

LEADER PAGE |STAND ALONE SERMON | WEEK 1 of 1 | Sermon date: 10/10/21

Abiding (grow as a disciple yourself)

Read the entire chapter of 1 Kings 18 & 19 a couple of days prior to group this week. Get to know this story in greater detail. Ask the Lord to speak directly to you as you read. Process and pray through what He may or may not be telling you this week. The main takeaway should be that God always shows up but sometimes it doesn't always look how we think it will. Pray against the distractions of the spectacular and rather for the eyes to see God when He does show up in gentle whispers.

Leading (facilitate your group effectively)

Group this week will be slightly different. We had a guest speaker this past week and we are going to use a method for group called orality (or basically, biblical story telling). This is where we take the gist of the message and find a Biblical story that ties best with the message. Please know that this is not the norm however, but it is just as effective. Here's how it works, very similar to the Life Group structure we already use. Simply follow the prompts on the facilitator page. It's literally that simple. The difference is that you as the leader will read the section titled, "Background" out loud to the group. This section provides a lead into the next section called "Biblical Story". On the "Biblical Story" section, go around and have your group read one verse at a time until complete. Then for the "Rebuild the Story" section, have your group members contribute to rebuilding the story they just heard. Finally, move on to the "Discussion Questions" as usual. Reach out to your Life Group Pastor if you need more clarity on how this works.

Shepherding (know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)

In light of the topic this week, it'll be good to keep ongoing conversations with your group members regarding where they see God moving and perhaps more importantly, where they're looking to find Him. In the Biblical Story this week God was in the gentle whisper and not in the spectacular. Help others by reminding them of this beautiful truth. Yet before doing so, make sure that you've reconciled this in your own heart and have begun to seek Him in similar ways.

<u>Church Announcements</u> (be in the know & share with your group)

• Infusion Bible Conference October 8th-10Th! Use code SOUTHEASTFAMILY for a discount. Click <u>here</u> to register!

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



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Welcome/Introductions (creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone)

Open in Prayer (kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (choose one that is best for your group this week)

Weekly Vision Checklist (See Flipbook re: announcements, the "why", goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching)

Ask a Hook Question (a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction) What's the most spectacular event you've ever attended and what made it so grand?

Background: (Share the background that leads up to the Biblical Story found in 1 Kings 18 & 19) It's a time when Elijah, a prophet of the Lord, meets up with King Ahab who was worshiping the pagan god, Baal. Elijah called out Israel for not serving the one true God. This contest put Elijah against hundreds of prophets of Baal yet it was no contest. Baal was a false god and many lives were lost. The Lord however, made it known that He was calling His people back to Him. The outcome prompted King Ahab's wicked wife, Jezebel to be consumed with killing Elijah. He feared for his life and ran into the wilderness where the angel of the Lord ministered to him. After 40 days and 40 nights, he finally reaches Mt. Sinai where God speaks to him.

Biblical Story: Read the following out loud, 1 Kings 19:9-13

Rebuild the Story: Ask group members to help rebuild the story out loud

Discussion Questions (going beyond the surface)

- 1. As God passes by Elijah on Mt. Sinai, what three spectacular events occur? Was God in any of those? Where does God show up?
- 2. Why do you think God shows up in a gentle whisper?
- 3. How might you be mistaking God's presence to show up in the spectacular rather than a gentle whisper?
- 4. What can you do to be more mindful of slowing down enough to recognize God's gentle whispers?

Prayer Requests (record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.)

Closing Prayer (ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly)

