



DEVOTIONAL

PART 1

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PART 1: A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 2

We are excited to take time this fall to look into the lives of Elijah and Elisha in 1 and 2 Kings. Stepping into the pages of the Old Testament can be overwhelming at times; so many names, places, and different cultures. We will be using the acronym SOAP to guide us in our study through some of 1 and 2 Kings. Our hope is that while we take time to dive into these passages you will grow in your love for God as you see His story more completely. The process of “SOAPing” will also provide an easy way of sharing what you’re learning through the Word with those you do life with. We pray that each of us would know the truth of God’s Word, love Him more deeply, and live for Him more fully!

CONTEXT

Elijah was a prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Ahab and Ahaziah. His story is found in 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1-2. The books of 1 and 2 Kings trace the history of the kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon to the Babylonian captivity. In order to understand Elijah’s story more fully it is important to get a sense of the context it is set in.

Elijah’s name means “Yahweh is God” and at the time he was a prophet in Israel this reality was in contrast to the culture of Israel as they worshipped foreign gods and Baal. So how did they get there?!? 1 Kings opens with an aged and dying King David, “a man after God’s own heart” who had lived a life of trials and glory, sin and intimacy with God. He passes the united Kingdom of God’s people off to his son Solomon, who “was loved by the LORD”. Solomon was given more wisdom than any other man and saw the kingdom flourish under his rule. However, Solomon loved many women and allowed

things that God had warned against (1 Kings 10-11) and because of that we see the kingdom divided upon Solomon's death. Solomon's son Rehoboam was the king of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) while Jeroboam led 10 tribes in the Northern Kingdom (Israel).

Elijah steps into the story during the reign of King Ahab, the 8th king of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). None of the kings prior to Ahab followed God, and Ahab was no different. God continued to love his people and he faithfully sent men to speak for him. Elijah was a man who heard from God and spoke those messages to others. Throughout Elijah's life we see God's power and care. Living in a culture that defied what Elijah knew as truth he faithfully listened to the Lord, walked in His ways, and saw an end unlike none other!

HOW TO SOAP

When you have your daily time with God, use SOAP to help you think through what you are reading.

Scripture | Pick a book of the Bible and read 1-2 chapters a day. Each day, write out the Bible verse that stood out the most to you.

Observation | What is God saying in this verse? What truth did you learn? Write down your observations, thoughts, or questions.

Application | How can you apply what you learned? What truths do you need to believe? Write down a practical way you can apply this truth

Prayer | Respond to God in prayer. Write down a short prayer thanking God for this truth and ask Him to help you apply it in your life.

EXAMPLE OF SOAP

Scripture | John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Observation | We don't naturally abide in Jesus so He commands us to abide. Following this command is not burdensome, but actually for our benefit. If we're not connected to Jesus, we can't do anything. Jesus is the true vine and if we abide in Him we will bear fruit. The fruit we bear brings glory to God.

Application | What are ways I can abide in Jesus? Jesus says I will abide in Him if I keep His commandments, but am I actually doing that? Abiding in Jesus allows me to experience the joy that Jesus has for me. I can continue to abide in Him through regularly reading the Bible and prayer.

Prayer | Jesus, thank You for saving me! Please always remind me of how amazing Your Gospel is. I confess that most of the time I would rather do my own thing than abide in You. Teach me more about what it means to abide in You and I pray that abiding in You would result in great fruit for Your glory!

WEEK 1 | 1 KINGS 17

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings chapter 17.

Right away in verse 1 we meet two people. Write their names below. Now read 1 Kings 16:29-34.

O | The purpose of the book was not only to record the history of these kings, but to show that the success of any king (and of the nation as a whole) depended on the measure of his allegiance to God's law. Failure resulted in decline and captivity.

What we do we learn about the condition of Israel at the time Elijah lived?

As we mentioned in the introduction, Elijah's name means "Yahweh is God".

We see in 1 Kings 16 that Ahab "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him". As Elijah steps into his prophetic ministry, it is at a time when Baal worship threatened to eradicate the worship of Yahweh in Israel.

