



## SESSION 2

# MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: Despite struggles, the Lord renews us for His purposes.

SCRIPTURE: **1 KINGS 19:1-9**

### ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE • THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

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Many atheists have argued that if God is all-powerful, all-loving, and knows everything, then evil would not exist in the world as humans know it today. But because evil exists in the world, God must not exist (or if He does exist, then He is not good or all-powerful). Despite its powerful rhetoric, appealing to evil as an argument against God fails: first, because outrage over bad things in this world presupposes a “good” moral standard that does not exist apart from God, and second, because God could have a good reason (though unknown to us) for allowing evil and suffering to continue for a season. Given what we know about God’s character and purposes, Christians can rest assured that even in the midst of evil, God is working all things for our good (Rom. 8:28).

### CHRIST CONNECTION

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Elijah was a prophet God used to perform amazing miracles to draw His people back to Himself. Yet, Elijah still faced persecution and opposition from those who rejected God. Elijah’s example points forward to Jesus, the greatest prophet, who endured opposition and rejection for delivering God’s words of life.

#### **1** 1 KINGS 19:1-2

#### THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD STILL FACE STRUGGLES.

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Jezebel shows us sin is the starting place for self-destruction and ruin. She rejected God’s signs and did whatever she wanted, which led to her wanting to take out another prophet of God: Elijah. Elijah was serving the Lord, yet still faced struggles along the way. Like Elijah, we will face difficult situations throughout our lives. And many times, it’s after a great victory. How we respond to struggles says a lot about our faith.

#### **2** 1 KINGS 19:3-5a

#### FEAR IS OFTEN OUR FIRST RESPONSE.

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Elijah became afraid and immediately ran for his life. After arriving at Beersheba, he traveled by himself into the wilderness. Elijah actually “prayed that he might die” (v. 4). He wanted to give up. After a great

victory, Elijah quickly became depressed and afraid. His emotions were getting the best of him, and ours can do the same. When life gets tough, our faith can quickly turn to fear, anxiety, and worry about the future.

#### **3** 1 KINGS 19:5b-8

#### THE LORD RENEWS OUR STRENGTH FOR HIS PURPOSES.

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God’s timing is always best. We might think we can’t take another step, like Elijah, and God steps in to renew our strength to continue His work. Through an angel, God provided for Elijah’s physical needs of food, water, and rest. Then, Elijah was able to travel the forty days and nights to the mountain of God: Horeb. No one knows us better than the Lord. He knows what we can handle easily and what is difficult for us. And in those difficult days and struggles, He will renew us by His strength. Like Elijah, we too will be able to carry on by God’s strength in the work He has given us.



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### 1 1 KINGS 19:1-2

THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD STILL FACE STRUGGLES.

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WHAT DOES JEZEBEL TEACH US ABOUT SIN THAT LEADS TO RUIN? WHAT GOOD CAME DESPITE HER EVIL ACTIONS?

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO SIN—DO WE CELEBRATE IT OR REPENT OF IT? WHY OR WHY NOT?

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO HEARING A THREAT LIKE JEZEBEL'S IN VERSE 2?

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD ALLOWS HIS PEOPLE TO FACE VARIOUS STRUGGLES?

HAVE YOU TYPICALLY EXPERIENCED MORE OR LESS STRUGGLES AFTER A SPIRITUAL VICTORY? EXPLAIN.

DESPITE THE EVIL IN THE WORLD AND STRUGGLES WE MIGHT FACE, WHY DO CHRISTIANS STILL HAVE HOPE?

### 2 1 KINGS 19:3-5a

FEAR IS OFTEN OUR FIRST RESPONSE.

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WHAT WAS ELIJAH'S RESPONSE TO JEZEBEL'S THREAT? WHY IS FEAR OFTEN OUR FIRST RESPONSE WHEN THINGS ARE DIFFICULT OR UNCERTAIN?

WHEN HAVE YOU RUN AWAY FROM SOMETHING OUT OF FEAR? WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WE TEND TO TRY TO FIND A WAY OUT OF OUR STRUGGLES INSTEAD OF TURNING TO GOD?

HOW DO OUR EMOTIONS OFTEN AFFECT OUR FAITH? WHY MIGHT IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO EXPRESS THOSE EMOTIONS TO GOD, LIKE ELIJAH DID?

IF YOUR FAITH IS CHALLENGED, WHAT'S YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE?

### 3 1 KINGS 19:5b-8

THE LORD RENEWS OUR STRENGTH FOR HIS PURPOSES.

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WHAT DID GOD PROVIDE FOR ELIJAH? HOW DID HE DO THIS?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO TAKE TIME AND REST IN THE LORD? WHAT MIGHT REST LOOK LIKE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

THE LORD PROVIDED REST, FOOD, AND WATER—ESSENTIALS FOR US TO SURVIVE. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THE LORD RENEWS US? WHAT OTHER PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE CAN YOU FIND THAT SPEAK TO GOD RENEWING US?

HOW IS IT BOTH COMFORTING AND CONVICTING THAT NO ONE KNOWS US BETTER THAN THE LORD?

### WRAP IT UP

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Despite struggles, the Lord renews us for His purposes. What difficult situation are you stepping out of where you need God to renew your strength? Or what difficult situation are you preparing to step into where you need God to strengthen you for the journey? Journal your response to these questions. Then write out a few ideas for how to make time to seek God this week and rest in Him.