

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Elijah - Facing our Fears
Week 7: God Makes Us Brave
2 Kings 1:1-17

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At times, it's easy for us to hold back out of fear. And yet God is in the business of making cowards courageous. How can we see God's true greatness that characterizes Him, as we face problems of all kinds? Let's take a closer look at Elijah's example in dealing with life's troubles.

Kicking It Off:

In honor of King Ahaziah falling from the 2nd story, share with your group: Do you have a fear of heights? If not, what's one of the tallest views you've ever seen before?

Discussion:

1. We see early in 2 Kings 1:2 that King Ahaziah wanted to consult a false "god" of Ekron. Can you relate? What kind of life issues might tempt you to look to someone besides God for answers?

"So he sent messengers to the temple of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether he would recover." (NLT)

2. When King Ahaziah's army finds Elijah (2 Kings 1:9), he's sitting on the top of a hill. How might some distance and perspective have helped Elijah in this instance? Likewise, how can this apply to you, with whatever challenges you're facing?

3. We learn that over time, Elijah has grown in his confidence as a prophet, now showing no fear as he deals with worry and anxiety. How does this example challenge or encourage you to think about your past, as well as to plan for your future?

4. Read Psalm 27:3 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. What are some times in the past few weeks where these verses could have reassured you that God is fighting for you and your problems?

"Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident."

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

5. In what ways do you believe that sharing Elijah's perspective would help you deal with certain issues in your life? How have you grown since your spiritual journey first began?

Wrapping Up:

Jeff said that when God gets bigger in our lives, our problems appear smaller. Pray that your group members will continue to grow spiritually and allow God to enlarge your focus — and grant you courage to do whatever He's called you to do.