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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—1 Kings 17:2-7

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Share with the group about how easy or difficult it is for you to stop, and/or to be by yourself for any length of time. Why do you think it's that way?
2. Discuss some times in your life when you have experienced God's presence while alone. How did these happen—were they planned, or did God bring them upon them? What did you learn?
3. Talk about the difference between solitude and quiet. When was the last time you heard God speak to you? What did He say, and why do you think you were able to hear Him?
4. Pass on some stories of what has God most often done for you—protected you, provided for you, or prepared you for a task—when you have gotten quiet before Him.
5. How can you set up times to be able to regularly hear the voice of God? Get practical.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

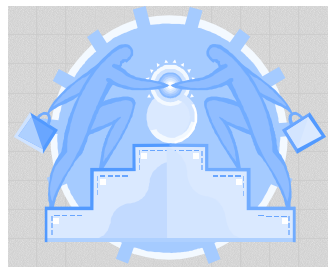
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Rm104 | 30s-50s—Waller-Crary | Rm 104 | Open—Bower-Chappell |
| Rm 112 | | Rm 112 | Women—Byrum |
| Rm 201 | 30s-40s—Sims-Fendley | Rm 201 | 20s—Alexy/Jones |
| Rm 202 | | Rm 202 | 30s—Tripp-Tripp |
| Rm 203 | Young Singles—Franklin | Rm 203 | Singles—Bentzel |
| Rm 204 | | Rm 204 | 30s—Heritier-Sharp |
| Rm 205 | 40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler | Rm 205 | Engaged/Newly Married |
| Rm 206 | | Rm 206 | |
| Rm 207 | 40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks | Rm 207 | |
| Rm 208 | Women—Knox-Anderson | Rm 208 | Open—Regis-Hubbard-Anderson- Robertson |
| | | Gym-3rd fl | College Ayres-Getchell |

Living Like a King
Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings

Celebration Fellowship

A God For All Seasons

A preview of I Kings 18-19

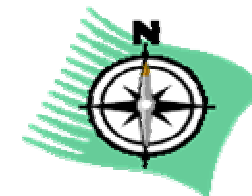
The movie, *A Man for All Seasons*, describes the life of Sir Thomas More, a man whose beliefs were so strong that he lost his head over them – literally. When Henry the VIII of England wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon, More withheld approval, which eventually led to his beheading. He stood by his values, no matter what the cost. This is like the LORD, Israel's God. Whether Israel followed Him or not, He was a God for all seasons, One who could be counted on to do whatever it took for His values to be upheld in this world. He

instructed Elijah, His prophet and representative, to gather Israel and the prophets of Baal to Mt Carmel. There He would demonstrate His faithfulness through a contest between Baal and Himself. The deity that answered by fire would show Himself to be the true God. Of course Baal, the supposed "god of fire", heard and did nothing; but when Elijah prayed, the LORD burned up the water-saturated sacrifice. Then, however, Elijah ran, fearing Jezebel's wrath; but this provided another opportunity for God to show His depend-



We can live like kings when we follow the King, Jesus.

ability. Not only did he restore Elijah gently, refreshing him with food, water and rest, He quietly revealed His glory to Elijah, who was hiding in his cave. Finally, the LORD re-commissioned him, placing him back into service. He was a God who could be counted on, a "God for all seasons".



Volume 2, Issue 46

June 20, 2004

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

The Definition of Insanity

It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same things but expecting different results. This could be said for the kings of Israel and Judah. They continually served their idols, and the result never changed: God was provoked to anger. Judah's king, Abijam, Rehoboam's son, illustrated this. He walked in the sins of his father, was influenced to do evil by his mother, and failed to have a heart fully devoted to God, as David had. In fact, the only reason he was on the throne was because of David's faithfulness. Due to his evil, his reign of 3 years was characterized by war with the north. His son, Asa, ruled Judah for 41 years, but he was a good king, with a heart fully devoted to God, like David's. He obeyed the LORD, abolished male cult prostitution, removed his father's idols, and surprisingly deposed his evil Queen Mother and tore down her Asherah poles. His reign shows that we don't have to continue the evil of

those who have gone before, but can choose to follow God. However, in his reign he did err; facing danger from Israel as they stopped up the northern entrance to Judah by fortifying Ramah, Asa turned to Syria in an alliance, rather than relying on God. Israel did back off, and Ramah was dismantled, but, although Asa did many good things, God was displeased with his failure to depend solely on Him. The next 2 kings in Israel had nothing to commend them to God, however. Nadab, who ruled for 2 years, and Baasha, with a longer reign of 24 years, both walked in the idolatrous ways of Jeroboam. In addition, Baasha destroyed the whole family of Nadab, executing God's judgment on Nadab's sin. However, Baasha, too, was judged for this blood-letting, and God ordained that he and his family would receive the same fate. Baasha's prideful and idolatrous actions were absurd because God had lifted him from the

(I Kings 15-17)

dust to become the king of Israel. Due to their evil, no one in either Nadab's or Baasha's family would even receive a proper burial. The next 3 kings were Elah, reigning for 2 years, Zimri, who lasted only 7 days, and Omri. Elah's claim to fame was that he was drunk when he was murdered by Zimri, and Zimri's accomplishment was the burning down of the palace around him when he realized that his defeat at the hands of Omri was near. All 3 kings acted like Jeroboam; but Omri, commander of the army, was more evil than any before him. This shows that as sin goes unchecked it gets worse in each succeeding generation. It also results in division among nations or families, and this very thing then occurred. With half of Israel following Omri, and half following Tibni, the more powerful Omri brought Tibni's forces under his control, and Israel was reunited under his 12 year reign. Of historical significance was the fact that Omri bought the hill of Shemer, and built

