

Eight Essential Bible Stories
Living the Message 2024-2025
April 2025 Study Guide
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

April: 1 Kings 19 - *God Shows Up in the Most Unlikely of Places* with Pastor Lose

[Click here to watch the video.](#) Or vimeo.com/1066667264

Opening Prayer

Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Open our ears, hearts, and minds so that we may experience your presence in our lives more deeply as we learn about your commitment to stay with us through all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Focus Overview

One of the consistent themes of Scripture – and something that has resurfaced in each of our Bible studies this year – is that God regularly surprises us, often calling into question what we thought we knew about God. While that can initially be challenging, most often it ends up being comforting, as the God we discover is often more loving, more caring, more present than we'd imagined. One significant story in the Old Testament along these lines revolves around the prophet Elijah. The story takes place almost immediately after Elijah has proved beyond a doubt his loyalty to the God of Israel. But rather than be celebrated for his faithfulness, Elijah is on the run, as the present king and queen of Israel have deserted the God of their ancestors and so have put a price on Elijah's head. Desperate, exhausted, and afraid, Elijah looks for some sign of God's presence and commitment. And where he finds God is, well, not at all where he expected God to be. The power of this story is that it echoes moments in our lives where we are worn out by challenges or made desperate by circumstances – illness, loss, heartbreak – and thereby orients us to look for God in unexpected places or, even more, to be open to the possibility that God often meets us just where we least expect God to be.

Questions:

1. What was one of your initial takeaways from Pastor Lose's presentation?
2. What are some of your earliest memories of learning about Elijah? What images or ideas pop out to you?
3. Does learning more about the background to Elijah meeting God at Mount Horeb (found in 1 Kings 18--King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel and more!) change or enhance how you read our focus story found in chapter 19? If so, how?
4. Read [1 Kings 19:11-16](#) - **Elijah Meets God at Horeb**

11 He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in

the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

5. What images stand out to you in this story? How do you picture what is happening?
6. How does this story challenge what you think God is like?
7. Where are some unexpected—silent—places you see God showing up? Where does God meet you?
8. What stands out to you about the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats ([Matthew 25:31-45](#))? Is it a warning? A directive? A promise?
9. Why do you think this is one of the essential Bible stories Pastor Lose picked?

"To love another person is to see the face of God." ~ Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being available to us, not always where we expect, but where we need you to be. In Jesus name, Amen.

Next Month – Final Class of the Series

Luke 24 – *God is available to us here and now*

In-person: Tuesday, May 6, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

Video will be emailed out Monday, May 5

Questions?

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