There are three times noted where God seems to be directing Elijah and Elijah acts. Record those moments of obedience here and anything that sticks out to you.

1. (vs.1)

2. (vs. 2)

3. (vs. 8)

A | As we consider what God might be doing in our lives personally, we also want to think about people He has put in our life that He may be encouraging us to move toward with these truths. Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the 3 people you wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 17 and then circle back and reread verses 1-6

O | What do we learn in verse 1 about what will be happening?

Read verses 2-6. In these five verses we see the Lord say something and then do it. What was it?

What do we learn about God?

When was another time we saw God provide like this in His word? (check out Exodus 16:8)

Why might Elijah have been commanded to “hide” in the Kerith Ravine in vs. 3? (hint: check out 1 Kings 18:4)

A | When have you experienced God’s protection or provision? Take a moment to write it down or consider sharing it with someone as a testimony to His Faithfulness!

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we’ve learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings 17:7-24

O | Where does God send Elijah?

Approximately 85 miles away (with no planes or cars) Zarephath would have been no short journey for Elijah. God is working as Elijah is traveling and He prepares a widow.

What does verse 12 reveal about about the widow? And maybe what she knew of Elijah?

We see Jesus reference this widow of Zarephath in Luke 4:24-26. He is reminding his fellow Jews of God's blessing to the Gentiles back in the Old Testament. I love how the Bible is woven together.

Zarephath was the home of queen Jezebel and full of Baal worship.

What do these facts tell you about God's heart?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection and for how He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 17:7-24

O | As the widow in Zarephath welcomes Elijah in she experiences a miracle. What is it?

Tragedy strikes in verse 17. What happens?

What is the widows response?

What is Elijah's response?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

A | When doubts or questions arise, how might you respond? Feel free to write down any verses that may be sustaining truth for you.

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read through 1 Kings 17 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

O | What do you observe about Elijah's relationship with God?

What is a characteristic you see in Elijah that reminds you of Jesus?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you.

Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 2 | 1 KINGS 18

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings chapter 18.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter.

O | In chapter 17, Elijah lived privately. Now, in chapter 18, he appears in public. God tells Elijah that he will send rain and end this divinely ordained drought, but not before it is made clear who He is and what kind of power He has.

Who are the main characters mentioned?

What do we learn about God in this passage?

A | Can you think of a friend or family member who may be deceived about the power of false gods? Pray that he/she would have a soft heart to hear the truth about the power of the one true God.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the person you've written down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 18:1-19.

O | What were Ahab and Obadiah looking for? Why?

Why was Obadiah afraid to tell Ahab that Elijah was there?

In verse 17, Ahab calls Elijah the “troubler of Israel.” Why do you think he calls him that? Who does Elijah say has troubled Israel?

A | Obadiah was obedient to protect the prophets of the Lord in private, but was reluctant when he thought his life was in danger. Have you ever experienced this kind of reluctance to obedience?

P | Pray and thank God for His faithfulness and ask that He would give you a commitment to obedience even when the stakes are high.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings 18:20-29.

O | In verse 27, Elijah mocks the prophets of Baal in a rather humorous way. What does he suggest Baal is busy doing instead of listening to them?

What do the prophets of Baal do to try to get his attention in verse 28? What is the response and what does this prove about Baal's power?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage you?

P | Pray for the friend that you identified earlier this week and ask God to show them the futility of putting their trust in anyone other than the one true God.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 18:30-46.

O | What does Elijah do to his altar and sacrifice before he cries out to God? Why?

What does the fire of the Lord consume in verse 38? Could this be the result of a natural fire?

In verse 45, God finally sends the rain. How does this fulfill what Elijah said in 17:1?

A | When the people saw the fire of the Lord in verse 39, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God!" Have you ever seen God at work in your life and been prompted with a similar response?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read all of 1 Kings 18 one more time.

Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

O | Were there any parts that you found yourself almost reciting from memory?

