



## **“Do You Hear Him?” FLOW**

### **Small Group Plan**

The Hebrew word for “God” in the Old Testament is *Elohim*, which is occasionally abbreviated, *El*. The word *Jah* is the word for “Jehovah.” Therefore in Elijah’s name we find the word for “God” and the word for “Jehovah.”

Between them is the small letter *I*, which, in Hebrew, has reference to the personal pronoun “my” or “mine.” Therefore, putting the three together, *El-I-Jah*, we find that Elijah’s name means “My God is Jehovah.”

#### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- When have you experienced God’s power most clearly?

#### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

### **A MESSAGE OF DANGER 1 Kings 19:1-5a**

<sup>1</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” <sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

- How can Elijah be so bold in chapter 18 and yet so fearful here in chapter 19?
- When he says, “I have had enough” what is he feeling and what does he mean?
- After courageously risking his life why does he now ask God to take his life?
- How do you interpret his sleep?

## **A MESSAGE OF GRACE** **1 Kings 19:5b-9a**

*All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.*

- What is the over-all message brought to Elijah by the angel?
- How would it feel to be "touched" by an angel (vs. 5, 7)?
- Notice that God doesn't answer all of Elijah's questions here. He just gets him ready to travel. What happens to Elijah during his month plus journey?
- What does he think about along the way?

## **A MESSAGE OF POWER** **1 Kings 19:9b-13a**

*And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.*

- God knew what was in the heart of Elijah. So, why does he ask, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- Why are floods, earthquakes and tornados called "acts of God"?
- What is God trying to say by not being "in" the wind, earthquake and fire?
- After all these messages of what many would call "power" why does the "gentle whisper" impact Elijah so greatly?
- What is God saying in his gentle whisper?
- Why does he cover his face and walk to the entrance the cave?

## **A MESSAGE OF HOPE**

### **1 Kings 19:13b-21**

*Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>14</sup> He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” <sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.” <sup>19</sup> So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. <sup>20</sup> Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.*

- Why does God ask Elijah a second time, “What are you doing here?”
- Why does Elijah feel like he is all alone in his faith? How could he have missed the seven thousand others who stand faithful?
- When Elisha decided to follow Elijah, what might be some of the most recent lessons Elijah could teach him?
- Notice that fear and self-doubt do not disqualify Elijah as a mentor. Why?

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- Have you ever felt confident in one moment but then hopeless in the next moment? What happened?
- Can you think of a time when you felt like the confident Elijah? Describe it. How about a time when you felt like the fearful Elijah?
- When you experience a slump, a let down, or even a slight depression, what helps you to recover?
- What do you need the most right now?
- Close in prayer asking God to help us to hear his gentle whisper.