

Series: God's Story: Finding Our Place in His Unfolding Plan

Jul 16, 2017: 1 Kings 19:1-13 – Trusting God's Whisper

From Bad to Worse

*What memories of the past give you strength in the present?
Have the stories from the Bible this year helped give you perspective
for your present life?*

*1 Kings 17-18 – the people of Israel soon forgot their need for God.
How did God respond, through the prophet Elijah?*

From the Mountaintop to the Desert (1-9a)

1-3 – Elijah experiences a huge disappointment.

What would he be expecting, after such a great victory in ch. 18?

*4-5 – When expectations are disappointed, we can project a
negative future and become depressed. How did Elijah show this?
Can you think of an example in your own life?*

6-9a – How does God care for Elijah in his depression?

God Works in Whispers (9b-18)

*9 – How would you describe God's initial approach to the
conversation? See other examples (Gen 3:9-11, Luke 10:36)*

*10-13 – How would you describe Elijah's response? What message
is God sending, through the wind, earthquake, fire, and whisper?*

*14-18 – Elijah's answer doesn't change. What is he missing?
How do God's commands gently correct Elijah's thinking?
How is God's timeline different than Elijah's? (See 2 Kings 8-10)*

Wheat Among the Weeds

*When facing frustration, we tend to respond with fight or flight.
Which one is more common for you? Think of an example.*

*Jesus describes His kingdom as "wheat mixed with weeds" (Matthew
13:36-43). Christians are called to patiently stand, trusting in what
He has "already" done, and waiting for promises "not yet" fulfilled.*

Read Psalm 23. Listen for God's whisper, to sustain you in hardship.

1 Kings 19:1-13

19 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree.

And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. ⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it.

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"