

ELIJAH ELISHA

I & II KINGS

STUDY GUIDE ANSWER KEY

The goal of this document is not merely to give you all of the answers to the questions in the study guide, but rather to help bring clarity and understanding to the questions, as well as your LifeGroup discussion.

WEEK ONE

WHO IS GOD?

1 - The brook dried up due to lack of rain. God will use the widow of Zarephath to feed Elijah.

2 - In that day, a widow had very little ability to care for themselves. This widow was so destitute that she was going to take her little bit of flour and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son before they died.

3 - God keeps supplying her oil and her flour. They never ran out. It's somewhat like the feeding of the five thousand.

4 - *(Group dialogue)*

5 - Her son gets very sick and dies. This leaves her destitute, sad, alone, and with a very bleak future.

6 - **Verse 19** - Elijah carried the lifeless boy upstairs to his room.

Verse 20 - He cried out to the Lord.

Verse 21 - Elijah stretched himself on the dead boy three times and asked the Lord to bring this boy back to life.

7 - God brought this boy back to life.

8 - She tells Elijah that she knows he is a man of God and that he speaks truth from the Lord.

9 - When God's people reject Him, He goes to others that won't.

10 - *(Group dialogue)*

WEEK TWO

THE SHOWDOWN ON MT. CARMEL

1 - God's people have abandoned Him and have followed after "the Baals" (idols). God has repeatedly commanded them to not go after other gods.

2 - All of Israel plus the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah would be in attendance. Each "team" would sacrifice a bull on their altar but would not light a fire for the sacrifice. Each would call on their deity to send fire, and whoever sent fire was the true God.

3 - **Verse 26b** - They called on Baal from morning until noon, but there was no answer.

Verse 26c - They limped around their altar.

Verse 28 - They cried out even louder and cut themselves.

Verse 29 - They "raved" all day.

4 - There was no voice. No one answered. No one paid attention. Baal isn't real and cannot see, hear, or do anything.

5 - *(Group dialogue)*

6 - He took 12 stones according to the 12 tribes of Israel and built an altar to the Lord. He put wood on the altar and cut up the bull. He dug a trench around the altar and then poured 12 jars of water on the sacrifice and on the wood. It was so much water that it filled the trench around the altar. Elijah wants there to be no doubt when God shows up.

7 - Elijah prayed one time.

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - The people fell on their faces and recognized that the Lord is the true God!

10 - Elijah bowed himself down to the earth and put his face between his knees.

11 - After the seventh time, the servant saw a little cloud like a man's hand rising from the sea. Most assume this is "the hand of God."

12 - *(Group dialogue)*

WEEK THREE

FROM MOUNTAIN TOP TO VALLEY LOW

1 - She had the power to have him instantly killed, so there could be a number of reasons she sent a messenger. She probably didn't want him dead but wanted him and his God discredited.

2 - Physically – he ran for his life; Emotionally – he was afraid; Spiritually – he prayed that God would take his life.

3 - *(Group dialogue)*

4 - God gave food and rest in the wilderness to Elijah. The key is that Elijah took what God provided through the angel of the Lord.

5 - 40 days is the similarity. In the Bible, the number 40 symbolizes a period of testing.

6 - Elijah's replay reveals both his pride and self-pity. He'd forgotten God's faithfulness to him.

7 - *(Group dialogue)*

8 - God had revealed Himself on Mt. Carmel in spectacular ways, but God wants Elijah to know that He also reveals Himself in a "low whisper." He reveals Himself in quietness.

9 - *(Group dialogue)*

10 - *(Group dialogue)*

WEEK FOUR

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PROPHET

1 - Elijah felt alone so God gave him a friend and assistant in Elisha.

2 - Elijah returns exactly the same way he came, but this time he has purpose, meaning, significance, and a task from God. He had wandered from his mission and commission, so God takes him back to where he was in order to continue his calling.

3 - God sees sin and disobedience, and because of His holiness, He punishes both. The gospel is both punishment and grace. These two ideas go hand-in-hand. We fall into a ditch if we overemphasize only one.

4 - God corrects Elijah's things and reminds him that he isn't alone. There are at least 7,000 other believers in Israel.

5 - Twelve teams of oxen indicate that Elisha came from a wealthy family. He gave up wealth, status, comfort to follow Elijah/God.

6 - Elisha kisses his parents goodbye, kills his livelihood as a farmer, and burns the meat to celebrate with the town as a thanksgiving offering.

7 - Both are working in their jobs when called, have to leave everything they know – livelihood and family. Elisha stops to offer a sacrifice and celebrate with his family/town, disciples leave immediately.

