

TITLE AND NUMBER: 145. What are you doing here?



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 1 Kings 19:11-13

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. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

LOOKING FURTHER: 2 Chronicles 7:14; James 4:10

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Just prior to this passage, Elijah had angered King Ahab (the evil 7th King of Israel) and his wife Jezebel. Because of this, she had killed all the prophets of God she could find. Elijah was scared and ran off to hide in the mountains alone. He was so unhappy that he wanted to die. But God had not finished with Elijah. He knew how Elijah was despairing. God set about bringing Elijah back to strength and equipping him for the next phase of His plan.

Elijah had been one of the most courageous prophets, and here he was in a pitiful state. He had been miraculously fed and watered to renew his body, but now his spirit needed a boost. How easily he forgot the Almighty God who had done such wonders with him! God said, 'Go stand on the mountain,' and then a huge wind, a violent earthquake and a wild fire all happened right in front of Elijah. But, although these were powerful things, God was not in them. In the gentle whisper that followed, Elijah recognised God's voice.

Sometimes, when we think we have let God down, we may think something drastic needs to happen to get us out of trouble. But God knows our needs. He sometimes whispers advice to us, or sends someone to come alongside us and help us to cope. Sometimes, He shows us something wonderful in the Bible that changes how we think. Or we might sing a song in Chapel that reminds us that God is in control and we can trust Him to take care of us.

When God asked, 'What are you doing here?' He wanted Elijah to admit that he was in the wrong place. Sometimes, we need to do the same so that God can help us in our situation.

Reflections:

- We often wait until things get desperate, but we should tell God what is on our minds every day. He promises to help if we 'humble ourselves and pray.' Why not start now?
- If you need a reminder about how mighty God is, look up Deuteronomy 33:26-29, but replace the name Israel with your name.
- Read some of the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 16:29 to 19:21 – it is an exciting story and shows that when God makes a promise He keeps it; and when we have faith, He can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

