**Small Groups @ TBC**

**Sermon Discussion Notes**

**Date of Sermon:** 17 May 2015

**Speaker:** Mike Levy

**Title:** Elijah – Faith School - Trust

**Introduction:** The start of our series on Elijah

**Review:** **Who was Elijah?** His name means “My God is Yahweh” he came from Tishbe and was a settler of Gilead – a rough mountainous region east of the Jordon, people of Gilead were known as tough, hardened and disciplined. Above all he was a man of God who was not contained by the things of society that can often dominate our hearts. **Why was Elijah?** 58 years before Elijah appears the nation split into 2 kingdoms and the northern kingdom had been in steady spiritual decline and the marriage of Ahab to Jezebel was the final straw. Jezebel re-introduced worship of Baal and also wanted to wipe out all traces of Yahweh. Something had to be done. **The Message of Elijah** showed he was convinced and confident in God, teaches that he was aware of God’s presence and totally committed as his representative and was confident in the promises of God. **Hiding in the Ravine** was an act of trust – especially since God had just pronounced a lack of rain!

**Read:** 1 Kings 17 verses 1-16

**Reflect:**

1. Elijah was a voice for God – what does it mean to be such a voice today?
2. The spiritual decline of the leaders of the northern kingdom resulted in the spiritual decline of the whole kingdom. Our nation is impacted by our own elected leaders who make the laws by which we are called to abide – what does this mean for the involvement of Christians in politics?
3. The decline of the northern kingdom began with Solomon straying from God – starting the slippery slope – what small things could be the start of a dangerous slippery slope for us?
4. How can we know the living, breathing presence of God in our life day by day?
5. Elijah did not know all of God’s plan. He just obeyed step by step – what is the next step that God wants you to take.
6. Elijah was told by God to wait. How good are you at waiting? Is there something that you are waiting on God for now?

**Respond:**

Pray for each other based on what comes out of the Reflection.

**And finally:**

Pray for Christians in Parliament from all parties that they will be true to their faith in God and pray for Steve Webb who has faithfully served us and God in parliament over the past many years and is now seeking his next step.