

Living In a Drought Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is your favorite beverage when you're really thirsty?
2. What food would be the most difficult for you to give up?

Read the following passages: 1 Kings 17:1-16.

Ahab, King of Israel, was leading the Israelites down a very dark path of Baal worship. (Baal was the most prominent deity among the Canaanite peoples.) To shake the Israelites out of their idolatry, God sent a drought to the entire region. Having our idols confronted can be painful and disorienting. But, in the midst of this drought, God showed his power to Elijah and saved a widow living in Zarephath.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Ancient peoples often made small figures to represent their deities (or key attributes of their deities). Idolatry in our culture is often much more subtle. Author Tim Keller defines idolatry as taking a (typically) good thing and turning it into an ultimate thing. We think these things “can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment...” (Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*). What are some things you are prone to turn into an idol in your life? What do you (consciously or subconsciously) think these idols will do for you?
2. The Israelites were tempted to worship Baal because the people around them worshipped Baal. What are some unhelpful or even harmful ways you feel our culture influencing you?
3. Can you see any idols in the life of a parent or caregiver that you either 1) are tempted to idolize as well, or 2) now strongly distance yourself from?
4. In the middle of the drought, Elijah continued to listen to God. What are some ways you can stay tuned-in to what God is saying even in the midst of a very “noisy” world?
5. God provided for Elijah in the middle of Zarephath to reinforce the reality that he reigns everywhere; there are no limitations on God’s jurisdiction. “Jesus is Lord” is the fundamental confession of the Christian faith. How can this confession ground us in challenging circumstances? What are some implications of Jesus’ lordship of which God may be wanting to remind you in this season of your life?
6. Why do you think Elijah instructed the widow in Zarephath to make a small loaf of bread for him first? What are some ways we might take similar steps of faith in our

own lives?

7. "Don't be afraid," or "Fear not," is one of the most common imperatives in the Bible. God often tells people not to fear when he is already working in the midst of their seemingly impossible circumstances. What are some areas in which you think God might be saying to you, "Don't be afraid?"
8. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Paul did not promise the Corinthians that they would become wealthy. Rather, he told them that if they were generous, God would restock their supply so they could continue to be generous in the future. Do you live generously? Explain. How would you like to live a more generous life?

Pray