

Alone but not Alone #1

God's Handprints of Protection & Provision

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Kings 17:1-6

Discussion Questions

1. 'Footprints in the Sand' is a classic poem of how God carries His child when he is at his lowest point in life. Have you ever experienced being "carried" by God? Share with the group the circumstances surrounding your experience.
2. Read 1 King 17:1-6. This passage starts a new sermon series on learning to stand alone knowing that you are not alone. Elijah was a prophet of God sent to minister to Israel and Judah to save them from its moral and spiritual decline. Elijah was a very courageous man of God. He saw God's people turning away from Him and was being replaced by idols. Elijah didn't keep quiet about it. What fearless message did he declare on verse 1? What kind of a king was Ahab? Who was Baal? Elijah stood up for God and created demarcation line between God and Baal. What courageous act have you ever said or done to draw the line between right and evil?
3. King Ahab, who worshipped Baal, who was considered the god who brings in rain and plentiful harvest, was definitely shocked and furious by Elijah's courageous declaration. God didn't leave Elijah alone. In fact, He used this incident to show Elijah that he was not standing alone against King Ahab. Two handprints of God are pointed out to show you that Elijah was not alone. First, God's handprint of protection. What did God tell him to do in verses 2-3? Why would God tell him to hide in an open and temporary place instead of a cave where he would be safer? How did Elijah respond to God's instruction? Did God ever lead you to a place that wasn't your first choice, like school, work or a place to reside in? Discuss how God's protection can help you to accept your situation and live with it securely?
4. Second, through Elijah's life, you can see God's handprint of provision (v.4). Hiding in a very isolated place could endanger Elijah of hunger. How did God provide for his physical needs? Why would God use ravens, which are

scavengers, to provide for his needs? What kind of food did the ravens bring to him? What did the brook provide for him? What does God say of His provisions for your needs? Discuss how often times, even Christians take for granted God's provisions. Share with the group the things that you are grateful for acknowledging that they are God's provisions for your needs.

5. Elijah, seeing God's handprints in what was happening in his life, responded by staying in the best place in the entire world for him in that time of his life (v.5-6). He stayed there until he was told to leave. He was in a good place where God protected and provided for his needs. He was alone but not alone because he saw the handprints of God every single day. How do you think this experience prepared Elijah for other more challenging experiences he would later on encounter in his life. Share how His handprints are evident in your life.

Walk

God allows us to be vulnerable because it is when we see and acknowledge His protection and provision. It is not a certain place that makes us safe and provided. It is in the presence of God. Ponder how safe you are in the hands of God. Knowing that God loves you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for your salvation, would what others say to find fault with your faith matter? Would standing alone for Him matter knowing how much He loves you?

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your continual protection and provision in ways seen and unseen, known and unknown. I confess and ask forgiveness for the times I take Your protection and provision for granted. Please forgive me when I even go so far as to assume they are my own doing, by my own hand. I also confess other times when I fail to trust in You for security, when I look to other people or things for what only You can provide. Teach me to truly trust Your hand in all things. Teach me to rest in Your loving care where You direct me. May I trust in You more fully, that Your power be most evident in my life. May I serve Your purpose secure in Christ, in Your love and kindness. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.