

## 2026-09-30 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide

Based on the Sermon: God's Living Water and the Faithful Few

#### Overview

This sermon traces the story of Elijah, Ahab, the widow of Zarephath, and the often-overlooked Obadiah to explore a central question: what does it look like to genuinely love God with everything we have? The pastor challenges us to examine whether we truly thirst for God or whether we have settled for substitutes, and to consider how God uses ordinary, faithful people to reach others.

#### Key Takeaways

God is always working on us and through us simultaneously. His purpose is never just about getting us to a certain point and stopping there.

Hardship is not evidence that God has abandoned us. Often it is the very tool he uses to draw us and others back to himself.

Obadiah is a model of quiet, costly faithfulness. He served God at great personal risk without recognition, doing what needed to be done simply because it was right.

We are born self-centered, but growth in faith means progressively moving from a life that revolves around us to one that revolves around God and others.

Jesus is the living water described throughout Scripture. When we drink deeply of him, that water is meant to flow outward to the people around us, not be contained within us.

Changed people change people. If we are not being transformed, we have little to offer those around us who are watching.

## Discussion Questions

### Opening

The pastor opened by asking what it would really look like to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. How would you honestly answer that question for yourself right now?

He described humans as naturally self-centered, comparing it to the old belief that the sun revolved around the earth. Where do you see that self-centeredness most clearly in your own daily life?

### Going Deeper

God used a drought not to punish Ahab cruelly but to get his attention and draw him back. Can you think of a difficult season in your own life that you later recognized as God working to get your attention? What did you learn from it?

The widow of Zarephath was at the end of her resources when Elijah arrived. God sent Elijah there not just to help her but to reveal himself to her and through her to others. How does that change the way you think about the hard moments in your own life?

Obadiah was hiding and feeding one hundred prophets at enormous personal cost, with no recognition and under constant threat. The pastor described him as a hero. What qualities made Obadiah's faith remarkable, and what would it look like to live with that kind of quiet, costly faithfulness today?

The pastor referenced Jeremiah 2:13, where God describes his people as having forsaken him as the spring of living water and digging broken cisterns instead. What are some of the broken cisterns people today, including Christians, tend to run to instead of God?

Jesus said in John 7:37-38 that whoever believes in him will have streams of living water flowing from within them. The pastor suggested this water is

meant to flow outward to others, not stay contained within us. What does that look like practically in your relationships, your neighborhood, or your workplace?

The pastor said, "Changed people change people." What change has God made in you that someone else has actually noticed or been affected by? If you are struggling to answer that, what might that reveal?

### Personal Reflection

The pastor was honest about the fact that he does not always keep God at the forefront of his mind throughout the day. He asked why we do not talk to God more when every breath depends on him. What is your honest answer to that question?

He described some believers as still being spiritually seven years old, having accepted the part of Jesus that keeps them out of hell but not much more. Where would you place yourself on the journey of actually knowing God, not just knowing about him?

### Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One:

Identify your cisterns. Spend a few minutes writing down what you consistently turn to for comfort, meaning, or relief before you turn to God. Bring one of those things before God in prayer and ask him to replace it with a genuine thirst for him.

Be an Obadiah. Look for one practical, behind-the-scenes act of faithfulness you can do this week to support someone in your church or community who is struggling. Do it without drawing attention to yourself.

Pray with awareness. Each morning this week, begin the day by acknowledging to God that the breath you are drawing at that moment comes from him. Let that awareness shape how you approach the rest of the

day.

Tell someone. The pastor emphasized that God uses us to help others see him. Identify one person in your life who needs to know that God is real and working. Pray for them by name this week and ask God for one natural opportunity to let your faith show.

Examine your growth. Reflect honestly on where you were spiritually five years ago compared to today. If little has changed, bring that honestly before God and ask him what is standing in the way.

### Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your group time, pray together around these themes:

That God would continue the work of transformation in each person present  
That your group would develop a genuine thirst for God rather than settling for substitutes

That God would show each of you one specific person he wants to reach through your life

That you would have the courage of Elijah to go where God sends you and the faithfulness of Obadiah to serve quietly and at great cost

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

John 7:37-38