

Week 1: Food for the Journey

1. What stood out to you from the message this past Sunday? Was there anything that seemed timely or relevant to you? Was there anything that made you uncomfortable, or with which you disagreed?
2. Share a meaningful experience you have had in the context of a meal. What made it so memorable?
3. Did you grow up reading the story of Elijah? If so, what did the story make you think and feel?
4. Read 1 Kings 17:1-16.
 - Have you ever experienced an unexpected source of provision in a difficult time? How did it impact your faith?
 - What might these stories tell us about “outsiders” and hospitality?
 - What might they suggest about the interconnectedness of people?
 - Do you think they have any application to the issue of immigration? Why or why not?
5. Read 1 Kings 19:1-15.
 - Elijah spoke truth to power, but he also struggled with pride and self-righteousness. How can we ensure we approach justice issues with love and humility?
 - Theologian Walter Brueggemann wrote, “as often happens to the zealous, Elijah has overvalued his own significance.” Have you ever had a time when you realized you were not as alone or as essential as you thought? What did you learn from that?
 - Elijah expected to experience God in dramatic acts (wind, earthquake, fire), but after the silence, Elijah heard the same voice asking the same question as previously. What do you think we can learn from that?
6. Where are you witnessing or experiencing injustice right now? Take some time to share and pray with one another.

Practice for the week: Providing for those in need

On Sunday, we heard about the freezing of foreign aid and the dismantling of USAID and many smaller federal development agencies. Take some time to pray for the disadvantaged communities overseas who will be impacted, and for those with the power to influence decisions to act with integrity and compassion.

Then take one practical step to be part of God’s provision for someone in need—overseas or close to home.