

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** 12 July 2015

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** Faith takes Flight!

**Introduction:** This is the penultimate talk in our Elijah series. Despite all of the tremendous things that Elijah has witnessed do, one word from jezebel strikes terror into his heart such that he runs for his life.

**Review:** (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

**Reflect:**

**Read:** 1 Kings 19:1-18

**Reflect:**

1. Why do people think Elijah turns from super-hero to fugitive so quickly?
  - a. Are there any clues in the text itself?
  - b. What might we surmise, given the knowledge that “Elijah is a human-being just like us” (James 5:17)?
  - c. Has anyone in the group ever experienced anything similar i.e. quickly being tipped from confident faith to concern and fear? What was the context and what did they learn from the experience?
2. God's love lasts.
  - a. How does God show his love for Elijah in the wilderness?
  - b. Do you think Elijah was surprised by God accompanying him on his flight? Why / why not?
  - c. Have there been times when group members have discovered tokens of God's love in unexpected places? What were the circumstances and how did it affect them?
3. God loves losers.
  - a. Can you think of any other Bible characters who support the claim that ‘God loves losers’? How do people in the group react to this claim?
  - b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26. If the group had received this passage as a letter from a previous minister of Thornbury Baptist Church, how would they react? What would they feel was being challenged in this passage - and what was being affirmed?
  - c. If God loves losers, does that mean it doesn't matter how we live or behave?
4. God's love leads
  - a. Elijah fled to Horeb: the place where God revealed himself to Moses (see Exodus 3:1; Ex. 34:27; Deut 9:8; Exodus 17:6. Why might Elijah have headed here in his fearful state?
  - b. God's love doesn't just comfort Elijah - it commissions him. God trusts the fearful runaway to carry forward God's mission. How does that sit with the group?

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**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

**Respond:**

In the talk, David suggested some simple steps that we could take to try to ensure we avoid the flight into the wilderness all together!

- a. Which of these suggestions were helpful to group members?
- b. Do you have any of your own ideas for staying spiritually , emotionally and physically healthy?

What one thing might people do differently this week to avoid the wilderness experience - or if they are in the wilderness, how might they find God there?

**And finally:**

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?