



Week 5 (May 31-June 6): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question - Ask, "Have you ever experienced despair to the point that you wanted to end your own life? Please share."

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Judges 7:9-23.

Ask someone from your team to read the following background for the story:

It was the time of the kings. The nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms – the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). Historically, the southern kingdom had both good kings and evil kings, but the northern kingdom only had evil kings. Today's story takes place during the reign of Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel in the northern kingdom.

God raised up a prophet by the name of Elijah to pronounce judgment on Israel (the northern kingdom) for their idolatrous ways (they were worshiping Baal instead of God). Elijah desired to see the worship of God restored in Israel. God sent Elijah to speak to Ahab and Jezebel and tell them that God was going to judge Israel and there would be no rain for three and a half years. Elijah's prophecy came true, and the land experienced a great drought – a miracle! At the end of the drought, God sent Elijah to confront the prophets of Baal and to put them to the test. The prophets of Baal failed, but God did another miracle through Elijah! Through the miracle, the people realized that the prophets of Baal were false prophets, and Elijah slayed all the prophets of Baal with the sword. King Ahab witnessed the miracle God performed through Elijah and the execution of the false prophets. Surely Elijah must have believed that these great miracles would spark revival in the heart of King Ahab and all the people! Our story today begins when Jezebel hears about the execution of the prophets of Baal and the miracle of Elijah...

Tell the story from 1 Kings 19:1-18

Rebuild the story – (Group members tell the story based on what they remember)

Read 1 Kings 19:1-18 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Discuss these questions:

- Why was Elijah experiencing despair? (despair is wanting to die or wanting to quit)
- What makes you feel like you are "the only one"?
- What does this story teach us about winning over despair?
- In the story, God spoke to Elijah through a whisper. Listen. What is God speaking to you right now?

Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.

Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.

Prayer Requests (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

Pray (don't feel the need to mention every request in prayer again, just pray for the group and send the email)



Week 5: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

Tips on storying the Bible:

- Use your own words. Don't try to memorize it word for word. Keep all the components and concepts, just tell it like you would a personal story.
- Use a children's Bible as an example for how to tell the story in a simple way. This will give you an idea of telling a story that is easily understandable. (Try the NIV Bible available at www.biblegateway.com!)
- Don't add your own commentary or teaching while you're telling the story. Just tell the story like it is in the Bible. You may have an opportunity to discuss things further, but this is the time to keep it straight from the Bible.
- Don't teach as you are telling the story. This time is not meant for Bible study. It is for the people in your group to hear God's word, and get personal with it. The Bible is powerful all on its own. Let the Holy Spirit teach as the story is being told.

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- As group leaders, we have certain responsibilities. One of those is to help the people in our groups to take "growth risks." What does this mean exactly? Well, sometimes we might need to give someone a little push. Challenge the members of your group to serve. Challenge someone who has never told the story to tell it the next week in group. Encourage them to pray about what leadership positions God may be calling them to step into.
 - Every Wednesday night our church works together to reach out to the students, children, and families of this community. We currently want to include more adults who would be willing to invest in this community. See Brandon Werner to get connected to serve on Wednesday nights. Contact info can be found on the church website.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- Continuing our study of I Cor. 13:4-7, the next sentence describing the characteristics of love reads, "Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude."
- Examine the way you relate to people in your home, your church and your community. Continue to substitute your name for the word love by substituting it in the verse above. If the description is not accurate, pray that God will help you make the necessary changes.

Lesson from The Met's Leadership Coaching Guide:

<http://themetonline.org/content/uploads/2014/12/All-of-Us-Week-2-Peter-Declares-that-Jesus-is-the-Messiah.pdf>