

# Small Group and Family Resources

## The Story: God's Messengers

### I Kings 16:29-19; Hosea 1-3

#### Opening Time of Worship

This week we are focusing on the message of the Prophets. A very important part of their message was the love of God. Read I Corinthians 13:4-7 out loud together. Then take each description of love and celebrate how God displays that in your life (love is patient, kind, etc.). Then close with prayer thanking God that he loves us. Or you could close by singing *Jesus Loves Me*.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever experienced hearing a message from God that called you to change your direction in life? How did it come? How did you respond?
2. Read I Kings 17:1 again.
  - a. God was trying to wake people up. Do you think the 3 years of drought woke up the Israelites to turn them back to God, or was it the demonstration of power on Mt. Carmel?
  - b. What would it take to wake people up today? Do you know anyone who came back to God because of sickness, imprisonment, accident, etc.? Tell those stories.
  - c. When you think of our country, what would it take, do you think, to turn us back to God? One of the great discussions about 9/11 was whether God caused or allowed this in order to wake us up. Do you think God would work that way? Why or why not? And did it wake us up?
3. Elijah had a lot to learn about God in spite of God's miraculous provision for his own life during the drought. Read I Kings 19:7-18.
  - a. Why, do you think, God made his presence known through a quiet voice?
  - b. How have you experienced the still, small voice? Are there things, do you think, that keep us from hearing God's whispers? What might those be?
4. Read 2 Kings 2:11-13
  - a. Elijah is one of two people who didn't experience death—Enoch (in Genesis 5:24) was the other. Why do you think God took him rather than let him die? Was it a reward for his faithfulness? A lesson for Elisha? Or ?
  - b. Read Matthew 17:1-3. Why do you think it was Elijah that appeared with Jesus? And how do you think Elijah felt as he visited Israel in Jesus' day? What would you think and feel in a similar circumstance?
5. Hosea is about God's love. Growing up did you view God as a God of love, or more of a policeman or judge? Why, do you think, do we so readily want to view God as angry, rather than as a loving, gracious, forgiving husband? When did you come to know him as a God of love rather than judgment?

#### Closing Prayer

Pray for your family or your group, that you may effectively reflect God's character and love, so that people get an accurate view of God through the message of your life.