

Small Group Questions

Questions in the Cave ||| 1 Kings 19

Reading 1 Kings 19 must be done in connection with 1 Kings 18. The two chapters show us the highest of highs combined with the lowest of lows. The prophet Elijah has defeated the prophets of Baal and longing to see Israel return to the Lord their God. Jezebel, Israel's murderous first lady, has other plans. She plays on the emotional fragility of Elijah and causes the prophet to flee Israel. Elijah leaves Israel altogether. It looks like Elijah has left his ministry position and resigned his fight for the Lord. At the lowest of his life is when God speaks from the soft wind and calls the prophet back to full-time ministry. 1 Kings 19 teaches us that when we think we are done with ministry might be the time that God is ready to redeploy us for a greater work!

1. Living during a pandemic can be frightening; fear of catching a virus, groceries, and more! What fears do you have right now that make you want to run and hide?
2. For three years Elijah had not made a move without hearing from the Lord (1 Kings 17:2-3, 8-9, 18:1). But now Elijah fled from Jezebel (read 1 Kings 19:1-4) How do you go about your decision making? What role does the voice of the Lord play?
3. From watching the news, reading the paper, and scrolling social media we are inundated with information. Our bodies become over-stimulated. Elijah needed to rest his body and be restored (read 1 Kings 19:5-7). How are you restoring yourself during this pandemic? (see Psalm 91:1, 118:6, and 127:2)
4. Read 1 Kings 19:7. Some scholars think *the angel of the Lord* is an Old Testament title for the second person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Read Genesis 16:7-10, Exodus 3:1-4, and Judges 2:1-4. What does Scripture teach us?
5. Elijah felt lonely in his service to the Lord (read 1 Kings 19:9b-14). How are you avoiding loneliness during this pandemic? (see Hebrews 10:24-25).
6. On Mount Sinai, God met with Elijah and asked him: "What are you doing here?" It seems that Elijah was there because of fear. How are you battling the feelings of fear this week? (see Joshua 1:9 and 1 Peter 5:7)
7. God gave the prophet a fresh vision and renewed service to the Lord (read 1 Kings 19:15-21). Where are you living like a minister of the Lord? How are you obeying the Lord during this time? (see 2 Corinthians 5:20 and 1 Peter 2:9).
8. Close your time in prayer. Talk about who you will invite to Coastline on Sunday.