



Weekly 4G Guide

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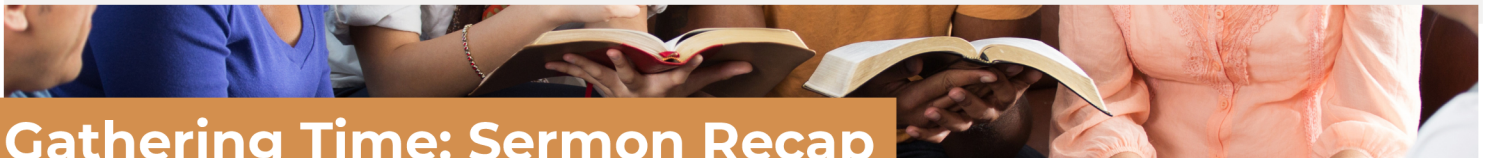
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

It Is Well...

Today, Greg preached the first sermon in a new series called *It Is Well*. By looking at the life of Elijah, this series will highlight the reasons we can have peace. Today's sermon focused on events from the prophet Elijah's ministry found in 1 Kings 17:1-24.

After many years of unity, the Kingdom of Israel split into two kingdoms. God's people were divided—the rebellious Kingdom of Israel to the North, and the semi-God-fearing Kingdom of Judah to the South. The Kingdom of Israel was known for its evil kings who turned away from God to follow false, evil gods like Baal. The Kingdom of Judah did a bit better with a mix of good and evil kings, some of whom followed God well. Ahab, the seventh evil King of Israel, was the most evil Israel had seen. He married Jezebel, a foreigner who worshipped the evil god, Baal.

In this setting, God spoke to the prophet Elijah. In a series of prophecies and miracles, God proved His power to Elijah, Ahab, and others. Through Elijah, God told Ahab that it

wouldn't rain. This drought proved that God was more powerful than Baal, the false “storm god” of rain and the resulting life it brings.

In this drought, God was faithful to Elijah. He provided for him by sending ravens with bread and meat! God later sent Elijah to a poor widow and her son who had almost nothing left to eat. God miraculously kept her jars of flour and jugs of oil full. When her son became ill, Elijah cried out to the Lord in a heartfelt prayer, and God, through Elijah, raised him from the dead.

Like Elijah, when tragedy strikes, we must understand God is always in control. We can look at His past faithfulness and trust Him in the present, saying, “It is well with my soul.” If we feel like God has failed us, we must ask: Did God *really* fail me? Or did people? Did I fail to do what I should? (God never fails, even if we don't understand His ways!)

What is your response when tragedy strikes? Like Elijah, cry out to Him in prayer and be ready for the peace He provides.

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: What is the most peaceful experience you've ever had? What made it so peaceful?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the main point of the passage that was discussed in today's sermon?
- What is the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of the passage?
- Does the passage contain truths, promises, or commands to obey? What are they? As a group, make a list and pray for your hearts to align with God's Word.

- **Track 2:** How do you think non-Believers might try to find peace?
- How should we Christians seek peace? Why is it hard to do this well?
- What are the roles of trust and hope in attaining peace from God? How is our peace built?

- **Track 3:** Do people still worship false gods for security, life, and provision? How? What "gods" are they? (And who can you share Jesus with?)
- What is your response to tragedy? What should it be? Are you experiencing tragedy now?
- How will you apply this week's sermon and passages? What result do you hope for?

God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read 1 Ki 16:29-34 for context. Mark anything that stands out to you.
- **Tuesday:** Read 1 Ki 17:1-7. How does verse 7 relate to verse 1? How did God provide for Elijah? Will He provide for you? Mark anything else that stands out to you.
- **Wednesday:** Read 1 Ki 17:8-16. Carefully notice all the miraculous things God did for Elijah and the widow and her son. Spend time thanking God for providing for you.
- **Thursday:** Read 1 Ki 17:17-20. What is your first response when tragedy strikes?
- **Friday:** Read 1 Ki 17:21-24. What was the woman's reaction to Elijah in verse 24? God has proved He is more powerful than false gods! Examine your response to God and ask Him to help you trust Him more.

God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child/ren can understand.

- Consider **reading** 1 Ki 17:1-7 from today's sermon from the Easy-to-Read Version.
- Give a **summary** statement about the sermon and the Bible passage in a way that your family can easily understand.
- **Ask:** Do you think God can always take care of our needs?
- **Say:** God is more powerful than anyone or anything else! He can meet our every need.
- **Activity:** Tell your kids about how God has provided for you. Ask them what God has provided for them. How many things can you come up with? Remember to include abstract things (peace, love, hope, etc.). Game time! Each family member thinks of one thing they haven't mentioned yet and the others try to guess what it is. Next, thank God for providing peace and blessings. Now sing, "It Is Well."

Give: *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*