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - *(Group dialogue)*

10 - *(Group dialogue)*

WEEK FIVE

GRAPES OF WRATH

1 - Ahab was the king of Samaria, and yet, he was asking Naboth to give up his family vineyard. This shows us that he was greedy, discontent, never satisfied, and always wanting more.

2 - Ahab pouted – he is described as “vexed and sullen.” He lay down, turned his face away from the world, and chose not to eat. He appeared to be a moody guy with the mentality of a child.

3 - She pretended to be Ahab, using his official seal to send letters to the elders of the city that schemed to have Naboth killed. She recruited men to falsely testify against Naboth in order to seize his vineyard.

4 - Worthless men – liars who couldn't be trusted. They “mocked justice” and “devoured iniquity.” The NLT refers to them as “scoundrels.”

5 - God warned that He would eliminate Ahab, his wife Jezebel, all their male heirs, and bring complete disaster upon him. God was angry that Ahab caused the nation of Israel to sin by allowing and promoting idol worship. We learn that God's anger was provoked because of his actions and would not go unpunished.

6 - Ahab had wreaked havoc on the nation of Israel for two decades. He was the reason for a 50 year spiritual crisis of idol worship.

7 - Ahab was the most wicked and rebellious king in Israel's history, but when he did the unthinkable and repented, God responded with the equally unthinkable reaction and relented. It's never too late to humble yourself, turn to God, and ask forgiveness.

8 - Our actions always have consequences, and those actions affect more than us.

9 - An idol is anything you're trusting in or valuing more than God. We are told that God is a "jealous God" and wants us to put nothing ahead of Him.

10 - (*Group dialogue*)

WEEK SIX

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

1 - According to these two passages, Ahab 1) did more evil in God's sight than any of his predecessors, 2) married Jezebel, a wicked and pagan woman, 3) worshipped and served false gods, 4) aroused God's anger to a greater degree than any of his predecessors, 5) "sold himself" to do evil, 6) committed great sins before God because of his pursuit of false gods.

2 - Jehoshaphat, an otherwise righteous king, had "yoked" himself with Ahab, a wicked king, through a marriage alliance. While we should be in relationship with non-believers to "win" them to Christ, we need to be careful that they aren't influencing us away from God.

3 - Jehoshaphat wanted to be sure to find out what God was truly saying, and he didn't trust the "prophets" chosen by Ahab.

4 - The messenger who was sent to bring Micaiah to the two kings urged him to agree with the message of the 400 false prophets, and to predict a successful military campaign for the kings and their armies.

5 - Micaiah was almost certainly being sarcastic. He was showing Ahab that he knew he was supposed to agree with the 400 false prophets. Therefore, he did pretend to agree, but in a sarcastic tone. Even Ahab knew that Micaiah wasn't telling him what he'd really heard from the Lord.

6 - Caleb & Joshua, as well as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego feared God more than they feared people. They didn't focus on their inabilities, but on God's ability.

7 - In **Job 1-2**, Satan himself comes into the assembly of the Lord and His angels and asks God for permission to afflict Job. Most scholars believe the "lying spirit" of **1 Kings 22** to be a demon. If it were Satan

himself, Micaiah probably would have said so. Angels are holy and would not lie, so it couldn't be an angel. Though God never does evil Himself, He is big enough that He can use evil to accomplish His purposes.

8 – Ahab was evil, but crafty. He must've known that the king of Syria would target him. Somehow, he convinced Jehoshaphat to wear his royal robes, so that the Syrian army would attack him instead. Jehoshaphat trusted God to deliver him from the enemy army and from Ahab's deception.

9 – (*Group dialogue*)

10 – In **verse 17**, Micaiah saw the nation of Israel scattered like sheep without a shepherd. After the death of Ahab (Israel's shepherd), the people (sheep) were scattered all over the country. In **1 Kings 21**, Elijah prophesied that just as dogs had licked up Naboth's blood, they would lick up his blood. Even though Ahab's body was buried in Samaria, his blood was indeed licked up by dogs when his chariot was washed up by the pool where prostitutes bathed.

11 – (*Group dialogue*)

WEEK SEVEN

CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU WRECK YOURSELF

1 – Order of Events:

- Ahaziah begins to reign over Israel
- Walks away from God just like his father, mother and King Jeroboam/ Worshipped Baal
- Fell through the lattice in Samaria and lay sick and desperate
- Sent messengers to ask for information from Baal
- Elijah comes instead and meets the messengers to inform them that the king will die
- Fire of God consumes the men King Ahaziah sends to Elijah
- King Ahaziah dies after a 2 year reign just as Elijah prophesied, leaving the throne to Jehoshaphat's son because he had none of his own.

2 – Jeroboam leads his people astray. He takes bad counsel and builds two golden calves for his people to worship in both Bethel and Dan. People traveled great distances to worship these false idols. Then he built temples, appointed priests, and had feasts to sacrifice to the calves. King Jeroboam “devised from his own heart” to do these things it says in **1 Kings 12:33**.

