

HOUSEGROUP NOTES: Week Beginning 11th September 2016

RSVP - 'AN INVITATION TO COURAGE'

Read: (1 Kings 19:1-18)

OPEN IT:

Play a game of JUST A MINUTE by asking one person in the group at a time to start and see if they can without **repetition**, **deviation** or **hesitation** speak for 1 minute on the subject '*I GET MOST DISCOURAGED WHEN..*' (Once a correct challenge has been made that person takes up the subject until a minute is up.)

Other subjects might be '*IF I RULED THE WORLD I'D...*' or '*WHAT BRINGS A SMILE TO MY FACE IS ...*' (Feel free to add your own but do have some fun.)

ALTERNATIVELY and as individuals or in pairs, your group may want to see how many others words they can make in 5 minutes from the one word DISCOURAGEMENT.

LINK COMMENT:

Discouragement is a normal emotion even Christians have, but it's important to know how to make sure this debilitating feeling doesn't get the best of us.

EXPLORE IT:

- Q.** WHY do you think Elijah got discouraged in this passage?
- Q.** WHAT did Queen Jezebel have to do with it and why? (19:1-2)
- Q.** HOW did Elijah's own feelings dictate his actions and what did they lead to? (19:3-5)
- Q.** WHAT was God's way of starting to put the COURAGE back into Elijah and get him back on track? (19:6-7)
- Q.** WHERE did this help lead Elijah to and why do you think it might have led him here? (19:8-9a)
- Q.** WHY do you think God asked Elijah the question He did and what does Elijah's answer reveal about his justification for feeling the way he did? (19:9b-10)
- Q.** WHY did God repeat His question to Elijah in a *gentle whisper* and what was the significance of the marching orders that came with it? (19:11-18)

GET IT

- Q.** To WHAT extent do you think Elijah was justified in being discouraged by his circumstances?
- Q.** In WHAT settings have you felt that you were the only believer?
- Q.** Of all of the manifestations of God's power exhibited here, WHICH might have Elijah wished God would show to his enemies?
- Q.** WHAT important lesson did Elijah learn about how God chooses to speak to people?
- Q.** WHY did God take Elijah back the way he came and not give him a route out of there? (HINT – The clue is in the INVITATION – Verse 15 “GO back...”)

A PERSONAL THOUGHT:

Despite our persistent efforts and fervent prayers, things don't turn out the way we'd hoped they would, but this doesn't mean that we EVER should call it quits.

APPLY IT:

- Q.** In WHAT discouraging circumstances can you remind yourself that God is in control? CONSIDER (Romans 8:28 & Genesis 50:20)

Elijah's zeal for the Lord's work had risen to a high point just prior to his trip into the desert.

- Q.** WHY is it that we are vulnerable after major victories in our lives?
- Q.** WHAT is it that assaults your faith and WHEN and WHERE are you the most vulnerable to it?

Finally CONSIDER what you would do in this situation.

A pastor, who you know well, is being treated for a bleeding ulcer. He is a prominent Christian leader in the area, and many of your friends have become Christians through his ministry. You notice that his personality suddenly changes. No longer bubbly, he often speaks sharply to people with no apparent reason, and seems to be depressed and forgetful.

Shaun.