



Lessons from Kerith and Zarephath: How to Overcome That Scared-Stiff Feeling 1 Kings 17:1-24 | February 19, 2012

Pastor Bruce outlined eight lessons from Elijah's time at Brook Kerith and Zarephath. Discuss each one briefly, or pick a few and linger longer.

1. *God's leading is often surprising. Don't analyze it.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? How do Isaiah 55:8 and 1 Corinthians 1:28 speak to this principle? When have you found God's leading to be surprising in your own life? Why is it a problem to analyze God's leading?
2. *The beginning days are often the hardest. Don't quit.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? Can you think of a time when you quit early because of hardship? Talk about what happened. How about a situation when you persevered in spite of the challenges? Share it. Why is it so important to get past the initial "hump"?
3. *God's promises often hinge on our obedience. Don't ignore your part.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? Name some of God's promises that are predicated on our obedience. Why is obedience often such a hard thing for us to do?
4. *God's direction includes God's provision.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? When have you experienced this truth in your own life? How does Philippians 4:19 speak to you in this regard?
5. *Learn to trust God one day at a time.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? Do you find it difficult to trust God moment by moment? If yes, why do you suppose that is the case? (Reflect on that for a bit.) If no, what is your secret?
6. *God's provisions are often just enough. Don't fail to thank him.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? What has God given you for which you need to be grateful today? How can you embrace Paul's perspective in Philippians 4:11-12?
7. *When God works, he always works at both ends of the line.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? Why is it so crucial to appreciate this principle? What happens when you fail to see God's activity on the other end of the line?
8. *A dried-up brook is often a sign of God's pleasure, not disappointment.* How is this lesson evidenced in the Elijah story? What "dried-up brook," so to speak, is a sign of God's pleasure with you? Why do we generally assume that these circumstances indicate his dissatisfaction instead?

What is your single biggest takeaway from this message? What is your next step in the coming week to live it out? How can your LifeGroup help you with this?