



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Turbulence*

Scripture: *1 Kings 17-19*

Date: July 13-14, 2019

Message: *Beyond the Finish*

Line

—[LET'S START]—

Pastor Dale talked about the prophet Elijah in his sermon this weekend. Many consider Elijah to be Israel's greatest prophet. Who are some of the characters in the Bible that you admire the most? Why?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Read 1 Kings 17 together as a group.
 - Put yourself in the place of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1. How do you think you would have felt? Why do you think this is the message that God wanted Elijah to deliver?
 - What does 1 Kings 17:2-6 teach us about God? How have you seen God provide for you in unexpected ways?
 - What does 1 Kings 17:7-24 teach you about God? What does Elijah's prayer in verse 20:1 teach you about Elijah? (Consider the fact that there is no other Old Testament account of a resurrection before the boy's resurrection in this section.)
3. Read 1 Kings 18 together as a group.
 - What miracles do you see in this chapter?
 - What does this chapter teach you about God?
 - What is the significance of verses 38-39?
4. Read 1 Kings 19 together as a group.
 - What is one lesson that impacts you from this chapter?

—[LET'S ACT]—

It's easy to get discouraged when God doesn't meet our expectations. Sometimes in the midst of turbulence it's easy to forget how powerfully God has worked in the past. As you close this session take time to praise God some of the ways that He has shown His faithfulness to you in the past. When most of the group has shared, close in prayer.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- When we undergo real turbulence in our lives – when we are to the edge of despair, discouragement or disillusionment we can be tempted to get so frustrated with God that we just want to quit the faith. Some of God's most devoted followers experienced that feeling too.
- The name Elijah means, "I serve one God" or "the Lord is my God."
- Elijah was used by God to confront King Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel. Jezebel was a foreign bride who brought with her to Israel the worship of the false god Baal and Baal's mother Ashrah. She brought along and entourage of 850 prophets of Baal.
- Elijah prophesied that Israel would experience a 3 year drought. It did. But, God took care of Elijah, providing for him a wilderness called Kerith. The wilderness had a brook for water and God fed Elijah with fresh food every day delivered by means of ravens. Elijah had to learn to trust God one day at a time.
- Sometimes we get so anxious about the future that we fail to enjoy the present. Rather than be weighed down by a past you cannot change or the future you have not lived yet, just make today the best day you can. Learn to trust God, one day at a time.
- Eventually the brook ran dry. So, God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarepath, who herself was destitute. God provided for the widow, her son, and Elijah through a jar of flour and a jug of olive oil that never ran dry until the day that the Lord sent the rain.
- Tragedy struck while Elijah stayed at the widow's home. Her son died. But, Elijah prayed and God did a miracle, raising the son back to life.
- Elijah's faith was like a muscle, growing and growing. He was getting stronger and stronger in the Lord. He's watching God respond to faith in powerful ways with his Word. Basic training was over.
- In 1 Kings 18, Elijah would challenge the prophets of Baal and Ashrah to prove that the God of Israel was greater than the false gods of Baal and Ashrah. God proves his greatness as the sacrifices on the altar were destroyed by fire from heaven that consumed drenched wood, stones, and soil.
- When you're exhausted, you make the big mistakes that could take your life from you. Elijah had a huge expectation. After the experience at Mt. Carmel, nobody turns their heart back to God! That was a huge letdown.
- Sometimes we wonder, "God, why do you keep moving the finish line?" We feel overwhelmed.

- Somewhere in Elijah's life I think what happened is he went from faith, trusting and watching God do all these things to actually feeling it was his job, his responsibility. He was the one that was going to solve this whole thing.
- I want you to know that no matter what your situation or how you're feeling about yourself, others or God today, He hasn't changed. He knows you, sees you and loves you.
- Elijah had expectations for God that weren't God's expectations. We have to be careful not to project our expectations upon God.
- Elijah came to terms with the fact that it wasn't about him being in control. It wasn't about God meeting his expectations. It was about Elijah being faithful, faithful to a God, who does provide in strange and weird ways. Like the widow, like the brook, like the ravens. He is a God that provides for me to be faithful to Him. All that matters in life is that you and I, in our trials, just live faithfully for God.

—[NOTES]—
