



WEEK 5 DEVOTIONAL

BENEATH THE BROOM BUSH | Dealing with Discouragement

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to **1 Kings 19:1–18**, two times. Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

REFLECT

1. Reflecting on your faith journey, share or journal a time you experienced a high point in your faith but felt very discouraged shortly after?
2. Based on last week's study on chapter 18 and the immense power Elijah channeled by God's grace and presence in that chapter, how consistent are His actions in that chapter compared to the beginning of chapter 19? How would you explain what Elijah is experiencing?
3. How does James 5:17 describe Elijah? How does this passage show that?
4. How does God respond to Elijah's exhaustion and discouragement (verses 5–9)?
5. How exhausted do you feel right now in life? Physically? Emotionally? Spiritually? What practical forms of rest and refreshment might God be leading you to explore? Journal or share those ideas with someone.
6. In verses 9 & 13, the Lord asks, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" With that question in mind, how would you answer if God asked you that?

7. Where did God “show up” on the mountain with Elijah? What do you think God was trying to demonstrate to Elijah (verses 11–13)?
8. What do you think God was trying to communicate to Elijah by “showing up” in the “whisper”?
9. How well do you listen to hear God’s voice speak to you?
10. Reflecting on today’s passage, what ways does God express his grace to Elijah?
11. What key lessons does Elijah need to learn through what and how God shares with him in chapter 19?

RESPOND

1. We find through Elijah’s story that in our discouragement God still...
 - Cares for us
 - Speaks to us
 - Reassures us
2. Of the three expressions, which do you miss and long for in your own life? Why?
3. Being as practical as possible what spiritual practices can you engage in to help foster each of these areas?

RESOURCES

It is often helpful to know the context and a little background about the Book as it can help inform our understanding of the stories shared. Take a few minutes and watch this overview of the [Book of Kings by the Bible Project](#)

Slowing to Hear spiritual retreat

So many of us are like Elijah—exhausted. If you feel like exhaustion is keeping you from remembering and hearing God’s voice. Join Pastor Eric Haskins and others to pause and rest to hear God’s voice during the *Slowing to Hear spiritual retreat* on Saturday, October 29. Register [here](#).

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1–18 New International Version

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there,⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over

Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”



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