



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Two

Jacob continued the And They Prayed series this week with a look at the prayer-filled story of Elijah. We learned that Elijah found himself on the run just as God had shown up. When Elijah finally gave up running, he found God still protecting him, still providing for him, still present with him. With Elijah, we are praying for these things as well.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Dear God,*

*This journey is hard and sometimes I desire to give up and succumb to my circumstances. In these moments, God, please care for me and protect me.*

*When I want to run into the wilderness and away from my life and my friends, meet me, God, and grant me refreshment and companionship for my weary soul.*

*Help me to seek Your face and draw near to you. Strengthen me and uphold me with your righteous hand, I pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 1 KINGS 18.41-42

*And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.*

- In the middle of a long drought, Elijah was so convinced of the power of the one true God, that he called for rain when there had been no rain. While he waited for God to move, he prayed

with his face down towards the ground. What might this posture say about Elijah in that moment? Have you ever been so sure of God's movement, but unsure of the timing?

- *Pray for a deeper dedication and reliance on God in seasons of drought.*

## TUESDAY: PSALM 34.7-10

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.*

<sup>8</sup> *Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*

<sup>9</sup> *Fear the Lord, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.*

<sup>10</sup> *The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*

- These words from King David seem to echo the scene of Elijah in the wilderness as he was running from the threats of Jezebel. God camps with us in the wilderness in order to deliver us and provide for us. The promise that "those who seek the Lord lack no good thing" exposes the true desire of our hearts. Seeking after our own glory--we will eventually find ourselves wanting. But when seeking God and God's glory--we will have the good things that we need. Have you ever run from your troubles? Did you find God was waiting for you when you stopped running? How did God show up?
- *As you pray to God, picture Him encamped around you. See God's protection. See the bread and water set before you.*

## WEDNESDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 9.10-11

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

- Paul connects provision with generosity. God gives us what we need and we in return, give to others. This response results in thanksgiving to God. How did God provide for Elijah? How did God's provision for Elijah impact the world and people around him?
- *Pray that you would see God's provision for you as an opportunity to be generous to others.*

## THURSDAY: ECCLESIASTES 4.9-10

*Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:*

<sup>10</sup> *If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.*

*But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.*

- Elijah was given Elisha as a spiritual companion. After having represented God against 850 false prophets and calling down rain in the middle of a drought Elijah could have felt tempted to go it

alone forever. But his wilderness experience kept him in the stream of God's desire for him. A part of that was to share in the ministry of a prophet and good troubler. The writer of Ecclesiastes put it simply--we need help when we fall down. Have you ever felt overwhelmed? How did God provide help for you in that circumstance?

- *Pray for the spiritual companions you have been given, and pray for an openness to those that God is giving to you.*

#### FRIDAY: EXODUS 33.12-14

*Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'<sup>13</sup> If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

- The common story of humanity is that we desire God's presence and yet run from Him! These reassuring words from God to Moses promise presence and rest. When was the last time you rested in God's presence? What circumstances or conditions make it easier for you to rest in His presence? Take off your running shoes, lay down your schemes and rest in the presence of God!
- *Pray for a constant awareness of the presence of God.*

#### SATURDAY: JOHN 10.7-10

*Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.<sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

- Jesus promises that through him, we will have everything we need--including salvation. In difficult seasons, we may wonder if God is aware of our troubles. These words of Jesus reveal the truth--he desires and provides what we need to experience the fullest of lives in him. What does life "to the full" mean to you?
- *Pray to Jesus, the good shepherd who notices you, provides for you and gives you life.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared about the role of prophets. They are often seen as troublers in their own day, and only later known to be prophets. Do you think there are modern day prophets? Is it easier to label them as such long after they lived on earth? Considering the role that Elijah played, how do you think God uses prophetic voices today? To what end?