

ELIJAH – NOTES

Week 3

Day 1

At the beginning of this day, we are invited to read Jeremiah 48:11. I don't know about you, but I never would have pulled all the insight on pages 80-82 from this verse without Priscilla's help! Like Elijah, God can "pour" us through a process in order to purify our hearts and minds.

Priscilla gives us good insight as to how to navigate these seasons of change more easily. We need to be women of consistent prayer so that we can look to God or direction. We need to be discussing our present and changing circumstances with the Lord every day. In times of change, Priscilla encourages us to be women of trust not panic, eager anticipation and not hopelessness. What are you more inclined to feel? Psalm 55:22 is a great verse to read aloud with your group (it is on the top of page 84).

On a personal note, when I hear about prophets "hearing a word from the Lord", I wonder what that experience was like. Sometimes, I feel like I get some direction from God, but there are also many times when I am faced with a decision, and despite prayer and seeking wise counsel, I still am not sure what God wants. In those instances, I make the best call I can, using the brain God gave me, and I tell God, "I am going to head in this direction, and if I am making the wrong call, just stop and turn me- I will obey." There have been times when God has turned me- and my plans change! But there are times, that I just proceed along with no real interruption from God and assume I am on the right path, or that either decision is okay with Him, because I prayed that prayer. Maybe that is helpful for someone to hear 😊

Day 2

Priscilla gives us some historical context on Zarephath, which would have bristled against Elijah's comfort- however he went just like God directed him. After looking at the story of Jonah- another prophet sent somewhere uncomfortable (to say the least!) which response resonated with the ladies in your group? Elijah's or Jonah's? Are we going to be women who resist or surrender? I loved Priscilla's insight:

- When we resist, we refuse to listen, we doubt His sovereignty, we fester with bitterness, we miss learning lessons. What other behaviors can your group add to this list?
- When we surrender, we lean into God, we directly engage despite our discomfort, knowing that we are being divinely refined. What other behaviors can your group add to this list?



Central**WOMEN**

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Priscilla had us look at our own lives through the lens of Elijah's encounter with the widow of Zarephath. For me the big take away from this day was summed up in the first line of the prayer on page 99: "I repent today of any pride-unspoken sense of superiority- of any callousness that has kept me from connecting with certain people." Where is God calling you to build bridges with others? And through what part of your story? God uses our story (the good, bad and ugly parts) as a way to build bridges with others, and share the gospel.

Another great point of this day is that Christianity is the most inclusive "religion" there is. No one is excluded from the forgiveness and eternal life that God offers us through Jesus Christ!

Day 4

In this day, we are reminded that we need to tell ourselves, and tell others what God says. We need to offer up His word to others, not just give our human, flawed, biased, advice. Do you know what God says? How did the ladies respond the questions at the bottom of page 104 and top of page 105? Do you read Scripture often enough that God's instruction and promises flow into your mind and out of your mouth without even thinking about it? If not- today is the day to change that! This day is chock full of bible verses that we should have memorized and hidden in our heart.

What a great ministry we would have to those around us, if we would focus on God's truth in all circumstances that we and others around us are facing. What are some Scripture memory ideas/strategies that your ladies can share with others in the group? What are their favorite Scriptures? Maybe they can grab at partner and hold each other accountable for the verse they are committed to memorize.

Day 5

I never put it together that Elijah had already watched God raise the widow's son from the dead before the Mount Carmel showdown. (I guess I always read those two accounts at separate times?). Anyhow- it is now so much more evident to me why Elijah was so confident in the face of those Baal prophets- challenging them, taunting them, and pouring water over his altar that he hoped would be consumed by fire. Because Elijah had submitted to the plans and purposes of God in uncomfortable, and even life-threatening instances, he had developed such a trust in God that He was confident that God would show up on Mount Carmel. Now, my next question, is, why did Elijah enter into a downward spiral of fear and depression after that instance when Jezebel was after him? But we have not arrived to that part of his story yet- so I guess I will have to wait.

What new insights on prayer did the ladies in your group take away from this day?

The article below may help you field a common question about prayer: "If God already knows everything, and can do anything, why does He ask us to pray to Him? What is the point of prayer?" This article is from a great Christian website called gotquestions.org.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. It is the way we communicate with the Lord and praise Him. To understand the purpose of prayer, it is important to first understand what prayer is not. There are many wrong views in the world and culture about prayer, even among Christians, and these should be addressed first. Prayer is not

- *bargaining with God.*
- *making demands of God.*
- *only asking God for things.*
- *a therapeutic, meditation-type exercise.*
- *bothering God and taking up His time.*
- *a way to control the Lord.*
- *a way to show off one's spirituality before others.*

*Many people believe that prayer is only about asking God for things. Although supplication is a part of prayer ([Philippians 4:6](#)), it is not the sole purpose of prayer. Praying for the needs of ourselves and others is needed and beneficial, but there is so much more to prayer. [A. W. Tozer](#) warned, "Prayer among evangelical Christians is always in danger of degenerating into a glorified 'gold rush'" (*Mornings with Tozer: Daily Devotional Readings*, compiled by Gerald Smith, Moody Publishers, 2008, entry for Feb. 26). But God is not a magical genie who answers our every wish, nor is He a weak God who can be controlled by our prayers.*

The best way to learn about the purpose of prayer is studying the example of Jesus during His earthly ministry. Jesus prayed for Himself and for others, and He prayed to commune with the Father. [John 17](#) is a great place to see Jesus' use of prayer. He not only prays that the Father be glorified but also prays for His disciples and "for those who will believe in me through their message" ([John 17:20](#)). Submitting to the Father's will was another aspect to Jesus' prayer life, highlighted in His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Yet not as I will, but as you will" ([Matthew 26:39](#)). With any request we have, we must submit to God's will.

In addition to interceding for others, prayer is also a way to strengthen our relationship with God. Jesus set the example, as He prayed to the Father throughout His earthly ministry ([Luke 6:12](#); [Matthew 14:23](#)). Those in relationships will naturally seek to communicate with each other, and prayer is our communication with God. Other good examples in the Bible of those who spent time in prayer are [David](#), [Hezekiah](#), and [Paul](#).

Ultimately, the main purpose of prayer is worship. When we pray to the Lord, recognizing Him for who He is and what He has done, it is an act of worship. There are many examples of prayer being an act of worship in the Bible, including [2 Kings 19:15](#), [1 Chronicles 17:20](#), [Psalm 86:12-13](#), [John 12:28](#), and [Romans 11:33-36](#). How we pray should reflect this purpose; our focus should be on who God is, not on ourselves.



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Interestingly, the model of prayer that Jesus gave the disciples in Matthew 6:9–13, known as the Lord's Prayer, has all these elements. The first part includes praise and worship of God (Matthew 6:9), and then the second part moves on to praying for God's will to be done (Matthew 6:10). After this, there is supplication for ourselves and others (Matthew 6:11–12), as well as asking for strength to deal with temptation (Matthew 6:13). Jesus modeled this prayer for His disciples, and it shows all the reasons for prayer with the central focus of worship.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life, and one's prayer life should be developed. Not only does prayer affect our lives and the lives of others, but it is also a way to communicate with the Lord and grow in our relationship with Him. At the heart of prayer is an act of worship to the Lord. God's Word places an emphasis on the power and purpose of prayer, and, therefore, it should not be neglected.

*Author Warren Wiersbe sums up the purpose of prayer well: "The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God's will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God" (from *On Earth as It Is in Heaven: How the Lord's Prayer Teaches Us to Pray More Effectively*, Baker Books, 2010, p. 78).*



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