

Life Group Questions- Faith and Fire Series

Overview and introduction to Elijah: God for us!

Read 1 Kings 17:8-24 and 1 Kings 19:11-13(perhaps use a few different translations)

Questions

1. What captivates you about the Bible reading/s? (E.g., God never abandons his people, even when they lose faith and hope in Him; the challenging task of turning people away from idol worship back to the one true God? How God works through ordinary people like Elijah to the miraculous and also the mundane..)
2. Elijah experienced mountain top miracles where he sees God move powerfully supernaturally and then hits the deep valleys of doubt, despair, depression and burn out. Does any of this resonate with yourselves? If so, are you able to share? And how were you strengthened in this season?
3. God's angel ministered to Elijah, providing him with sustenance for what was ahead. Elijah's deliverance from depression and suicidal thoughts began when he obeyed God's angel and ate the food and took the water and rested. God knows how weak and weary we become, and attends to our basic needs in various ways. Can you recall times when God did this for you or someone you know? What was provided?
4. Can you recall when you have sensed the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in your own life, in the life of RBC? In your life group? If so- what did this look like /feel like or change?
5. God showed himself through natural happenings, earthquake, wind, fire and a tiny whispering sound. God said to Elijah "where are you?" Elijah was invited to come out of his prison of fear, to leave his self-isolating life and stand before God. This reminds us that to have a life-giving encounter with God, we must let go of fear, brokenness, hurt, pain and past disappointments and approach God in prayer with open hearts to whatever God wants to reveal to us. Is God asking you today " (add your name)...Where are You?" What's your response?

6. As followers of Jesus we can encounter him in various ways, including silence and solitude. The challenge for most of us is avoiding reducing God to our limited experiences, ideas, or feelings. How best do you encounter Jesus? Share these to inspire and see how creative God is in reaching us all uniquely.
7. Elijah helps us to understand our humanness, times of overwhelm, tiredness and despair, and how to be authentic and real with God and one another, and how this deepens the relationship we have with God in the pain and in the joys. Share a pain and joy and then pray for one another. Trusting that God is for us, loves us and abounds in Grace towards us!