



## TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

23-29 June 2019 | 1 Kings 16:29-19:18

**The Message.** Find comfort in time of distress in intimacy with God and the power of the gospel.

**Context.** *Read 16:29-34.* After the era of Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel was divided into two: the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Ahab became the king of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). He led the people of Israel astray from God and set up an altar for Baal. *Read 17:1-5.* God brought drought and famine to Israel through Elijah. *Read 18:16-46.* Ahab assembled the people from all Israel and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and met Elijah. Elijah challenged them to call fire from heaven to burn their offerings. They could not. Elijah asked people to pour water to his offering. He called for fire from heaven. The fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and the water in the trench. *Read 19:1-3.* Ahab's wife Jezebel who had been killing God's prophets threatened to kill Elijah. Elijah ran away in distress.

### Observation & Meaning

*Read 19:4-9*

1. What are the two things that Elijah tells God in 19:4?
  - a. What does this tell us about the way Elijah see himself?
  - b. Does the latter part of the Bible confirm his perspective?
  - c. Why does Elijah see himself in this way?
2. How does God respond (19:5-9)?

*Read 19:10-18*

3. What are the four things that Elijah tells God in 19:10?
  - a. What does this tell us about the way Elijah see the people around him?
  - b. What does 19:18 tell us about Elijah's claim?
  - c. Why do you think Elijah see the people around him that way?
4. How does God respond (19:11-18)?



- a. Contrast 19:11-12a and the event on Mount Carmel. What does God do?
- b. Read 19:12b-13a. What does God do?
- c. Contrast the conversation on 19:13b-14 and 19:9b-10. What does God do?
- d. Read 19:15-18. What does God do?

### **Application**

5. FCF. What could be the root cause of distress in our lives?
6. How does distress in our lives affect the way we see ourselves, the people around us, and God?

### Gospel-Centeredness.

7. What does the gospel tell us about who we are in that situation?
8. What does the gospel tell us about who God is in that situation?

### **Insight**

"Elijah's forty-day journey is not without significance. Indeed, a straight trip from Beesheba would require little more than a quarter of that time. Therefore the period is designedly symbolic. As the children of Israel had a notable spiritual failure and so were to wander forty years in the wilderness, so a defeated Elijah was to spend forty days in the desert" (Patterson and Austel).

### **Resources**

Guzik, David. *1 Kings*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.

Patterson, Richard D. and Austel, Hermann J. "1, 2 Kings" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992).