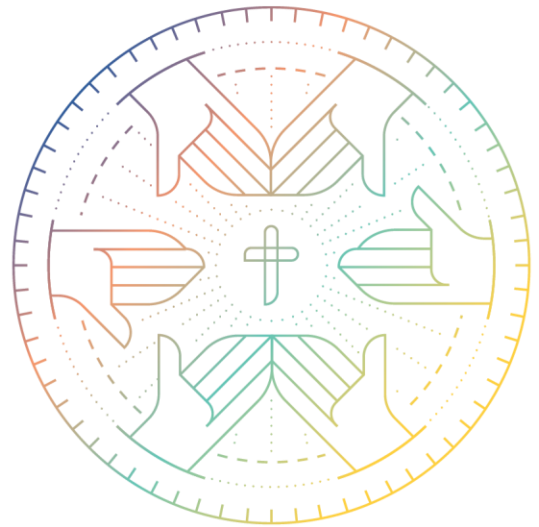


# Group Life.

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## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are starting a new series titled *Even If* we will be looking at the Old Testament prophet Elijah. During this series, we will see that *Even If* we face hardship and difficulties God is with us. We are attaching an article that goes deeper into Elijah that you may find helpful as you lead your group during this series.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Elijah.html>

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Does your name have a special meaning and or were you named after someone special?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

The week we will be in 1 Kings 17 and will be looking at, through the story of Elijah, how God uses hardship to form us into the man or woman God wants us to be.

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

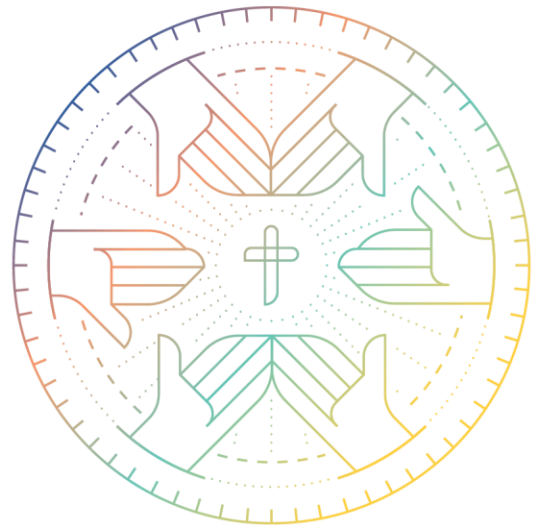
- 1. Read 1 Kings 17:1-3. Because of his obedience to God Elijah was seen as public enemy number one by the ruling class. His decision to follow caused major changes in his life. He lived on the run, lived with the burden of the famine and the effect it had on the people around him, anxiety about what would happen in his life. What is one event positive or negative that has shaped who you are as a person?**

#### ***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary. Note that the event could be either a positive or negative experience. For example, if someone grew up in a military family and moved around several times. This experience could have been a good or bad one but would of had a big impact on how they view the world and their relationships.]*

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2. Read 1 Kings 17:3-7, Exodus 16:13-15, Psalm 23:1-3, and Matthew 6:11, 25-33. What sticks out to you about how God cares for his people from these passages? How does that shape the way you see God in your life?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. In 1 Kings 17, we see that in spite of the famine that was taking place in the land and the burden Elijah must have been feeling God cared for his well-being. God made sure that Elijah found rest and was fed. Elijah learned the importance of complete dependence on God. In Exodus 16, God shows this same care for the nation of Israel as they make their way through the desert. In Psalms, we see that the Lord is our shepherd and he knows when we need rest and wants to restore our souls even if don't realize that we need it. In Matthew, we see that we are to pray that God would give us our daily bread to sustain us along with the understanding that if God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, he also will care for us.]*

