



1 Kings 19:9–18

James 5:17–18

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. **James 5:17–18**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

Have you ever seen that long, drawn face when your teenager arrives home from school, saying, “I was the only one who _____”? You fill in the blank. Maybe we could become really frustrated with our kids, except we’ve been there a few times ourselves.

It’s been coined, “The Elijah Complex.” This is when we throw ourselves a major pity party even after experiencing the overwhelming presence of God. Read 1 Kings 19:9–18. Elijah had just called down the power of the Almighty upon the prophets of Baal. The display was magnificent, beyond all belief. Yet, Elijah ran from one woman, Jezebel, for fear she would have his head. Not only was Elijah afraid for his life, but he also concluded that he was the only one left who had any faith in the Living God.

After crawling into a cave to hide, God said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Then, again God displayed His awesome might, and then posed the question again, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

It’s an incredible story, which distinguishes God as God and man as man. God more than displayed to Elijah and everyone else that He was able to do anything. What would it take for Elijah to believe? What will it take for us to believe? Elijah did believe. How do we know? He responded to God in obedience, finding his soul restored and understanding that he was not alone. He had God, but also discovered that 7,000 others believed in his God as well. The point of this story is simple: God is sufficient to meet His plan and our needs.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Mom or dad thinks up a pitiful “I’m the only one” story to share with the family. For example, “I took my lunch to work today. I was the only one there with a sandwich. Everyone else had steak and potatoes, pizza, and good stuff.” Be sure and stick the lip out there for everyone to see and feel sorry for you as you share your story. See what kinds of responses you draw.

Explore . . .

First, a family member explains that Elijah had his own pitiful “I’m the only one” story to tell. Then, another family member reads 1 Kings 19:9–18. Ask: **What’s wrong with this picture? Why is it hard to enter into Elijah’s pity party? What evidence is there to believe that God had control of Elijah’s situation?** Refer to 1 Kings 18:16–40 and Elijah’s experience on Mount Carmel. Ask: **How has God displayed His power and ability in our lives?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **What are you supposed to do when God displays His power in your life and then seemingly asks, “What are you doing here?” What do you believe God meant when He asked Elijah this question? How might God be trying to get your attention off of yourself and onto Him? How might He meet your deepest needs as you begin to obey Him?**

Pray that God will show Himself mighty in your lives, causing you to respond in faith and obedience