

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 3 – The Troubler

Transition: Last week, we saw that as the famine in Israel grew worse, God sent Elijah to a neighboring foreign land (that worships Baal & Mot and not Yahweh) to have a widow take care of him. In this story, we saw the journey of the widow's faith in the God of Elijah as God proved to her that He is the one, true God. (First, by sustaining their lives through perpetually supplying them with flour and oil, but even more, by bringing her dead son back to life.)

Context: This week the story begins to intensify as it heads toward the inevitable showdown between Ahab/Baal and Elijah/Yahweh. In building up to the showdown (which will be covered next week), we are shown the stark contrast between true followers of the true God and those who aren't.

Opening Questions:

- When have you been hard pressed between either obeying God or obeying the human in authority over you? Share the story. What did you do? How did you make your decision? How did it turn out?
- Have you ever concealed your identity as a Christian? If so, share why you did it, how you concealed it, and how it turned out. Whether you've done it or not, share and discuss some situations when it might be appropriate.

Scripture/Storying: 1 Kings 18:1-18

Discipleship Questions:

- God clearly tells Elijah what He wants him to do, and Elijah obeys immediately (v1-2). When do you find it hard to obey God immediately and when is it easier? Share an example of both or either.
- Elijah obeyed God immediately, but Obadiah did not obey Elijah immediately. Why do you think that is? Why is it generally easier to obey a direct order from God as opposed to one through an intermediary?
- Preachers serve as God's intermediary with every message they deliver (thinking the best of them!) What was said in the most recent message you heard that you took to heart? ...that you struggled with?
- In what ways do you identify with Obadiah?
- What does Ahab's statement that Elijah is "the troubler of Israel" reveal about Ahab? What is his basis for saying it? Elijah does not accept this but instead, tells Ahab that he's the actual troubler. What is the basis for his claim against Ahab? When two conflicting claims happen like this, how do you discern which claim (if either) is true? Can you think of any modern-day examples of this?
- It could be argued that Jesus is the ultimate troubler of Israel. Read John 11:45-53. How was Jesus being a troubler of Israel a good thing? When has His being a "troubler" been good for you personally?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Favor Africa; a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray for wisdom, patience, understanding, and accuracy as they help the Kachipo tribe translate the Bible into their own language.