

ELIJAH - NOTES

Week 1

Hi amazing leaders! There is so much to discuss in this first week- and although everything can be tied back to the life of Elijah- much of it is unrelated. One suggestion is to ask each lady to decide what their biggest takeaway was (or their "golden nugget" as some call it). Then, for each day, read the main portion of Scripture for that day, and ask the ladies' whose "golden nugget" came from that day to speak. As always- you will not hit on everything. Priscilla just gives us so much to think about that it will be impossible to hit on everything in 1 hour.

Day 1

You may want to take a moment and explain to your group where the story of Elijah fits in the story of the Bible. For newbies- this can be confusing. In the fall we were in 1 Corinthians- after Jesus went up to heaven, and when the early churches were being established by the apostles. Now, we are parachuting into a totally different time period. This is the Old Testament, after the nation of Israel has split into 2 kingdoms- north and south (after Saul, David and Solomon). Ahab is the king of the Northern Kingdom, which due to the apostasy of the nation, will eventually fall to the kingdom of Assyria in 722 BC. The Old Testament can seem intimidating to the ladies. However, the story of Israel is a critical component in the overall story of redemption. So the more we talk about and study the nation of Israel, and dispel any intimidation of this part of the Bible, the better!

I love the overall message of this day. We can't partner with God in big ways, without the "behind the scenes" discipline and obedience to Him. The story of Elijah on Mount Carmel is arguably one of the most dramatic stories in all of the Old Testament. Elijah was the heroic man of God in that moment- but there was a lot that led up to that moment. And, Elijah struggled after that big ministry moment as well. It is a reality that he dealt with and that we need to be prepared to deal with. God never promises that His calling on our life will be easy- but He does promise that it will be worth it!

Priscilla brings up so much great content this day. What points stood out to the individual ladies in your group?



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Day 2

Elijah, and other ministry leaders, was just a human like us. Have you, or anyone in your group ever turned their back on God because they became disillusioned or disappointed with the people who claim to follow Him? It is a common theme- and such a tragedy. When people do this- they are falling into Satan's trap- and are only endangering themselves. Jesus is our example, not broken Jesus followers. We have to put the full weight of our needs on God- spiritually and emotionally- He is the only one who won't crack under the pressure and who will never disappoint us. When we recognize that our pastors and leaders are mere humans- we tend to offer them more grace and forgiveness when they do not meet our expectations. Also- we cannot use our inexperience or struggles as an excuse NOT to grow in our knowledge of God and obedience to Him! God has plans for you, and He knows exactly where you are at, and what you are able to accomplish for Him.

Day 3

God tell us that we were designed for Him to be our object of our worship and the center of our lives (Genesis 1 and 2). When we operate in the way we were designed to operate, orbiting around God like planets orbit around the sun, we will experience a more fulfilling and joyful life- even in this fallen world. When we fall for the same lie that Eve did, that "God is holding out on me, and does not deserve my worship and honor"- our hearts and minds will be darkened and confused. When we make ourselves the object of our worship, we will start to self-destruct through the spiral of sin, because we were not designed to operate that way. Elijah lived in a time of spiritual indifference and disobedience- much like we do today. The Bible tells us in Romans 1 that God will eventually give us over to the desires of our heart- with the goal that we will become so sick of our sin and ourselves that we will turn back to Him. This is not a truth that we are quick to point out, for fear of offending someone, but it is absolute truth. God is designed to be the main character in my life, not me. We are quick to say, "Why is God allowing this to happen to me?" however, some (not all of course!) of our difficult circumstances are simply consequences of our lack of obedience to His guidelines for life.

Day 4

Elijah grew up in rugged, unsophisticated Gilead. But God knew that Elijah's background would serve His purposes for ministry. What about the ladies in your group? Do they feel stunted by their past? Do they feel that they are left lacking in some way because of their past? Let's remind each other that God is aware of what we have gone through, what we struggle with, and is only looking for a willing and obedient heart and spirit. He may consider what we view as a shortcoming, as an asset for ministry!

Day 5

Elijah's name meant, "I am loyal to Yahweh." What if "I am loyal to Yahweh" was written across our foreheads, the way that Elijah's name stated this? Would it make us sheepish and shameful at times? Are we loyal to Yahweh only when it suits our personal needs? How does our loyalty to Yahweh affect those around us? God does not expect perfection from us. But He does expect our loyalty.

I loved the Digging Deeper article on page 44-45. It is just another example of how the Bible is one unified story- from Genesis to Revelation. The themes tie in at many places- both Old and New Testament.



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