

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Elijah — Facing Our Fears Week 2: God Empowers Our Mission 1 Kings 17:7-16

May 26, 2024
Pastor Jeff Griffin

Sometimes God challenges ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary. While survival is one thing, God wants us strive for *significance*, both in this life and the next. How can we be empowered by God to be used in profound ways? Join us as we glean from the story of Elijah.

Kicking It Off:

As summer unofficially kicks off this weekend, what's one thing you're excited about? What are some of your favorite summertime activities?

Discussion:

1. What's your impression (and how do you relate) when you hear this quote: "I stand amazed that God chose to work through an ordinary, untrained man like me." — *Art Rorheim, founder of AWANA Clubs International*
2. By way of review from 1 Kings 17:8-9, who was the unexpected candidate whom God called Elijah to come alongside? How would you have felt if you were in Elijah's shoes on this divine assignment?

"Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.'"

3. Jeff described how important it is to **Choose significance over survival**. Think of some examples from your life where you have tried to follow this principle, or you've seen someone you know aim for that. What was the result? If you're comfortable, share this story with the group.
4. The second principle states: **What you have is enough**. One example was when Jesus fed the 5,000, using only two small fish and two loaves of bread (see Matthew 14:13-21). Why is it tempting to think we can never have enough to accomplish what God wants us to complete? How does God's power make His miracles (both large and small) possible?
5. Another principle we learned is that **A small obedience is a big deal**. And sometimes, we don't realize until much later (if at all) how our small acts can yield big results. What are some "small steps" that God might be prompting you to take this week or in the weeks ahead?
6. Finally, **Your Impact will surprise you** at times. Through a simple act of faith, both spiritual and indirect impact can occur. Who first encouraged you to begin your spiritual journey? Take a few moments to pray for the impact they had, and if it's possible, find a time this week to say thanks.

Wrapping Up:

The widow of Zarephath was so compelling that even Jesus mentions her in Luke 4:25-27. Spend some time as a group, thanking God that He often uses unlikely people and sources to accomplish His purposes. Pray and ask God to help you go beyond survival to significance.