

# WILDERNESS WISDOM STUDY GUIDE

## SESSION TWO, ELIJAH / RETREAT OF SILENCE

Elijah went from H\_\_\_\_\_ to Z\_\_\_\_\_.

During Elijah's silent retreat God gives him:

- R \_\_\_\_\_
- N \_\_\_\_\_
- E \_\_\_\_\_
- C \_\_\_\_\_

God's presence is often accompanied by majestic displays of power, like

- W \_\_\_\_\_ (Red Sea)
- F \_\_\_\_\_ (Burning Bush, Mt. Carmel)
- E \_\_\_\_\_ (Sinai Covenant)
- S \_\_\_\_\_ (Elijah on Mt. Sinai)

Tips for a Retreat of Silence:

1. Create the \_\_\_\_\_ and find a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Set your i \_\_\_\_\_ / e \_\_\_\_\_
3. Settle into God's p \_\_\_\_\_
4. C \_\_\_\_\_ and R \_\_\_\_\_ with God
5. Ponder what you are r \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Have you ever had a hero to zero experience?

How do you recognize God's presence? How do you hear his still, small voice?

Have you participated in a Retreat of Silence? What was it like for you?

What power does silence hold?

## 1 Kings 19:1-21

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” <sup>3</sup> Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly a messenger touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” <sup>6</sup> He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The messenger of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” <sup>8</sup> He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. <sup>9</sup> At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>10</sup> He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

<sup>11</sup> He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces 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; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>14</sup> He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup> Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

<sup>19</sup> So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup> He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.