

BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN

WITH PURPOSE

Week Five: May 11th-15th

The devotional on the pages that follow can be used by individuals, families, and small group Bible studies. If you're doing this devotional alone, we encourage you to invite friends and family to join you—beautiful things happen when we invite others to grow with us in our relationships with Jesus!

This devotional has three sections:

1) **Reading:**

- **Key text:** Read this text at least two times. Bonus points if you read it out loud! Look for the main idea and look for a phrase that jumps out at you.
- **Digging deeper:** Use these verses to go deeper into themes from the key text. Use a highlighter to mark ideas that stand out or themes that repeat.

2) **Reflection:** Use these reflection questions to connect your reading directly to your life. Reflect on how God is speaking to you and equipping you through His Word!

3) **Prayer:** This guided prayer is broken up into four sections, using the acronym ACTS:

- Adoration—Tell God something that you love about Him.
- Confession—Confess your feelings, worries, troubles, and sin to God.
- Thanksgiving—Tell God what you're thankful for.
- Supplication—Talk to God about what you're needing or wanting.

Throughout your prayers, feel free to return to the specific words and phrases you read in previous sections. One of the many ways we can use God's Word is by turning into prayer!

Key Text: 1 Kings 19

As you read, look for the how God interacts with and cares for Elijah:

1 Kings 19

Elijah Flees Jezebel

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." 3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

The Lord Speaks to Elijah

9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind

an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 15 And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. 17 And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Call of Elisha

19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 21 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Digging Deeper:

In 1 Kings 19, we see that Elijah is terribly afraid and incredibly discouraged. How does God answer the problem of fear throughout Scripture?

Deuteronomy 31: 8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Isaiah 43:1 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

1 John 4:16-18a So we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love...Perfect love drives out fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.

Psalms 118: 6 The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

John 14:26-27 The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Romans 8: 31, 37-39 If God is for us, who can be against us? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death more life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Part of how God encourages Elijah is by giving him a friend and companion (Elisha). Read and highlight what you notice about God's gift of friendship:

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If one of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink... now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Reflection:

God sustains Elijah with food and rest, speaks to him, then sends him to find a friend and continue his kingdom work.

How do you need God to sustain you in this time? Where do you feel weak, and need God to strengthen you?

Do you believe God wants to speak to you? Why or why not? How do you practice listening to God?

What Kingdom work might God be calling you to in this time? How can you be building God's Kingdom?

Who are your Kingdom-building companions? Who helps you remember to find your strength in the Lord? Who helps you keep your eyes on God's ideas and calling?

Prayer:

Adoration: Praise God by telling Him who He is—the God who sustains you, speaks to you, and has plans for your blessing.

Confession: Confess the things you fear and the things that discourage you. Confess the times you want to run away and need God to sustain you.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for how he has sustained you throughout your life, for his commitment to listening to you and speaking to you, for the kingdom work he has planned for you, and for the friends and companions he has given to you.

Supplication: Ask God to encourage you where you feel afraid and discouraged. Ask him to speak to you. Ask him to show you the work he has appointed for you in this time. Ask him to send you friends who will walk with you as you grow in your faith. Are there people in your life who might need encouragement and strength in the face of fear and discouragement? Pray for them too!