

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Elijah — Facing Our Fears

Week 6: God Encourages Us

1 Kings 19:8-19

June 23, 2024

Pastor Jeff Griffin

How do we handle discouragement when we look at spiritual trends in our nation — and around the globe? Let's glean more insights from the prophet Elijah about how God encourages us when we're feeling down in the spiritual dumps.

Kicking It Off:

If you were to name a “hero” (someone from your past or a person from the Bible) from your spiritual journey, who would you pick?

Discussion:

1. Increasingly, Christians are viewed as an odd minority in the world. What do you think are possible reasons for the decline in fewer people calling themselves Christians today?
2. Recall a time when you were expecting God to show off in big ways, but instead He was much more subtle. What are some avenues God might use to reach us, that we might not expect?

“The LORD said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” (1 Kings 19:11-12)

3. Jeff reminded us how God is sovereign and in control of international affairs through His effective, **divine plans**. Why is this good news for all believers? What makes you skeptical about it?
4. The enemy of this world oftentimes makes us think we're the “only one” who's serving the Lord in our community. How can God's **unseen strength** give us motivation to persevere? What would change in your spiritual life if you knew there were thousands of other believers around you?
5. Sometimes **individual victories** can remind us that God is still on the move, as Elijah saw demonstrated through the younger prophet, Elisha. Where have you seen this principal lived out in ministry? How does it bolster your faith to remember that we only play a fraction of the part that God is doing around the world?
6. Jeff shared this formula: *Divine Plans + Unseen Strength + Individual Victories = Restored Zeal*

Which of these do you sense you most need to focus on this month? How can our group help?

Wrapping Up:

Elijah's season of discouragement coming to a close infuses us with hope to “keep on keeping on” in our spiritual assignments — wherever God has called us. Pray each member of your group will persevere, even in times of doubt or frustration, trusting that God's greater plans can still come to fruition.