

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**

*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 3

The Week of October 22, 2023

*Unrivaled*  
**When God Whispers**  
1 Kings 19:9-21

Welcome to Week Six in our series on the life of the prophet Elijah. In our previous discussion, we watched Elijah flee from God's call upon his life because of the death threat issued by Jezebel. The mighty prophet was overwhelmed with despair and begged God to take his life. Out of the abundance of His compassion, God began to graciously restore Elijah with food and rest. Next, God leads Elijah to Mount Horeb where in a profound encounter with God Elijah is gently rebuked and ultimately renewed with a fresh vision for ministry.

**OBSERVATION** (*What does the passage say?*)

Before your GG gathers, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Place a  $\Delta$  over each time God's Name and all associated pronouns are used.
- Underline the first sentence of verse 9. Write in the right margin Exodus 33:19-23.
- Draw a square around the word *behold* in verses 2 and 13.
- Draw a circle around God's identical questions to Elijah in verses 9 and 13.
- Place brackets around Elijah's "rehearsed speech" in verses 10 and 14.
- In the left margin of verse 10 write *Half-Truths*.
- Double underline the command God gave to Elijah in verse 11.
- Double underline the command God gave to Elijah in verse 15.
- Circle all the occurrences of *but* in verse 11.
- Draw a frame around the phrase *the sound of a low whisper* (v. 12).
- Circle the word *cloak* in verses 13 and 19 and draw a line connecting them.

9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."



**Read 1 Kings 19:15-21**

5. God provided Elijah with a fresh vision and ordered Him to go back the way he came and do what God said. How is a sense of purpose helpful in pulling us out of despair and self-pity?

6. God gave Elijah a clear assignment, including giving him an associate in Elisha. What difference would a friend make when he was tempted to despair?

**APPLICATION** *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. Has God ever asked you a similar question to the one He asked Elijah? (vss. 10, 14)

2. Have you ever had a moment when you realized that the story you were telling yourself was not true at all? How did you respond?

3. Have you ever experienced God speaking to you in a low whisper? What are the benefits of listening to His voice?

4. Have you ever experienced a time when God directed you back to where He wanted you to be? How did God make His way plain to you and what was that like?

*Practical Steps this Week:*

1. Set a timer for 15 minutes each day and practice being still before God. Try to get away from any distractions and just be silent in His presence.
2. This week, chart a plan for taking a Technology Timeout for your mental health.
3. Who is one person in your life with whom you can share your burdens?
4. How can you help a friend who is being misled by self-destructive thoughts?

