

Blandford and Langton Home Groups
Meeting for Week Beginning 18 November 2007
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

“Elijah - A Man of Faith”

The Overall Aim of this Study:

- ❖ Elijah was a man whose frailties of fear and worry were seen as much as his victories.
 - ❖ God’s provision relies on us taking steps of faith.
 - ❖ Trusting in God’s provision will get us through difficult times.
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- Welcome

What things are you always running out of at home?

- Worship

Read Psalm 27 and thank God for his faithfulness throughout difficult, as well as good times.
And praise God for the Gift Day!!!

- Word

See “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” (TOSBG) Pages 54-55.

Please read the sheet “The Story So Far”. Remind yourselves of the journey we have come together and the people we have met (both in the studies and, latterly, Gideon and David in sermons).

➤ Of all the people we have mentioned, which is the one who you most identify with and why? Spend some time sharing these things.

Whereas the earlier people, such as Noah, Joseph and Moses, are prototype saviours and introduce the concepts of sin, salvation and atonement, the latter ones, such as Gideon and David, introduce the idea of a relationship with God which is open and honest - and involves people’s frailties as well as strengths. This is especially so with Elijah.

Paraphrase the story of Elijah’s life:

- ☞ Persecuted by Ahab (1 Kings 17:2-7; 18:7-10)
- ☞ Escapes to the wilderness, where he is fed by ravens (1 Kings 17:1-7)
- ☞ Goes to Zarephath, where he stays with a widow (1 Kings 17:8-16)
- ☞ Raises her son dead (1 Kings 17:17-24)
- ☞ Challenges the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:25-29)
- ☞ Causes rain after seven years of drought (1 Kings 18:41-45)
- ☞ Escapes to the wilderness from Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-18)
- ☞ Fasts for forty days (1 Kings 19:8)
- ☞ Despondency and complaints (1Kings 19:10,14)
- ☞ Hears God in the breeze (1 Kings 9:11-18)
- ☞ Flees to the wilderness of Damascus (1 Kings 19:9-21)
- ☞ Is taken up to heaven (2 Kings 2:11)

Read the story of the Widow of Zarephath - 1 Kings 17:8-16.

- ☞ How many times do we hear of people being obedient?
- ☞ Who are they being obedient to?
- ☞ Why are they being obedient?
- ☞ What is the potential cost of obedience?
- ☞ What is the result of each act of obedience?

The oil and flour are pictures of God's provision.

- How do we find out if God is being faithful?

We can only find out if God is being faithful by taking a step of faith ourselves. The only way that the Widow and Elijah could prove God's provision was by actually using up the flour and oil and seeing if it would be replenished.

- What things has God provided for us? List them!
- In which of these areas does God continually provide for us?
- What do we have to do to experience God's provision in these things?

We may sometimes caricature Elijah along with other Bible heroes as having total faith and trust in God all of the time. This is not true. All of the people we have mentioned show, at one time or another, that they have been through dark times where their faith in God has been stretched. That can include times of testing, temptations and habits which have got the better of us, depression and real doubts about our faith. 1 Kings 19:10 + 14 tells of Elijah being despondent - even after he has heard the voice of God. It is at these times we especially need encouragement from those around us to see a way forward - and to walk with us.

- **Works**

Encourage each other by sharing stories of difficult times and how you have come through them. If there are those who are experiencing such times at present, pray with them and for them to hold on to what God has given us - and to take steps of faith to trust him for his provision.

Pray for each other - and it may be good to read Psalm 23!

- **Next Meeting**

Focus at Home next Week

Wednesday 28th November - Wisdom Literature