

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Kings 18:16-19:18

^{18:36} At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.

³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!”

^{19: 11} The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. How have you experienced the presence of God in both big and small ways in the last year?
2. What are some of the practices, disciplines, or places that have helped you recognize God's presence in your life or the lives of others?
3. What are some of the obstacles or barriers to you receiving God's presence, instead of resisting it?
4. God's presence can evoke many responses (i.e. worship, prayer, generosity, obedience). Is God asking you to respond to Him in any particular way?