

dark places.

Small Group Discussion Notes
Sunday, January 15, 2017

Minnesota snow days bring many cancellations. In your opinion, do snow days bring freedom or isolation?

Read 1 Kings 19:1-14, 18

1. Elijah feels like he is alone in worshipping God. Do you ever feel that way? Do you think Elijah was reacting in an appropriate way when he heard Jezebel's threat? Why? How would you react if you were in this situation?
2. In this passage, Elijah's fear drives him to a place where he prays that he would die. He says, "I have had enough, Lord...take my life." Do you have any experience with someone who has been in such a dark place that they might utter this prayer? What circumstances might make someone feel that desperate? Share how hopelessness like this might be relieved?
3. Do you ever feel like God has forgotten you? God shows Elijah that he is not forgotten him in a number of ways. How?
4. God reveals that there are many others who are yet faithful. What do you think Elijah felt when he learned this? Why?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What do you think is the thorn Paul refers to here? He prayed and pleaded three times for it to be removed. Instead, God told Paul something very important. What was it? How does this encourage you?
6. When you are in a dark place do you ever feel alone? Do you delight in hardship, weakness, insults, persecutions, and difficulties like Paul? Why or why not? What do you think Paul means when he states that in his weakness he is strong? How can this be an encouragement to you and to others?

Abide/Love/Bless

How can simply being present with someone who feels isolated be a blessing?
What does it mean to you to be "present?" Who gets blessed?