

# 24/6

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Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
1st Kings 18-19 | March 29, 2020  
Prepared by Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan  
curtis@gspc.org | 562/493.2553 x115

## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue our series 24/6, thinking together about the importance of practicing Sabbath (which, in a way, we have been thrust into the past two weeks!).

## II. Connecting with One Another

Have you ever felt alone? Or even, like everyone was against you!?

Did God somehow use that season of your life in some way?

## III. Study the Text

- a. In 1st Kings 17, the prophet Elijah suddenly appears at a crucial time in the history of God's people. King Ahab, who reigned a total of 22 years, was influenced by his wife Jezebel to abandon the worship of Yahweh in favor of Ba'al, a false Canaanite god who was supposedly in charge of the sky (we'll see about that). Elijah, on the other hand, means "Yahweh is my God."

**Read 1st Kings 17.1.** How does Elijah's pronouncement specifically question the power of Ba'al?

Why do you think he would make such a bold pronouncement that would affect his own people?

- b. At the outset of 1st Kings 18, three years later, the word of the Lord instructs Elijah: "Present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." Then, they have a little showdown (you saw that coming, right?). **Read 1st Kings 18.16-19.**

Why does Ahab think Elijah is a "troubler of Israel"?

Why does Elijah think the same of Ahab?

Who's right? Why?

- c. **Read 1st Kings 18.20-21.**

What is Elijah asking the people to do in verse 21? Why?

Have you ever had this question posed to you? How did you respond?

Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 6.24, as well: "No one can serve two masters.

Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Why do you think Jesus uses the example of money?



d. **Read 1st Kings 18.22-29.**

Again, Elijah bets against the Canaanite god of the sky. Does this god, Ba'al, respond? What do the people do to get his attention? Why do you think they do so?

e. **Read 1st Kings 18.30-37.**

It was a showdown, but with those twelve stones it *becomes* a worship service. In the midst of a three year drought, how do you think the people felt when all that water was poured on the altar!?

What does Elijah do to get God's attention? Take your time to notice all the details. How could what Elijah does inform your prayer life?

f. Notice verse 37 again. It's really important.

Who is turning the people's hearts back again?

Who, then, *isn't* responsible for turning the people's hearts back again?

Do you agree that this is really important? If so, why?

g. **Read 1st Kings 18.38-39.**

What happened? How did the people respond?

Have you ever had a dramatic experience change your perspective?

h. **Read 1st Kings 19.1-8.**

What is happening here for Elijah? What is he feeling?

What is God up to, behind the scenes, on Elijah's behalf?

i. **Read 1st Kings 19.9-18.**

After a 200 mile, 40 day journey to Mount Horeb (also known as Mount Sinai!), Elijah rests in a cave – perhaps the same cleft of a rock in which Moses hid! (see Exodus 33.22)

What revealed God? The wind? The earthquake? The fire? Or the whisper?

Why do you think God asked "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

j. Notice Elijah's complaint. What did he *need*? How did God *respond*?

k. What do you most need right now? How can you ask God for it?

IV. Pray

a. Pray for an end to COVID-19 – that God would bring an end to the pandemic, whether miraculously or medicinally.

b. Ask for God to empower and equip those responding on the front lines of this worldwide pandemic,

c. Lift up Good Shepherd, that we would keep connected in the crisis, and find ways to invite all people into a Christ-centered life in God's family.