3 – Ahaziah falls through the lattice. He responds by seeking answers about his fate/future from the false god Baal.

4 - The altercation between Ahaziah's messengers and Elijah points out that the only god with power is the one true God that Ahaziah has yet to humble himself to. Ahaziah has not once asked for God's help or forgiveness, he just wants his problems to go away. Elijah's confrontation with Ahaziah's men demonstrates God's power and Ahaziah's stubbornness and pride. God taking down his generals and men does not get his attention in the right ways, he simply sends more generals and men to die rather than confess with his mouth that the Lord is God.

5 - Ahaziah left his own nation and sought answers from an enemy nation. Ahaziah's heart was far from God.

6 - *(Group dialogue)*

7 - *(Group dialogue)*

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - The men are consumed by fire. Ahaziah seems to be desperate for control and unwilling to accept Elijah's prophecy about his fate. He is to die and yet is not humbled even for a second. Instead, in his pride, he continues to strive for a control by pressing Elijah and losing captains and men in the process.

The third captain had a different fate, perhaps to show God's mercy on those who walk in humility (a stark contrast to the brash, proud king this captain served). He acknowledged Elijah's status as a "man of God" and refers to him as such. His life is spared. Nevertheless, King Ahaziah's fate remained the same.

10 - Group Dialogue.

WEEK EIGHT CHARIOTS OF FIRE

1 - *(Group dialogue)*

2 - *(Group dialogue)*

3 - *(Group dialogue)*

4 - Jericho was the first city conquered in the Promised Land. As such, it was devoted to the Lord, as a "first fruits" offering to Him. The battle of Jericho was fought in a unique and unexpected way, and the Israelites had to trust God completely in order to carry out His battle plan. In the same way, Elijah was teaching Elisha that he needed to trust God completely.

5 - Moses and Joshua were political leaders of Israel; Elijah and Elisha were spiritual leaders of Israel. All four of these men had very important roles in their nation, and it was vital for the Israelites to trust their leadership. Moses and Elijah were two of the greatest men in the OT, and they represented the Law and the Prophets. These men had the honor of appearing together in the NT, at the transfiguration of Jesus (**Matt. 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36**). Joshua and Elisha had huge shoes to fill. In **verse 8**, Elijah performed a very similar miracle to the one done by both Moses and Joshua. In **verse 14**, Elisha performed the first

miracle of his lifetime, parting the Jordan in the same way Elijah had done it earlier that day. Importantly, Elisha's miracle was observed by "the sons of the prophets," who recognized that Elijah's spirit now rested on Elisha. They submitted to his spiritual leadership over them, and were witnesses to the rest of Israel that Elisha was now in charge.

6 - Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River were four of the most important landmarks in Israel's history. Each of them revealed God's faithfulness to His chosen people in unique ways. Elijah was reminding Elisha of the great things God had done on behalf of His people, and He was encouraging Elisha (and us) that God is still in the business of performing miracles for us!

7 - Elijah is testing Elisha's perseverance and commitment (both to him and to the Lord). He doesn't really want Elisha to stay. Elisha passes this test with flying colors, showing his tenacity in seeking the Lord.

8 - (*Group dialogue*)

9 - (*Group dialogue*)

10 - Enoch. Both Elijah and Enoch walked faithfully with God and pleased Him.

WEEK NINE

ELISHA, YOUR TURN

1 - One day Elisha went to *shunem* where a wealthy *woman* lived.

She said to her husband, "Behold, now I know that this is a *holy man of God* who passes our way. Let us make a *small room* on the roof.

As a way of saying, "Thank you," Elisha wanted to do something for the woman and since she had no children, he prophesied to her that in one year she would *embrace a son*.

One day the child felt sick and *died*.

The woman sought out help from Elisha and he sent out his servant to put a *staff* on the child's face.

The servant met up with Elisha and told him that the boy was still dead, so Elisha went and *prayed* to the Lord and *laid* on the child.

After the second time Elisha laid on the child, the child *sneezed* 7 times and *opened* his eyes.

2 - Moses; David; Elijah

3 - It meant that she had to be recognized for what she was doing. It revealed her intentions were pure. She was not serving Elisha to get something out of it; she served because she genuinely wanted to serve God by serving His prophet.

4 - It reminds us of when God told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a son a year from that moment.

5 - She had faith that Elisha could do something for her son and that everything was going to be all right.

6 - This was a time of ritual for the people. They would offer sacrifices to the Lord on Sabbath and at the beginning of the new moons.

7 - Elisha would've probably gone to the Shunamite's house when the child died without her going to look for him. God could've been testing the Shunamite's faith.

