

Life Group Guide 1 Kin 19:1–21 “My Failures and God’s Triumphs”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Mar 10 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Mar 17

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever had a time when life got so busy that you forgot something that was very important? What happened? What would you do differently?

Pastor Pete’s Sermon Outline

Main Message:

We must not make ourselves and our plans the most important parts of our lives with Christ because when results do not match our expectations we flounder in the struggle, take false pride in our work, forget the gospel, and miss God’s work in us and through us.

- I. Because Jezebel threatens to slay him, Elijah flees to the wilderness, preparing to die, when the Messenger of the LORD sustains him and sends him to Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb) 19:1–8.**
 - a. After Ahab explains Elijah’s slaying of her false prophets, Jezebel sends Elijah the letter that threatens to slay him 1–2.
 - b. Elijah travels with his assistant to the wilderness of Judah where he rests under a juniper tree and confesses that he is not better than his fathers 3–4.
 - c. The Messenger of the LORD visits him twice, having him eat to prepare for a journey that is great 5–7.
 - d. Elijah fasts in a 40-day and 40-night journey to Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb), where God had met Israel and Moses hundreds of years before 8.
- II. Defeated Elijah encounters God at Mt. Sinai with a still quiet voice in the midst of the great upheaval of God’s presence 19:9–14.**
 - a. Within a cave on the mountain, God asks Elijah, “Why are you here, Elijah?” 9.
 - b. Elijah answers, “Even though I have been very zealous for the LORD, Israel has (again) broken the covenant, slayed the true prophets, left me all alone, and seek to kill me next.” 10.
 - c. God calls Elijah to stand on the mountain in the midst of the storm of God’s presence with a still quiet voice and a repeat of the question, “Why are you here, Elijah?” 11–13.
 - d. Elijah repeats his exact same concerns 14.
- III. The LORD answers Elijah’s questions, doubts, and fears with His mission 19:15–18.**
 - a. Anoint a new king for Syria, Hazael, and a new king for Israel, Jehu 15.
 - b. Anoint a new prophet, Elisha, who will serve as a prophet after you 16.
 - c. These new kings and prophet will judge those who oppose God 17.
 - d. 7,000 other Israelites have not bowed down and submitted to the idol Baal 18.
- IV. Elijah returns to his ministry for God with the prophet Elisha 19:19–21.**

1 Kin 19:1–8

Read 1 Kin 19:1–8: Observation:

1. In 19:1–2, who learned that Elijah had slaughtered the false prophets of Baal? What did Elijah receive from that person? What did it threaten?
2. In 19:3–4, where did Elijah flee and sit down? What did he ask of God? Why did he say this?
3. In 19:5–6, who woke Elijah from his sleep? What did he ask him to do? What did Elijah do?
4. In 19:7, what title or name is given to the angel? What did he ask of Elijah?
5. In 19:8, how long did Elijah travel? To what mountain did he travel? What prophet came to this same mountain in Exodus?

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Interpretation:

6. Was Elijah responsible for how the people responded? What was Elijah’s responsibility? How did fearing Jezebel affect him? Why is fearing man an obstacle to serving God?
7. What is pride? Why is pride considered a sin? How does Elijah’s complaint before God suggest he is struggling with pride? In 1 Kin 17–18, Elijah had served as a powerful prophet for God? Where has his pride, even pride over what he had done for God, left him in these verses?

Application:

8. What areas of your ministry and life for Jesus could be filled with the fear of man or pride? What should you remind yourself as you serve for Jesus?
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1 Kin 19:9–14

Read 1 Kin 19:9–14: Observation

9. In 19:9–10, what did the word of the LORD ask Elijah? How did he respond?
10. In 19:11–12, where does God ask Elijah to stand? The LORD was present in what?
11. In 19:13–14, what did the LORD ask Elijah? How did he respond? How many times have we heard this plea from Elijah?

Interpretation:

12. Does God hear us when we call to him in difficult times? Is it often hard to hear how God answers us? How does God’s presence in a still, quiet voice compare to the great storm wind, earthquake, and fire that surround it here?

Application:

13. What are the great and often terrifying parts of our lives that tempt us to not hear God’s word? How can we go about in a practical sense making sure that we hear God’s voice in our busy lives? What must we change?
14. Please memorize 1 Kin 19:11–12.
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1 Kin 19:15–21

Read 1 Kin 19:15–21: Observation

15. In 19:15–16, what did God command Elijah?
16. In 19:17–18, how will God use Elijah’s actions? Is Elijah alone? Who is with Elijah?
17. In 19:19–21, whom did Elijah find? What does this man do before he joins Elijah?

Interpretation:

18. When God appoints new kings for Israel (the northern kingdom) and Syria (Aram), we are reminded of the mortality of human kings and their temporary reigns. Should this same lesson also be applied to Elijah when God appoints Elisha to follow him? In what way is Elijah’s ministry temporary? In what ways is it permanent? Why must Christians remember this same truth as we serve God today? How might this paradigm help us avoid pride?

Application:

19. How might you make your ministry this week more enduring even as you understand your own limits? What might this change about your prayer life and time with God’s word?
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