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individual you noted in Day 1.

WEEK 3 | 1 KINGS 19

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings chapter 19.

O | After Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel and rain returned to the land we see him running for his life. What made Elijah afraid?

Beersheba was about 70 miles away from Jezreel. Elijah goes on without his servant an extra day and finds himself in the desert, exhausted, afraid, and seemingly a bit depressed.

What was Elijah's prayer in verse 4?

God is faithful, even when we are overwhelmed. He sustains Elijah and directs Elijah even as Elijah is wrestling with fear and discouragement.

God asks Elijah a question 2 different times in this chapter. What is the repeated question?

- A |** Think of 3 people you want to experience Christ and His sustaining grace.

Write their names here.

It's okay if they are the same people God has brought to mind in weeks past. Keep praying and allow God to grow your heart for them!

- P |** Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 19:1-8

O | Where are the places we see Elijah in this text?

Who comes to his aid?

We see the angel of the Lord referenced elsewhere in the Old Testament. Take a moment to look at Genesis 16:7-14 and notice any similarities.

What does Hagar call God in this passage?

A | Recall a time in your life when you could have said "God sees me".

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings 19:1-18

O | Where is Elijah at the end of verse 8? We also see this location in Exodus 3:1-4. What stands out to you as you read these passages?

Two times God asks the same question, Elijah responds with the same answer, and God engages him in two different ways. Note the different ways God engages Elijah.

1)

2)

What do we learn about God in this passage?

Take a moment to read Romans 11:2-6. Paul recalls the conversation Elijah had with God at Mount Horeb. Paul connects the hope given to Elijah at Mount Horeb to the hope Jesus offers through grace. This is not a fulfilled promise, but rather a consistent example that God cares about His name and the people he has created.

- A |** What truth about this passage do you need to believe?
- P |** Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 19:9-21

O | If you didn't note it yesterday, what stands out to you about how God comes to Elijah?

I love that God's power has been evident in Elijah's life, and even here on the mountain his power is displayed, however he addresses Elijah in a gentle whisper.

I think it's interesting to note that Elijah says he is "the only one left" both times in his response to God's question, however back in 1 Kings 18:13 we learn that Obadiah told Elijah how he had hid 100 of God's prophets while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord. What might this show us about humanity?

How does God's second answer offer hope?

It seems Elijah felt alone and worn out. God meets him in that state and gives Elijah confirmation of His presence and a companion. Who are we introduced to in verse 19?

- A |** Is God inviting you to lean on him in prayer for anything? What is it? Make a plan to intentionally pray for this over the next week.
- P |** Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read 1 Kings 19

O | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

What characteristics have you seen in Elijah?

What characteristics have you seen in God?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 4 | 1 KINGS 21

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings chapter 21.

O | Who are the people in this passage?

What caused the commotion of this chapter?

The reply we see in verse 3 from Naboth is founded in what God had set up back in Leviticus 25:23-38 and Numbers 36:7-8.

Based upon the following actions of Jezebel and Ahab, what do we learn about their view of God and the condition of the hearts in Israel?

A | The brokenness we see around us is the result of sin and hearts turned away from God. Jesus offers hope and redemption. Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word and pray for the people you've wrote down to recognize the grace of God.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 21

O | In this chapter we see the condition of Israel at the time and it isn't pretty.

Finish the statement from verse 20 below as Elijah gives Ahab the why to what will be:

"Because you have..."

Paul helps us understand this condition a little bit. Turn to Romans 6:16-23 and read it.

What do you take away from these verses in Romans?

A little further down the letter to the Romans we find the same concept and even the word Elijah uses in 1 Kings "sold". Look at Romans 7:14. Feel free to read the surrounding text, but be prepared for some brain gymnastics with Paul's sentences here. Don't miss verses 24-25. because that's where we find our hope.

How do these passages in Romans connect with 1 Kings 21?

A | What areas in your life do you feel the nature of sin in you? Share them with God and invite His righteousness in to reign.

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read 1 Kings 21:17-29

O | What is the tone of the message God is sending to Ahab?