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - She fell at Elisha's feet, bowing to the ground, and then she picked up her son.

10 - *(Group dialogue)*

WEEK TEN

RASH DECISIONS

1 - He was trying to hide his leprosy, which was a life-taking disease that was easily spread. Getting leprosy basically ended your life.

2 - This unnamed girl had been kidnapped and trafficked by an enemy people. She could have been thrilled with Naaman's condition; yet, she shares good news with him.

3 - The King of Israel likely views this as a political trap; he can't perform what's being asked of him.

4 - Elisha stepped in so that Naaman could learn "there is a prophet in Israel" (Thus, a God in Israel).

5 - Elisha tells Naaman to dip himself seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman expected a more immediate cure than having to go through the ridiculous dipping himself into something not bigger than a creek.

6 - Elisha's servants urge him to listen to this prophet.

7 - *(Group dialogue)*

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - Naaman states that he believes there's no god in all the earth, except the God of Israel. Group dialogue.

10 - Elisha knew this miracle wasn't in his power but was from God. He didn't want there to be any confusion about who was responsible.

WEEK ELEVEN

I CAN SEE

Who did what?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. There wasn't enough space for them | g. Dothan |
| b. The Jordan River | h. Elisha's servant |
| c. An axe head | i. Chariots and horses of fire |
| d. A stick | j. They were blinded |
| e. The Arameans | k. Samaria |
| f. Elisha | l. A feast |

1 - If you were borrowing something from someone and it broke (or died), you were liable for full restoration for the good that was lost. It seems plausible that the guy didn't have the money to buy one since he was borrowing it to start with.

2 - God provides a way to return the axe head to the lender.

3 - Interacting with water (often sticks) resulted in flourishing for life for God's people.

4 - "Alas my Master." After this phrase, God performs a miracle through Elisha (making the axe float and opening the servant's eyes).

5 - The king of Aram was very angry because he thought someone was telling the nation of Israel his military plans, which allowed them to escape.

6 - We may not always get out of the situation we're in, but we can trust that God is at work in every situation.

7 - When Elijah was taken to heaven.

8 - *(Group dialogue)*

9 - *(Group dialogue)*

10 - *(Group dialogue)*

11 - All three stories emphasize God providing. Whether you're an important powerful general, an unnamed servant who lost an axe head, or in need of spiritual sight, God provides.

WEEK TWELVE

PEACE OUT

1 - The Israelites sinned against God when they:

- walked in the ways of their surrounding culture
- embraced the people that God had driven from them
- did secretly what God had forbidden them to do
- built pillars and Asherim to worship false gods on every single high hill and under every green tree
- made offerings to false gods
- did wicked things
- served idols

2 - (*Group dialogue*) Answer may include -

- things we do in secret that we know are forbidden
- things we blindly elevate and prioritize over our relationship with God (making family, politics/nationalism, health, career, relationships, image etc. into an idol)
- celebrating things that our culture celebrates that God asks us to remain set apart from

3 - He is so desperate for us to receive his grace and he offers it again and again and in so many ways that are unique to each individual person. He is slow to anger, and desiring that all people come to know him.

4 - They would not listen and they were stubborn. They despised his rules and the covenant they had with him. They went after false idols and became false. They burned their own children in sacrifice thus provoking God to anger. He removed them from his sight, they were exiled.

5 - (*Group dialogue*)

6 - He is jealous and great in power. His wrath is poured out like fire. A God who is a righteous judge and a God who feels indignation every day.

7 - He is the best parent to his children, better than any father anyone could ever ask for or imagine. If he withholds all forms of discipline he is neither holy nor loving, but he is not quick to get angry or lose his temper with us though we try him and test him at every turn. He is not on a power trip, he is correcting us to make us more like him and that is the purest form of love.

8 - (*Group dialogue*) Answers may include -

- the temptation to be incredibly critical and graceless towards others
- becoming more moralistic without attaching our moralism to the truth of God. Embracing moralism without true morals. Spiritual atheism.
- empowerment obsessed/unbiblical mantras (gay pride, toxic feminism, gender fluidity, "You deserve to be happy", "look within to find your joy and purpose", "you do you" among myriad other harmful but popular mantras)
- fatalism
- nationalism/politics

- money, entertainment, consumerism
- a lack of respect and love for God's design for sex, marriage and family to reflect the gospel
- hobbies/interests/sports/self care trump dedication to spiritual growth
- family and tradition valued more than a healthy church body

9 - "None was left but the tribe of Judah only." The covenant between God and his people remained. The line of Judah is spared from exile. God preserves them, though they too are sinful, and through this line the Lion of Judah would come and continue to preserve God's covenant with Israel and ultimately restore all nations to himself.

10 - (*Group dialogue*)

11 - (*Group dialogue*)