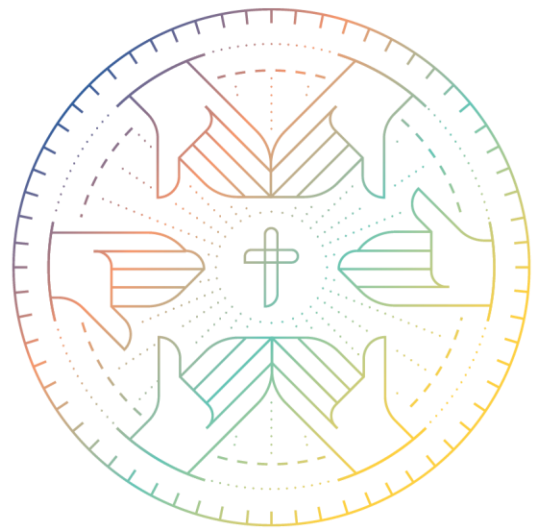
3. Read 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Proverbs 3:5-6. Where do you see Elijah and the widow trusting God? What connection do you see between courage and trust and how may that look in your lives today?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Note that Sidon was the home of Jezebel King Ahab's wife and a fierce enemy of Elijah and God. Elijah had to trust God in traveling to a place that could lead to his death. He also had to trust that God would come through and provide for the widow and her son. The widow was at the point of giving up but had to trust Elijah and his God to provide for all three of them. Trusting God is not always easy and sometimes requires us to step out into something unknown or hard. We see regardless of what the situation is when we are stepping in line with God, He will provide! Sometimes His provision looks different than our expectations or timing but He will still provide.]*

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## APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read 1 Kings 17:17-23 and Hebrews 11:1-3. Elijah faced an impossible situation with the death of the widow's son. But God, "listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived." What would your prayer life look like if you had faith that God would listen to your voice when you prayed?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Hebrews speaks about faith being both assurance and conviction. God takes what is "unseen" to us, and makes things that, later on, we can see. Although Elijah faced doubts and didn't know what God was doing in this situation, he sought the Lord with conviction. This led the widow to a genuine belief in God and renewed Elijah's faith. How exciting is it that God hears us when we pray and is looking out for our best interests according to his will! May we be eager to go to him with assurance and conviction.]*

2. Read 1 Kings 17:24. The widow acknowledges Elijah as a man of God because she saw firsthand his character and how God worked through him. These characteristics included:
  - Allowed pain to shape him
  - Depended completely on God rather than self-reliance
  - Was courageous when things "dried up"
  - Trusted in making hard choices
  - Had Faith for the impossible to happen

**Of the characteristics listed, which one do you want to work on this week?**

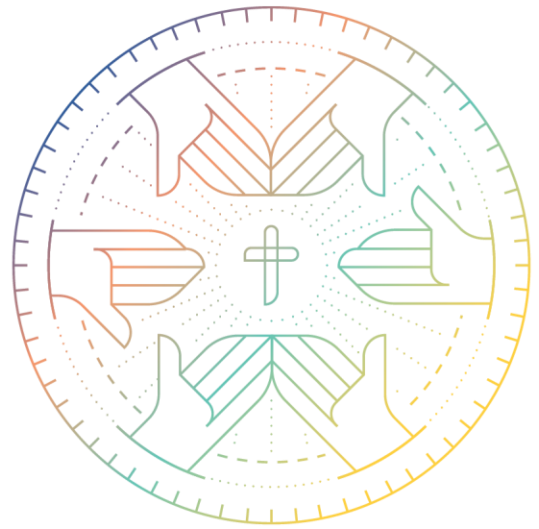
### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Elijah was led by the brook of Cherith. Cherith means to cut down or cut off. His time there allowed for restoration. He allowed his pain to shape him. He relied on the birds to provide food for him daily. When the brook dried up, Elijah displayed trust in God had forced him to be courageous when he was called to Sidon a very dangerous place to travel to. He trusted in God's provision even when everything felt hopeless because of the drought for the widow her son and him. Elijah had faith in the midst of his doubts when asking the Lord to bring the widow's son back to life.]*

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- 3. Elijah's name means Yahweh or Jehovah is my God. What situation in your life do you need Jehovah to be your God?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Give your group some time to process this question. You may have them think about it this week and share it with the group next week. An example could be opening up and sharing or seeking help by committing to prayer in faith that God will provide.]*

### **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

*Dear heavenly Father,*

*As we face hardship and difficulties in our lives may you come alongside and give us rest. May we learn to become dependent on you for our needs knowing that you care for us. Help us to trust you and have the courage to take the next right step even if it seems difficult. May our faith grow as we seek your face knowing that you listen to our voices. Thank you for making us more and more into your image each day. We pray all these things in your wonderful name. Amen.*