

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Critically Crucial” 1 Kings 19:1-19 Sept 23/24

Getting Started

The only way in your life that you will never face criticism according to the parody of Aristotle is to: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing. This is not an option considering you were called unto a life of purpose. So, how do we deal with the criticism in our head without having catastrophe in our heart? In this week’s message, Elijah was devastated, fearful, and depressed when he received critical and threatening news. How do you typically respond when you get news like this?

Going Deeper

I. BROOM TREE BLUES: (Vs. 1-7)

- Deflates Courage: “Then he was afraid” (vs. 3)
- Damages Conviction: “ran for his life” (vs. 3)
- Debilitates Calling: “left his servant” (vs. 3)
- Derails Confidence: “it is enough” (vs. 4)
- Dissuades Continuation: “take away” (vs. 4)

*RECEIVE ENCOURAGEMENT: (Vs. 7) “EAT” UP

God places messengers in your life to sustain you for a journey greater than you.

READ Ephesians 4:29.

Who has spoken encouragement into your soul at a time you really needed it? How did their words affect you?

What do you do to be aware of the needs of others so you can speak encouragement into them when they need it?

How can your words ‘give grace’ to those who hear them?

II. CAVE CAUTIONS: (Vs. 8-14)

- Evaluate the Timing: “forty days and forty nights” (vs. 8)
- Escape the Temptation: “lodged in it” (vs. 9)
- Examine the Testimony: “I am jealous for the Lord” (vs. 10)
- Establish the Truth: “I only, am left” (vs. 10)

*REGARD ENRICHMENT: (Vs. 11) “STAND” UP

God whispers to call you close in order to silence the shouts.

Depression often comes when we are tired, hungry, weak, isolated, self-righteous, and ignorant of all God is doing around us. No matter how loudly the winds may blow, how roughly the ground may shake, or how hot the fires may burn, we desperately need to be listening for His still, small, whispering voice that speaks to us. What practices have you put in place, and what commitments have you made to guarantee that you don't get stuck in the cave, but can hear clearly from God?

III. ROAD RULES: (Vs.15-18)

- Retrace your Steps: “Go, return on your way” (vs. 15)
- Return to your Service: anoint Hazael, Jehu, Elisha (vs. 15-16)
- Rely on His Strength: “put to death” (vs. 17)
- Rest in the Struggle: “seven thousand in Israel” (vs. 18)

*REMEMBER EMPOWERMENT: (Vs. 15) “GO” UP

God goes before you to build in you a belief bigger than your burden.

After we hear God's voice speaking to us, we can then respond by living life to the fullest. As you think of your Christian life, do you need to start living life to the fullest in one of these areas?

Do you need to repent about anything and come back to Jesus? If so, what would that be?

Do you need to reengage with serving Christ, the church, and your community? If so, how will you do that?

Do you need to start living in His strength, not your own? If so, how do you plan to do that?

Do you need to be encouraged by surrounding yourself with many other believers? If so, what is your plan to do that?

Take Away: “Accept both compliments and criticism graciously, knowing that it takes both the sun and rain for a flower to grow” - Anonymous

Prayer Requests