

Elijah's story:
*against
the tide*



5 Bible Studies. Sep 2026.

Elijah's Story: Against the Tide

Teaching Series - Term 3, 2026

PRIMARY AIM

To grow in our confidence in God's power and promises

SUB-AIMS

- To reflect on what it means to stand firm for God in an age of idols
- To reflect on the ministry of a significant OT prophet
- To strengthen our biblical understanding of how OT figures such as Elijah foreshadows Jesus.
- To grow our understanding of God's character: concern for the marginalised and for justice; faithful to his people and to his word; and intensely jealous for the exclusive loyalty of his people.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year the morning covers an Old Testament book or character. Therefore, following on from focusing on David's life and the Psalms last year, we are reflecting on the prophet Elijah. To help us do this, we are exploring several key events in the life of the prophet Elijah. His life as a servant of God is notable, as a figure God uses to call his people to return to faith and for witnessing to God's power and love.

OUTLINE OF SERIES

	Date	Title	Reading
1	06 Sep	The Lord who Provides	1 Kings 17:1-24
2	13 Sep	Showdown on Mount Carmel	1 Kings 18:16-46
3	20 Sep	The Lord Passes By	1 Kings 19:1-18
4	27 Sep	Where Do We Look for Help?	2 Kings 1:1-18
5	04 Oct	Elijah Taken up to Heaven	2 Kings 2:1-18

The Lord who Provides

1 Kings 17:1-24

Background:

Read Deuteronomy 11:8-17. How were the Israelites meant to live in the promised land?

Read 1 Kings 16:29-33. What did King Ahab do?

About Baal: *Baal was often worshiped as a storm god who made rain, providing for the crops. But then in dry season each year Baal would die to the god of death, Mot. Then the goddess of fertility and war, Anat, would defeat Mot, and release Baal, which allowed there to be rain and fertility again.*



1. Read 1 Kings 17:1 What challenge does Elijah lay before Ahab?

2. What things did God provide for Elijah after he spoke to Ahab? (v.2-6)

3. Are there any examples in Israel's history that suggests God could have provided water for Elijah (v.7-16)? Discuss why God did not in this case.

4. Read Luke 4:13-30. Why did God choose this widow? Was she an Israelite? Discuss.

5. In 1 Kings 17:10-16), did the widow know who Elijah was? What do you think of Elijah's request? Did the widow display any faith?

6. Compare Elijah's word to Ahab, with his word to the widow. Discuss.

7. Both the widow and Elijah respond differently to the death of the son (v.18-24). What is helpful or not helpful in their different responses? Discuss.

8. How would you describe God's response to Elijah's prayer? Do you think God would have resurrected the boy if Elijah hadn't been there? Discuss.

9. Describe the widows response to her son's resurrection?

10. List the things God provided Elijah in this passage. Is human friendship something we need? Discuss.

11. List the things God provided the widow. How did God's provision impact the widow?

12. What is one step you could take this week in response to this passage?

Pray for each other.



God's Lamp or Human License?

Psalm 119:105-120

- 1. Google “code to live by” and read a few aloud. Would you follow them?**
- 2. Read Ps 119:105. In your own words explain what it means for you today.**
- 3. Read Ps 119:105-120. Find five ways that the Psalmist speaks highly of Gods Word. Is that how you think when you pick up your bible to read it?**
- 4. Compare verses 105 and 110. How do they relate to each other?**
- 5. Read this passage again. From the experience of the Psalmist, would you say that putting a high value on Gods word resulted in a blessed life, or just a normal life? Discuss.**

6. How would the Psalmist convince you that their actual attitude to Gods Word matched what they wrote in the Psalm? Is there anything in the Psalm that indicates this? Discuss.

7. Find 6 things the Psalmist specifically ask God to do for them. Are any of these requests relevant to our lives today? Discuss.

8. Which of these 6 requests have you prayed in this last week (or year)? If appropriate, share the circumstances that prompted you to pray that way. (Did God answer your prayer)?

9. Do you think it is ever acceptable to admit your ignorance and ask God to teach you?

Share with the group about a time when you have asked for wisdom. Was it wisdom to understand Scripture, or wisdom for a life situation you felt inadequate to handle?

Proverbs 1:7; 28:26; 1 Kings 3:4-12.

10. “I have put my hope in your word” (v.114). Share with the group a biblical story of an Old Testament character trusting in God’s Word. Does this give you hope today? Discuss.

11. If appropriate, share an example where a decision you made was guided by Scripture? Share the verse, or biblical principle if you recall it.

12. Pray for each other.



Whole Food or Junk Food?

Matthew 4:1-11

1. What does it mean to live a really good full life?

2. First temptation. Read Mt 4:1-4. What was wrong about the devil's temptation?

3. Jesus quotes scripture to refute the devil's suggestion. Read Dt 8:1-4. How does the Deuteronomy passage help your understanding of Jesus response? What does it mean, to "live"?

4. The Deuteronomy passage is referring to an event in the wilderness during the exodus.

a. Read Ex 16:1-30.

b. Did the people obey God's commands? Be specific. Did God's "rules" for the manna make sense? What was God teaching the Israelites (and us)?

5. Second temptation. Read Mt 4:5-7.

a. Is the devil correct, that it is written in scripture?

b. Read Ps 91:9-13. How would you apply this scripture in your own life? Discuss.

6. Read Dt 6:1-3,13-16. What situation did the Israelites face at Massah?

7. Read Ex 17:1-7. How were the Israelites testing God? Have you ever challenged God to prove himself by asking for a miracle?

8. Third temptation. Read Mt 4:8-10. What did the devil want from Jesus? Is that what the devil wants from us?

9. How do you respond to the following questions?

- Is it ever ok to worship someone or something other than God?**
- Is it ever ok to ask God for a miracle?**
- Is it ever ok to feed yourself if you're hungry?**

Discuss.

10. Revisit question 1. Do you have any changes to make to your original answer on what constitutes a really good full life?

11. Have you thought of memorising a verse to help you respond to temptations that you face in your life? Share with the group if you have done this.

12. Pray for each other.



Powerful Sword or Pool Noodle?

Hebrews 4:6-13

- 1. Share with the group a time you obeyed your parents, but only when they were watching.**

- 2. Read Heb 4:6-19. What does it mean to “harden your heart”? Who did harden their hearts?**

- 3. Read Heb 4:1-3. What is the opposite of “hardening your heart”?**

- 4. “Today if you hear his voice”. How do you hear God’s voice today?**

- 5. Read 1 Kings 5:1-14. What was the word of God from Elisha to Naaman? How did Naaman react?**

6. What were Naaman's excuses for reacting that way?

7. What did God use to soften Naaman's heart?

8. Do you think it's possible to obey God's Word, whilst having a hard heart? Would this be an act of faith? Discuss.

9. Have you ever changed your mind and decided to obey God's Word after having initially refused? What changed your mind? Discuss.

10. In 2 Kings 5:12, Naaman expressed a "cultural superiority" as reason for not obeying God's Word. Have you ever observed cultural superiority being used this way in the world today?

11. Read Heb 4:12. Share with the group the last time your thoughts or attitudes were judged by God's Word.

12. What can you do to keep you heart soft towards God's Word and to be open to God's transforming power?

13. Pray for each other.



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