



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.**

## Showdown on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:16-46

- 1. If you were to ask people across Melbourne who you should worship, how many answers would you get?**
- 2. Read 1 Kings 18:1-46.**
- 3. In verses 16-21, why do you think the people responded to Elijah the way they did? Discuss.**
- 4. Is Elijah putting God to the test by asking God to prove himself (v.22-24)? Why or why not?**
- 5. In verses 25-30, what do the prophets of Baal do to try to get an answer from their god?**

**6. Have you known Christians to ever act in certain ways to try to get God to answer their prayers? Is this a good thing to do? Discuss.**

**7. In contrast with the prophets of Baal, what did Elijah do to call for God's response (v.30-37)?**

**8. Does verse 36 change your answer to question 4? Why or why not?**

**9. In verses 38-39, were the people convinced? Discuss.**

**10. What do you think of this action in verse 40? See also Numbers 25:1-5 and Matthew 18:6. Discuss.**

**11. What things had God done, culminating at Mt Carmel, in order to turn his people back to him?**

**12. Reflecting on the times in your life when you strayed from God, how has God intervened to turn you back to him?**

**13. In what ways do our church practices of confession and the Lord's Supper keep us close to God? Can you think of other ways God uses the church to draw us back?**

**14. Pray for each other.**

# The Lord Passes By

1 Kings 19:1-18

**1. What do you think is worse, being in some circumstance where you are afraid, or feeling guilty because you ran away? Discuss.**

**2. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18.**

**3. If you could imagine for a moment what Ahab told Jezebel when he returned. Do you think Ahab believed in the God of Israel? Was Jezebel convinced by Ahab's words? (v.1-2)**

**4. Did Elijah take the threat seriously? What alternative action could he have taken? What would you have done? (v.3-4)**

**5. What does Elijah mean by saying "I am no better than my ancestors"? (See Deut 1:22-32)**

**6. Describe God's response to Elijah (v.5-9).**

**7. "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Say this question aloud several times, with the emphasis on different words. Which emphasis seems right to you? Discuss.**

**8. God asks Elijah to state why he has come to Mt Sinai. Why? Discuss.**

**9. What do you think are the reasons behind God's task for Elijah (v.11-13)? Discuss.**

**10. What hope does Elijah express for the future of Israel? (v.10)**

**11. Is Elijah's assessment of the situation in Israel accurate? What does Elijah learn about God, and the future? (v.14-18)**

**12. Has Elijah's fear and lack of trust disqualified him from being useful to God?**

**13. Have you ever been involved in a ministry of serving others and God, and gotten to the point where you said "I have had enough Lord"? Does God know exactly what you are thinking? Pray for God to sustain you, refresh you and correct your thinking where it may be wrong. If willing, tell God you are ready to trust him again.**

**14. Pray for each other.**

## Where Do We Look for Help?

2 Kings 1:1-18

- 1. Make a list of 5 things that are most important to God.**
- 2. Read 2 Kings 1:1-18.**
- 3. Ahaziah seeks to know future by consulting Baal. Is this surprising (v.1-2)? Discuss.**
- 4. What had the king's mother promised Elijah back in 1 Kings 19:1-2? Do you think Elijah had reason to fear the soldiers sent to take him to the king (9-15)?**
- 5. Read aloud the requests of the three captains to Elijah. What attitudes towards Elijah and God are implicit in these requests?**

**6. Read 1 Kings 18:36-39. How do you view Elijah's response to the first two captains?**

**7. What meaning do you attach to fire coming down from heaven and consuming the men?**

**8. If you were king, what would you have done after the first 50 were killed by fire from heaven?**

**9. What evidence do we have that has God been with Elijah all through this episode (v.15)?**

**10. What is more important to God than our lives? Discuss.**

**11. Share examples you may have of people behaving like the first two captains or the third captain.**

**12. Read Luke 9:51-56. Why would the disciples make that suggestion? What does Jesus response tell us?**

**13. What is one thing that you will take away from this study, either an insight or application?**

**14. Pray for each other.**

## Taken up to Heaven

2 Kings 2:1-18

**1. What do you believe is the most significant thing God has done in your life? Share with the group.**

**2. Briefly looking over 1 Kings 19:15-20:21, what do Elisha's actions suggest to you?**

**Read 2 Kings 2:1-6. Let's explore what significant things God did with his chosen people at these three places - Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan, and if there are lessons for Elisha (and us).**

**3. Bethel - A Promise. In Gen 28:10-22, what did God promise to Jacob (v.13-15)?**

**4. Consider Jacob's vow (v.20-22). What does Jacob's vow reveal about his view of God?**

**5. Jericho - Perspective.** In Joshua 5:13-15, who did Joshua meet? What evidence in the text leads you to that conclusion?

**6.** How does this link back to God's promise to Jacob. Discuss.

**7. The Jordan - God's Presence.** In Joshua 3:6-17, what was God's specific promise to Joshua (v.7)?

**8.** How does this show the people that God is with Joshua as He was with Moses?

**9.** Read 2 Kings 2:9-10. Is this what you would have asked for? What does it tell you about Elisha?

**10.** Read 2 Kings 2:11-12. What is the significance of what Elisha saw? Why do you think Elisha tore his clothes in mourning?

**11. Read 2 Kings 2:6-8 and 2:13-15. Who is God with? Was this witnessed?**

**12. Has God made similar promises to us, as followers of Christ? What are they? Do you treat this (these) promise like Jacob did his promise?**

**13. What is one new insight or action that you have gained from this story, or the other stories of Elijah in our series?**

**14. Pray for each other.**



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