



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A MID-FAITH CRISIS?

CONTENT: ARE YOU EXPERIENCING A MID-FAITH CRISIS?

Sunday 6 June	Week 1	Are you tempted to doubt God's existence?
Sunday 13 June	Week 2	In the midst of all this evil, how can God be good?
Sunday 20 June	Week 3	Is Jesus really Saviour and Lord of the world?
Sunday 27 June	Week 4	I don't want to be part of a hypocritical church!
Sunday 4 July	Week 5	The church has lost the plot.
Sunday 11 July	Week 6	The church will never fulfill God's mission!
Sunday 18 July	Week 7	God sees me as a disappointment.
Sunday 25 July	Week 8	God don't call me, I'm the wrong person!



Sunday 6 June

Week 1

Are you tempted to doubt God's existence?

BIBLE READING:

Sunday 6 June 1 Kings 18:20-40; Acts 17:24-28a; Romans 1:16-32

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

 Let's worship:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kotCEmdrb9o

Reflection

on I Kings 18:20-40 by Rev Gavin Landers



Note that this Mount Carmel experience happens under national drought and famine. This natural disaster placed the nation in crisis. Further, in the lives of the citizens, there was a massive social and spiritual shift. They had given up on following the God of Israel and lived as if God did not exist and began chasing after the way of their world. The God of Israel however remains an ever-present reality for Elijah which leads him into his own crisis – political persecution under King Ahab and Jezebel. As a result, he has been in hiding. We can safely assume that this hardship was something that other followers of God chose to avoid.

Secondly, note how on Mt Carmel, Elijah stood out like a sore thumb – he was the only prophet amongst 450 who still worshipped the God of Israel. Some amongst the 450 prophets of Baal were Elijah's contemporaries who had given up Judaism and converted to Baalism. They were religious specialists who under pressure from social circumstances, just transitioned to continue functioning as religious specialists under a new regime. They gave up on God to advance themselves socially, economically and politically. Following the God of Israel didn't bring them any benefit; they argued that if God didn't bother about their existence, they would bother about His existence.

Lastly note that it is Elijah's faith in God and not the denial of his existence by the prophets that defected to Baalism, that results in the drought ending and people returning to worshipping the true God.

Have you, like the citizens and some of the prophets, ever been in a place where you have given up on God? In times of crisis when there is no perceived benefit for believing in God, has your faith been tempted? Have you ever found yourself questioning the value of your faith and even going as far as to wonder if you have been living under the false idea that God is real?

May you be like Elijah in such times - standing firm in your belief in the one true God; the God who responds; the God who answers, the God who is attentive. If such belief brings no perceived benefit or even the uncomfortable and life restricting reality of persecution, may you like Elijah continue in faith. May you know, like Elijah knew, that your faith will see you through any crisis and in so doing, the wayward and the wavering will be led to return to a true worship of God.

In truth, your faith crisis about God's existence is not able to alter the reality of the One True God who responds; who answers and is attentive to all His Creation. God is and will be who God is and will be. Don't miss out on this great truth!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What causes people to doubt God's existence? Has anything ever caused you to doubt God's existence?
2. Has your faith in God ever resulted in you being marginalized or even persecuted? How do people / you get through this with their / your faith intact?
3. Do you have a personal history of God responding, hearing and being attentive to you in a time of crisis?
4. What does the way you live in times of crisis tell the world about God?



DAILY BIBLE READING:

Monday: I John 5:1-5

Memory verse: I John 5:5

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Prayer: Father we hold onto your promise that holding onto our faith in Jesus Christ leads us to overcoming the challenges of this world. Amen.

Tuesday: Psalm 19:1-6

Memory verse: Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Prayer: Father help us to keep in touch with your creation so that we may join with creation in declaring the glory of the Lord. Amen.

Wednesday: 2 Tim 4:2-5

Memory verse: 2 Tim 4: 4

People will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Prayer: Father, keep us in your truth to see the myths crafted to address our desires and capture our attention and sell us dreams that ultimately disappoint. Amen

Thursday: 1 Peter 3: 13-17

Memory verse: 1 Pet 3:17

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Prayer: Father, give us endurance in those times when doing good brings hardship to us. Help us to see our blessing - even in times of hardship. Amen.

Friday: Romans 2:14-15

Memory verse: Romans 2:14

People who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law.

Prayer: Father, thank you that because you have created us, something of your way is found in our hearts and minds and conscience. Make us increasingly aware of your way. Amen.

Saturday: Psalm 34:8

Memory verse: Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Prayer: Father as we wrap our existence in your presence, may we delight in our being. Amen.



Sunday 6th June

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:24-28a

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

A few questions:

Do you think God only lives in a church? (*No, God made the whole world and does not need to stay only in one place. God is with each of us all the time*)

What do you think it means to 'seek and reach out for him (God)'? vs27 (*to have a relationship with God. Talk about ways that we can have a relationship with God*)

What happens when we look for God and find God? (*we can choose to accept that Jesus is God, that Jesus has saved us from sin and wants to be in our lives. We can choose to learn and practice what Jesus taught, and we can choose to love God with our whole hearts*)

Game: Hide and seek.

The whole family should get involved to show children that at any age we can find God.

It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

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