

## “What Are You Doing Here?”

There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: **“What are you doing here, Elijah?”** He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, **“What are you doing here, Elijah?”** 1 Kings 19:9-13

### Introduction:

The questions God asks are designed to get us to think deeper to discover truth. Life transformation often comes from these questions!

Today we'll discover that discouragement will impact everyone. In times of discouragement; God is still God, God is still good, and God is close because He cares!

### Elijah's circumstance in 1 Kings 19:

#### 1. He was emotionally overwhelmed.

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

1 Kings 19:1-3

#### 2. He was physically exhausted.

The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:7-9

#### 3. He was spiritually isolated.

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”

1 Kings 19:3-4

There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:9

#### 4. He was mentally distracted.

I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.

1 Kings 19:10

### God's response to Elijah's circumstance:

#### 1. God provided.

Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, **“Get up and eat.”** He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

1 Kings 19:5-6

#### 2. God showed up.

The LORD said, **“Go out and stand** on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

1 Kings 19:11-13

#### 3. God encouraged.

The LORD said to him, **“Go back the way you came,** and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

1 Kings 19:15-16

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