a mantle (v13)                 |
| 40 days and nights without food | 40 days and nights without food (v8)               |

Q. Did Elijah see what God wanted him to see when he 'identified' with Moses by wrapping his face in a mantle?

Discussion ideas

- How do we respond to correction from others, let alone God?
- What's the attitude God requires from us when we're corrected? How can we show this?
- God used the still small voice to correct Elijah. How can we correct others without making them upset with us?
- Why did Elijah need to use the still small voice?
- How can we follow God's example when trying to turn someone around?
- What elements of God's character are seen in him not leaving Elijah even though he didn't change?

**2 Kings 1:1-18 Has Elijah learnt the lesson of the still small voice?**

Context – approx 5 years after 1 Kings 19. The question now is whether Elijah has learned the lesson of the still small voice.

Ahaziah, after he was sick from falling off his roof, sent messengers to Ekron to ask of Baalzeebub (God of the flies) whether he'd get better. Elijah then confronts the messengers and tells Ahaziah that he would not recover. Ahaziah then sends a captain and his 50 men to bring Elijah to Ahaziah. This happens 3 times because Elijah kills the first 2.

Should Elijah have condemned the men? (2 perspectives)

Yes? God's judgements are always right, therefore the fire was righteous judgement

No?

153 men – number of the sons of God Cp Jn 21

Heads of 50 characteristics – able, feared God, hate covetousness, loved the Truth

When else was Elijah told about a group of 50 people?

Elijah addressed as a man of God

Luke 9:54-56 – Christ appears to condemn Elijah's attitude.

Humility saved the last captain.

Discussion ideas

- Did Elijah do the right thing/wrong thing?
- Pride and humility are often contrasted. How can we show humility in the following situations? Doing the speed limit, honesty in tax return, being told you're wrong, knowing you need to change but not wanting to.
- How does pride hinder a contrite and humble spirit?

