

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 1 – Now Elijah

Transition: Last week we finished our study of Ephesians. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to help followers of Jesus understand their identity in Christ and to know what it means to be a member of God's redeemed community.

Context: This week we are starting a new study based on the lives of the northern kingdom of Israel's most biblically prolific prophets—Elijah and Elisha. The united kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms (the northern kingdom, aka Israel and Ephraim; and the southern kingdom, aka Judah) during the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. By the time Elijah arrived on the scene, many ungodly kings had reigned over the northern kingdom. But God's love for His people did not wane. Their prophetic ministries continually called the northern tribes to stay true to God. For more insight, check out this link to Got Questions ... [*Why did the kingdom of Israel divide?](#)

Opening Questions:

- How would you describe the state of the world right now? ...how about our nation? What are your feelings and thoughts about it?
- Have you ever stood alone against a culture? (e.g., family, work, friends, a social structure, or the government, etc.) If so, why? Share the story including how it turned out. What did you learn from it?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Kings 16:29 – 17:6

Discipleship Questions:

- How would you describe the culture of the northern kingdom when Elijah arrived on the scene? Do you notice any similarities between that culture then and our culture in America now? If so, in what ways?
- The setting of this scene could be entitled "Gods at War." How does the true God show His might over the false god? In what ways is what we learned from Ephesians 6 helpful in understanding how to live in light of this battle?
- Elijah suddenly appears in the Scripture (with very little background information) and makes a gutsy pronouncement to the king (17:1). What is your reaction to what he said? Has God ever called you to do something "gutsy" like this? If so, what was it and how did it turn out?
- In what different ways does the LORD take care of Elijah after he confronts King Ahab (17:2-6)? What is odd about the way God provides for him? What does this reveal to you about the nature of God?
- God provided food and water for Elijah but allowed His faithful people to endure the trial the same as the followers of Baal. Do you identify more with Elijah or with the people of Israel who remained true to Yahweh? Why does God allow His people to suffer like this?
- One potential reason why God inspired Elijah to hide is because, as the deliverer of God's word, not only would there be no food or water, but there would also be no word from God. What's your reaction to this and how does it impact you?
- Read James 5:13-18. According to James, what does Elijah continue to teach us, even today? Describe your prayer life. In what ways do you struggle with maintaining an active and vibrant prayer life? What will you do to change?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for KIN (Knoxville International Network), a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray that the Lord brings the right person to fill the open position on our board.

- Pray that the KIN volunteers and their international friends transitioning out of LaMP (Language and Mentoring Partners) would continue to be sensitive to the Lord and that the volunteers would be ready for new pairings as the Lord leads.
- Praise for two grants that were received to supplement the salary of their new Assistant ELL Coordinator. Please pray that the Lord continues to bring the funding needed for KIN to do the daily work that the Lord calls them to do.

* the link in full form is: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Israel-Northern-Southern-kingdoms.html>