

5 KEY MOMENTS IN
THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

Walk Thru the Bible Presents:



Courageous

Choosing Faith When You Want to Give Up

PHIL TUTTLE

Course Workbook

WALK THRU THE BIBLE®

BIBLICAL  CHARACTER
S E R I E S

5 KEY MOMENTS IN
THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

Courageous

Choosing Faith When You Want to Give Up

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Have you ever felt like quitting? I have. Maybe you've wanted to quit at work, at church, or in relationships, like your marriage or with your kids. Perhaps you've even thought about giving up on life itself. Maybe you've thought, "I just don't know if I want to do this anymore."

What do we do when we feel that way? The choices we make in response to those hard times in life affect the outcomes.

In this series, we'll be talking about a Bible character who had high points, low points, and everything in between. Elijah experienced major victories in his ministry, but he also experienced painful struggles, like we all do. He wanted to give up.

But together we will see God working in Elijah's life to build his faith, lovingly pull him up from the pit, and set his feet back on the path of following Him. God didn't give up on Elijah, and He won't give up on you or me either.

I want to choose faith, like Elijah did, and I know you do too. Let's see what God wants to show us as we study Elijah's story in *Courageous*.



Learning together with you,

Phil Tuttle

Philip S. Tuttle
President and CEO
Walk Thru the Bible

5 KEY MOMENTS IN
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SESSION 1

Preparation



Courageous

Choosing Faith When You Want to Give Up

Step into the Story

So [Elijah] did what the
LORD had told him.
—1 Kings 17:5



PREPARATION

Before Elijah ever has a public ministry, God begins to work in his life personally.

1 Kings 17:1

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Elijah was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the _____ century BC.

His name means “_____ is my God.”

God raises up Elijah to announce the coming _____.

1 Kings 17:2-6

² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” ⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Whenever you see this phrase in your workbook, “Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah,” underline it. God repeatedly came to Elijah and gave him a message to share.

God _____ and _____ for Elijah.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith it’s impossible to please God. Elijah is going to go through some difficult experiences, so God is building his faith.

1 Kings 17:7-11

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

Rather than allow Elijah to grow dependent on his circumstances instead of on God, He purposely disrupts his life.

God promises to provide for Elijah through a _____ in the heart of Baal country.

One of the many surprises in this story is this: the widow God chose to help Elijah lived in the heart of Baal country, where Jezebel is from.

1 Kings 17:12-14

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” ¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.” ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.”

Step into the Story

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

—Psalm 145:13



Discuss What You've Heard

1. Think about a time when you've been in despair and tempted to quit—your marriage, church, faith, job, or maybe even life. How did God meet you in that situation? How did He build your faith?
2. Read Exodus 20:1-6. Why did God get so angry when the people began to worship false gods? What does this teach us about God's character? Can you name any false gods or idols that people struggle with today?
3. Why do you think that Elijah had to go through this time of preparation? What are some things he might have learned during this time early in his ministry?
4. Describe Elijah's encounters with the widow. What is surprising about where she's from? Think about what you know of her and can assume about her from these Scripture passages. What might it have been like for her to do what Elijah said?
5. Have you ever taken a risk to follow or obey God? Describe what happened and what you learned.

For Personal Reflection

1. King Ahab married Jezebel, a woman who did not share his faith, and she led him far away from God. Have you ever had someone in your life lead you away from God? How did you address this in your life?

2. Have you ever been in a time of preparation, either for your job or for something God wanted you to do? Why was it important to prepare? What did you learn? How did it equip you for the future?

3. When the widow tells Elijah about her circumstances, he says to her, "Don't be afraid." Have you ever been afraid to obey or follow God? Scripture is full of verses and passages that say do not fear. Look up some of those verses and write them down. Learn a few of them, and ask the Holy Spirit to bring them to mind when you are afraid.

4. God wants us, like Elijah, to trust in Him rather than depending on ourselves or our circumstances. Have you ever experienced a time of change or difficulty when you had to depend on Him? Perhaps a job loss, marital strife, or financial struggles disrupted or changed your life. Can you point to ways that God provided for, comforted, or helped you during that time?

5. Even though the widow blamed Elijah when her son died and Elijah then blamed God, God did not condemn either of them. Have you ever blamed God for something that happened or had doubts about His goodness and His love for you? When? Our doubts do not shock or scare God. Ask trusted Christian friends to pray for you, and spend time studying Scripture about doubt.

6. Are there areas of your life where you're struggling with idols of your own? Ask God for clarity about whether that's true in your life, wisdom about how to handle them, and strength to give them to Him.



Courageous

Choosing Faith When You Want to Give Up

By Phil Tuttle

An evil king is on the throne and a blood-thirsty pagan queen is killing God's prophets. Into this frightening, dangerous time comes God's man Elijah.

As God prepares His prophet to step into the limelight, He leads Elijah through some difficult situations where his faith grows stronger. Soon, Elijah finds himself in the middle of a high-stakes showdown between the false gods and the one true God.

But then, a mountain high leads to a valley low. If you have ever felt like giving up or giving in, you will find Elijah's story both surprising and encouraging.

In this series, you will see that the choices we make affect the outcomes when we find

ourselves struggling with dark nights of the soul. Through *Courageous*, you'll discover more about God's character—and about yourself.

In five sessions, we will look at how God worked in Elijah's life in

- Preparation
- Confrontation
- Depression
- Restoration
- Succession

From the beginning of his ministry to the end, we will see Elijah choose faith, even when he wanted to give up. He wanted to quit, but God wouldn't let him go. Join us and you'll see that He won't give up on you either.

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

Helping people everywhere live God's Word isn't just a mission statement to us—it's our passion. Every year, we bring the hope and truth of God's Word to millions of people in more than 140 countries. We serve the biblically unengaged, the persecuted church, under-resourced pastors, and children. We know that the key to transformed lives is passion for God and His Word. And when people engage with His Word, everything changes.



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