

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 8

TOPIC: Elijah – Confronting The Powers

BIBLE PASSAGES: 1 Kings chapters 17 & 18; Mark 5:1-20; Acts 8:5-25; 13:6-12,16:16-19; 19:11-20

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Power encounters are clashes between Christ and Satan of such intensity the life of the missionary is perceived to be literally at stake. They may involve contests over the power of magic, the exorcism of demons, the breaking of superstitions and taboos or control over natural phenomena. In a successful power encounter Jesus is shown to be more powerful than the most powerful local spirit. This is an important realization that is a big step towards people coming to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ultimately they are a contest for the loyalty of the people. Elijah's encounter with the prophets of Baal is a classic case of such a power encounter as are the incidents such as Jesus and Legion, Peter and Simon Magus, Paul and Elyamas, and the seven sons of Sceva.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Kings 17:1-6 - What did Elijah tell King Ahab?
2. Baal was thought to be a fertility and agricultural "god" – so why do you think that Elijah called for a drought?
3. How did God provide for Elijah? Do you have some stories of God's unusual provision?
4. Read 1 Kings 17:7-16 the story of the widow of Zarepath. How is this yet another case of God's unusual provision? How is it a "power encounter"? What would have happened to both of them had God not kept His Word?
5. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24 – the story of the widows son. What is the issue here? (v. 18,24) How does God come through for Elijah? How is it a power encounter?

6. Read 1 Kings 18:1-16 – What was at stake for Obadiah?

7. Read 1 Kings 18:17-40 – Describe what happened. How is this a power encounter? What are the contending parties? What happens to the losers? What does God do?

8. Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 – How did this decisively demonstrate the power of God? (ref. 1 Kings 17:1)

9. Read Mark 5:1-20 – Jesus & Legion. What was the effect on the bystanders? (v. 15-17)

10. Read Acts 8:5-25 - How do power encounters and revivals seem to go together? What was the problem here?

11. Read Acts 13:6-12,16:16-19; 19:11-20 – How are power encounters important in spreading the gospel?

12. How can we see such miracles happening in our midst today?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Saudi Arabia**