(Continued on page 2)

I Kings 15-17 (continued from pg 1)

the town of Samaria at the midpoint of his reign. This would become the capital of the north until Israel's disintegration in 722 BC, and later be region in which the hated "Samaritans" lived in the time of Jesus. At last insanity reached its zenith; Ahab, son of Omri, became the most evil king that Israel had known. Not only did he walk in the ways of Jeroboam, provoking God with his idolatry, but he even married Jezebel, princess of Sidon, and worshipper of Baal-Melqart, the repulsive god of the Sidonians. He built a house for Baal-worship, set up and idol of Baal there, and led all of Israel to worship this "god". In his 22 year reign Baal-worship became the 2nd religion of Israel, and this would provoke a confrontation from God through Elijah a little later. Ahab would not repent of his evil even though he knew God's judgment was certain. This was shown in the case of Hiel (a resident of Bethel, the southern worship center) who rebuilt Jericho at the cost of his first-born, and his youngest, sons. This fulfilled Joshua's prophecy over 500 years before. Since Ahab refused to listen, God sent Elijah to boldly inform him that it would not rain in Israel until God said so – a direct judgment upon Israel's idolatry based on Leviticus 26:19. Elijah was a

rugged, hairy man who lived in the wilderness, with a nature like all other human beings. Yet, by God's choice, it would not rain until he prayed for it. As the drought took over, God sent Elijah first to live by the brook Kerith, and he was miraculously fed bread and meat morning and evening by the ravens. When this stream dried up, he sent him to Sidon to live with a widow and son who were on their last meal. But Elijah told them the food would not run out until it rained in Israel, and this was remarkably fulfilled. In a final miraculous exhibition of God's power to Elijah (which he would later need) the widow's son died, and God used Elijah to raise him from the dead. The widow's first response was to disbelieve that Elijah was a true



"We should not only pray, but also get involved, if we truly want to connect others to God's power."

prophet, and that God was punishing her for some prior sin. But Elijah prayed to God, then stretched himself out on the child 3 times, and the son was revived. Then the woman knew he was a true prophet. This shows us several things. First, people typically blame God when bad things happen, rather than realizing that He might have a better ending in mind, with growth that accompanies it. Also, Elijah's actions teach that we should not only pray, but also get involved, if we truly want to connect others to God's power. In summary we see that God's justice for good prevailed with David – he followed God wholeheartedly, so God kept his dynasty in place. Also, when Asa did the same thing God blessed him. But all the rest of the kings, following Jeroboam's evil, received God's judgment – they lost their reign, their dynasties, and the nation was at constantly in conflict. But God's righteous judgment doesn't erase His mercy – He continued to keep a king on David's throne even though David hadn't been perfect, and He provided for a widow because she was obedient, even though she was a foreigner. In spite of His justice and mercy, the evil kings of Judah and Israel continued their insanity, and the results stayed the same.

Study Questions for 1 Kings 18-19

As Elijah moves from the highest high to the lowest low, God reveals Himself to him.

1. Read 1 Kings 18:1-6. How did Elijah show his faith in God (v1-2)? Who besides Elijah was faithful to the LORD (v3) and what had he done (v4)?
2. In 1 Kings 18:7-15 what did Obadiah fear (v11-13), and how did he try to persuade Elijah to let him "off the hook" (v13)? How did Elijah calm his fear (v15)?
3. From 1 Kings 18:16-19 what was Ahab's accusation (v17), how did Elijah turn it around (v18), and what did Elijah ask Ahab to do (v19)? What can we learn from this?



"God's righteous judgment doesn't erase His mercy."

4. Looking at 1 Kings 18:20-24 what was Elijah's challenge (v21), and what was the response (v21)? How did he propose to show who the real God was (v22-24)? Apply this.

5. Using 1 Kings 18:25-29 what did the prophets of Baal do (v26, 28-29), how did Elijah react (v27), and what was the result (v29)? What does this show about false gods (v29)?

6. Describe Elijah's procedure from 1 Kings 18:30-35 (v30, 31, 32, 33-35), and why you think he performed each step. What was he trying to teach the people?

7. Read 1 Kings 18:36-40. Who did Elijah call on (v36) and what did he ask (v37)? What was the immediate (v38) and ultimate (v39) result? What else did Elijah command (v40)? Do you agree with this?

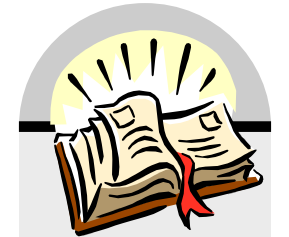
8. In 1 Kings 18:41-46 what did Ahab (v41) and Elijah do (v42)? What did Elijah tell the servant to do (v43) and why? How did Ahab and Elijah respond to the rain (v45-46)?

9. Looking at 1 Kings 19:1-8 what was Jezebel's reaction (v1-2), and how did Elijah respond (v3-4)? What did God do about this (v5-7), and why? What was the result (v8)?

10. Using 1 Kings 19:9-14 where was Elijah (v9), and what question did God ask twice (v9, 13)? How did Elijah feel (v10, 14), and how did God respond (v11-13)? What was God teaching?

11. From 1 Kings 19:15-21 what 3 tasks did God give Elijah (v15, 16) and why (v17)? What did he want Elijah to know (v18)? How did God continue ministering to Elijah (v19-21)?

12. What lessons can we learn from 1 Kings 18-19 about how to experience the mountaintop for the Lord (chapter 18), and how to get through the valleys (chapter 19)?



Memory Verse

**"How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him."
1 Kings 18:21**