LESSON 9

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
MARCH 02 2024

Scripture Story: 1 Kings 17:1–16.
Commentary: *Prophets and Kings* (or *Royalty in Ruins*), chapters 9; 10 first part (pp. 119-132).

never alone



Photo by Audrey Goforth

flashlight

"The word of faith and power was upon his [Elijah's] lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 119).

keytext

" 'It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.' So he went and did according to the word of the LORD. . . . The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook."

(1 Kings 17:4–6, NASB)

what do you think?

God sometimes refers to Himself as a father, or a mother, and Jesus even refers to Himself as a brother. If you were in a hard, difficult, or even life-threatening situation in your life, who would you want to be there with you? Rank them in order of importance from 1 being the highest to 5 being the lowest.

___ Mother
___ Father
___ Sister
___ Brother
___ Best friend

did you know?

The Old Testament is not the only place where we see Elijah. In fact, he appears to Peter and John at the Transfiguration on the Mount of Olives, talking with Jesus. Elijah was not alone, though; with him appeared Moses. Jesus told His two accompanying disciples not to tell anyone about the incident until after His death. This incident is told in three of the four Gospel accounts with very little variation in the retelling, showing that it was a very important incident in Jesus' life and ministry. God obviously cared a lot about Elijah, and at the end of his ministry, God took Elijah away from this earth so that he could live with Him.

INTO THE STORY

"Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.' The word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.' So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

"Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.' So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, 'Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink.' As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, 'Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.' Then Elijah said to her, 'Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel, "The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth." ' So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah."

(1 Kings 17:1–16, NASB)

OUT OF THE STORY

How has God provided for you in your life?

Have you ever had a time when He worked something out for you, or when you felt Him just when you needed Him?

What were some other times in Elijah's life where God provided for him?

How did it strengthen Elijah's faith in God when God helped him out?

It took courage for the widow to feed Elijah when she barely had enough food for herself and her son. How can we exhibit that courage in our lives?

Read 1 Kings 19. How did God show Elijah that He would always be there for him?

Does God still do things like that in modern times? If so, what instances do you know of?

punch lines

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" **(Isaiah 41:10, NASB).**

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me" **(Psalm 139:7–10, NASB).**

"Then the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth' " **(1 Kings 17:24, NASB).**

"It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" **(Luke 1:17, NASB).**

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months" **(James 5:17, NASB).**

further insight

"And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah."

—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 131

Sabbath

Read Isaiah 41:10.

When you are frightened or in a bad situation it is comforting to have a close person like a family member to offer a hug or a kind word. In the *What Do You Think?* section of this week's lesson you thought about who you would really want to be there with you in a dangerous or scary situation.

How does it make you feel to know that God will never ever leave you, even if there is no one else there for you?

Sunday

Read James 5:17.

All through Elijah's life God provided for and looked out for him. Even when Elijah ran away from his work, God was still with him. At the end of his life, God decided to take Elijah to his real home: heaven. God cared for him so much that He wanted him to live with Him eternally in heaven, and not die here on earth. How would you feel about having that kind of relationship with God? Write your thoughts in a letter to God. (You can use the Notes pages in the back of your study guide if you need additional space.)

Monday

Read 1 Kings 17:4–6.

Read this week's *Key Text*. Can you imagine how much courage it took to walk up to the king of Israel and tell him that there would be no rain until he, the king, gave up being sinful, along with the entire nation that he ruled? But Elijah did! God told him what to do, and he obeyed. God kept Elijah safe from Ahab and later He answered Elijah's prayer for rain. He never let Elijah down. Thank God for the times when He has helped you out, even if it wasn't so dramatic as Elijah's experiences. Write your thanks as a prayer.

Tuesday

Read Luke 1:17.

The *Flashlight* section for this week really shows what an incredible kind of person Elijah was. He had God's message to tell, and he was going to tell it! Years later another prophet was compared to him. Some even thought that he *was* Elijah. John the Baptist preached in the wilderness, turning people back to God. He preached with such zeal and enthusiasm that people began wondering if he was Elijah. How do you think that kind of zeal and enthusiasm would be met today? Do you know anyone who exhibits that much passion for God and His kingdom?

Wednesday

Read Psalm 139.

Psalm 139 gives us a background glimpse of what David is talking about. God takes care of people. He knows everything about us down to the last hair on our heads. Doesn't it feel comforting to know that we have a God who loves us so much? Look through the Psalms and find other examples of God's love and care for us.

Psalm _____

Psalm _____

Psalm _____

Thursday

Read Isaiah 41:10.

If there was one point in your lifetime when you were especially in need of help, when was it? Did someone come and give you the help you needed or were you left to fend for yourself? Being in a situation that proves difficult and dealing with it alone isn't easy. What did you do in that difficult situation? Did you call on God? Did He answer your call?

Friday

Read Philippians 4:6, 7.

One of the most difficult things for people in their lives is the hard times where they have to completely rely on God for help. Naturally, as humans, we like to try to take things into our own hands and try to do it our way. God repeatedly told the children of Israel to put their faith in Him. Many times they did and were blessed, but often they tried to do things their own way and ended up in a lot of trouble. When are some times when God did come through for you? Was it in a way that you expected? Or was it in a way that worked out well but wasn't exactly what you had in mind? Why do you think it happened that way?

this week's reading*

Prophets and Kings (or *Royalty in Ruins*), chapters 9; 10 first part (pp. 119-132).

**Royalty in Ruins* is a special adaptation of *Prophets and Kings*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press®. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.