

I. The Lord wants to bless people.

James 1:17

### 1 Kings 18:1-2

After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria,

A. He wants to send rain.

Deut 11:13-17; Isa 55:1, 10-11; Jer 14:2-7; Acts 14:17; Heb 6:7-8; Acts 3:19

B. He lets them get thirsty.

James 5:17

II. The Lord calls those who are walking with Him to be "rainmakers."

A. Appeal to the people

B. Appeal to God

Josh 4:3; Ex 24:4, 20-25; Lev 1:3ff; Ex 29:41; Lev 9:23-24; I Chron 21:26; II Chron 7:1; Ex 3:2, 19:18; Heb 12:29; Psalm 51:17

III. When we follow His lead, the LORD shows up.

A. He shows up with fire.

Acts 2:1-4; II Pet 3:9; I Tim 2:1-4; James 5:16-18

B. While hearts are hot, we follow up.

Deut 13:5; Ex 22:20; Matt 28:18-20

C. Then come the rains.

Acts 3:19

# Care Group Questions

“Grace Like Rain”  
Text: 1 Kings 18:1-46

Dave Bechtel

April 1, 2007

1. Have you ever pulled an April Fool’s Day prank on someone, or had one pulled on you? Care to share? (How did the announcement on Sunday strike you?)
2. How was rain a blessing to the people of Elijah’s day? How would it have been especially a blessing at this particular time? How does God wanting to send rain to these people reveal God’s heart toward them (did they deserve it)?
3. Do you remember the spiritual situation of the people of Israel at this time? (Could they be called “spiritually thirsty”?)
4. God doesn’t just send the rain; He gets Elijah involved in His plans. Why might it not have accomplished all God wanted to just send rain?
5. Summarize Elijah’s appeal to the people. How might our appeals to people we know have similar elements?
6. How was Elijah’s appeal to God “according to His commands” (can you remember some of the elements included in his sacrifice and prayer that show that Elijah remembered some of what the LORD had revealed to earlier generations)?
7. Elijah’s sacrifice was an acceptable one, and the LORD “showed up.” What kinds of sacrifices are acceptable to the LORD in this age of grace? (Hint: it wouldn’t be a burnt animal.)
8. The LORD showed up in fire in these verses. How does He show up today to “turn the hearts” of people back to Himself? Have you ever seen that happen? Has it happened in your own life?
9. What would be the application for us when Elijah and the people killed the false prophets? We’re not to kill such people, but we are to take action when our hearts are turned toward God. What kinds of actions can we take when “the LORD has our hearts” to keep the fire in our hearts alive?

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