Is there a significant action we see in this passage?

Read 2 Kings 9:30-37. What does this show us about God's character?

Read James 4:10 and 1 Kings 21:27-29. What does this show us about God's character?

A | What truth of this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 1 Kings 21

O | What do you notice about humanity in this chapter?

Record the details of Ahab's response to Elijah's message from God.

What question does God ask Elijah toward the end of this chapter?

Both James (4:6) and Peter (1 Peter 5:6) reference God's grace to the humble and opposition to the proud. King Solomon, the wisest man on earth, also wrote this truth in Proverbs 3:34. Throughout 1 and 2 Kings we see this reality play out.

A | Just for speculation and fun, put yourself in Elijah's shoes. You've just walked through this last chapter. What are you thinking? You know God is faithful, just, and good, how does God's question speak to you? How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read 1 Kings 21

O | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

Did anything new stand out to you as you read today?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 5 | 2 KINGS 1

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 2 Kings chapter 1.

O | Who are the primary people in this chapter?

Take a moment to read 1 Kings 22:51-53 to give context to where we are. Who is Ahaziah?

Ahaziah recognizes that the man sending the message is Elijah in verse 7-8. What causes Ahaziah to recognize Elijah?

What stands out to you most in this chapter?

A | What makes you recognizable as a follower of Jesus? Write down the names of 2 people who you see regularly that you hope to display the heart and mind of Jesus to.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 2 Kings 1

O | Right away in 2 Kings 1 we encounter a problem. What is it?

Where does Ahaziah turn for counsel?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

Elijah calls fire down from Heaven. How many times?! How did the final captain approach Elijah?

A | How does the truth found here challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Pray and thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Praise Him for how He has been present in your life.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read Matthew 3:1-6 and Mark 1:1-8

O | Who was mentioned in the passages from Matthew and Mark?

There are times when we see the Bible connect and give us a more complete picture of who God is and what His story is all about. 2 Kings 1:8 may be a small window into a beautiful bridge between the old and new Testaments, so we are going to take a couple minutes to explore!

What similarities are there in John the Baptist and Elijah?

Read Matthew 11:7-15. As Jesus is talking here how does he link the two men we are talking about?

There are prophets quoted in all three New Testament passages. (Just for fun you can check out Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3)

Later on in Jesus' ministry we find him on a mountain transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James, and John. As they were coming down the mountain Jesus again connects John the Baptist with Elijah. Read Matthew 17:10-13.

What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

- A |** As we've considered a little of how the Bible is knit together take a few moments to write down 3 things about God that you delight in.

- P |** Write a short prayer praising God for His holiness and power. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Back to 2 Kings 1. Read the chapter again.

O | Who was Ahaziah's father?

Based on this fact, how might Ahaziah's view of Elijah been shaped?

What do we learn about God in this passage?

How does God direct and Elijah obey?

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read 2 Kings 1

O | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

What emotions do you see in this passage?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you.
Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 6 | 2 KINGS 2

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read 2 Kings 2:1-18.

O | What major event happens in this passage?

How many times does Elijah tell Elisha to stay and Elisha refuse?

Who is there to witness these things?

What stands out to you most about the end of Elijah's life?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 2 Kings 2:1-11

O | What sort of tone does this passage have?

Does Elijah know the Lord was about to take him?

Elijah asks Elisha a question in verse 9 after they crossed the Jordan. How does Elisha answer?

A | What gifts and qualities have you been given that might be used to serve God's people?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for His mission. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read 2 Kings 2:12-18

O | What does Elisha do after Elijah is taken up?

How do the prophets who were watching respond?

What emotions do you see in this passage?

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for equipping us as believers with His Holy Spirit.
Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read 2 Kings 2:1-18

O | What do you learn about God in this chapter?

What do you learn about humanity?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

S | Read 2 Kings 2:1-18

O | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

What stands out to you about Elijah's character?

How has what you've learned from Elijah's life shaped your view of God?

A | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

P | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.



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