

# 1 KINGS 19

## Discussion Guide

### *Elijah's Crisis*

1. Why do you think Elijah expected a major religious reformation after the events on Mount Carmel? Why was Elijah disappointed?
  - i. Elijah expected and prayed for a tremendous religious reformation in the Northern Kingdom. Elijah had seen God work in mighty ways. Throughout 1 Kings 17 and 18, Yahweh had brought a drought Elijah prayed for (1 Kgs 17:1), had provided for Elijah, the widow and her children (17:2-24), had caused fire to fall from heaven (18:36-38), had caused the people to proclaim "Yahweh, He is the God!" (18:39) and had restored rain in response to Elijah's prayer. He knew Yahweh had the power over all and could direct change where he saw fit.
2. What does Elijah's reaction to the lack of change in Israel reveal about his understanding of God's plans?
  - i. Elijah had always been directed by a word from God before acting. In this scenario however, Yahweh's words are absent. While Elijah was a man of strong faith, his faith needed further strengthening and refining.
3. What can we learn from Elijah's fear and discouragement about handling setbacks in our own spiritual lives?
4. How can Elijah's disappointment teach us to trust in God's timing, even when we do not see immediate results?

### *Elijah's Divine Encounter*

1. Why did God choose to reveal himself to Elijah through a low whisper instead of the powerful wind, earthquake, or fire?
  - i. Through those experiences of the wind, the quaking, and the fire, Yahweh shows Elijah that the Almighty God can choose to deal with people through displays of might and majesty. And yet, His usual way of operating was through his Word. Elijah needed to be reminded that His Word, in unspectacular fashion, brings tremendous results.
2. Why do we sometimes expect God to work in dramatic ways rather than through his Word and quiet guidance?
3. Like Elijah, we may sometimes feel alone in our faith. How can we find encouragement in knowing that God is always at work, even when we don't see it?

### *Elijah's Renewed Purpose*

1. How did God respond with both Law and Gospel comfort instead of condemnation? (1 Kings 19:15-18)
  - i. The Law portion of God's reply to Elijah shows that Yahweh has control over nations and history. It also reminds Elijah that God, according to his will, method, and timetable, will deal with those who reject the truth. God showed Elijah that other believers existed and continued to exist because of their hearing, reading and learning Scripture and because of the preaching and teaching of His Word by Elijah and the other true prophets. The teaching and preaching of the Word of God always results in God's purposes being accomplished.
2. How do the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) serve as tangible reminders that God is at work in our lives, even when we don't see immediate results?
3. God preserved a remnant of faithful believers in Israel. What comfort does this give to us in the Church in times of moral and spiritual decline?