

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Elijah — Facing Our Fears Week 3: God Desires Our Prayers 1 Kings 17:17-24

June 2, 2024
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Asking why God allows some hardship in certain people's lives and not others is a profound question at the core of many of our spiritual journeys. How can we gain insights into this common spiritual mystery? Join us as continue learning from the life of the prophet Elijah.

Kicking It Off:

Your thoughts on the 17-year Cicadas' invasion: yay or nay? (Where were you during the summer of 2007?)

Discussion:

1. Many of us have experienced a crisis of faith and questioned God, asking "Why me, Lord?!" Share some examples of challenges people can endure that bring about this question.
2. After her son faces severe illness, the widow from Zarephath shared some pretty direct words with Elijah. Have you ever been blamed when someone was actually mad at God? (Or perhaps been the one who blamed someone else?) If so, how did you cope with that?
3. It's not unusual to feel like God has purposely inflicted tragedy on us. However, the brokenness of all humanity (as shown in Genesis 3 and Romans 8) also impacts our lives. How does this truth affect your perspective in dealing with life's confusion and pain?
4. One way to deal with hardship is to follow Elijah's example and cry out to God for help when we suffer or someone close to us is suffering. What are some challenges you've faced in the past that bolstered your prayer life — or that could use some more prayer today?

"And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the LORD, 'O LORD my God, please let this child's life return to him.' The LORD heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived!" (1 Kings 17:20-21, NLT)

5. Although we might not be a widow who lost our only son, at times we all experience circumstances that only God can revive. For instance, a marriage on life-support. A friendship that's struggling. Loving a prodigal child or sibling or parent who's walked far from God. What are some Scripture truths that encourage you to keep clinging to the Lord, when you could honestly use a miracle? (Consider taking notes and sharing these in a group text later.)
6. God doesn't promise ease, but He does promise that He can use hardship in our lives to redeem us. He also promises that His Son fully conquered death and offers us eternal life. How does the thought of mere *temporary suffering* on earth bring you hope?

Wrapping Up:

God promises to take even our most heartbreaking pain and transform it for good, if we trust Him with it. (Read Romans 8:28-30.) Spend time praying for your group members to experience renewed hope and strength, even in the midst of personal tragedy.