

The logo features a circular emblem on the left containing a stylized blue wave. To its right, the word "OASIS" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font where the letters are interconnected.

OASIS

Soul Refreshing

Finding God



- We love mountain top experiences with God (transformative filling; healing; revelation).
- But whether we are on the mountain top or in the valley, we can find God wherever life finds us. Elijah did – he met God on a mountain top experience in 1 Kings 18, and the very next chapter found him in the valley of his life.

Finding God:

- Context: King Ahab & Queen Jezebel were in power. Their very names are synonymous with evil. Elijah gets a word from the Lord that there will be no rain for a few years (1 Ki 17:1). The famine makes Ahab angry & he hunts for Elijah; Jezebel kills the prophets (1 Ki 18:4). Elijah calls for a meeting with Ahab & the 450 prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:26f OASIS

- “So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. ‘O Baal, answer us!’ they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. At noon Elijah began to taunt them. ‘Shout louder!’ he said. ‘Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling.

1 Kings 18:26f

- Maybe he is sleeping & must be awakened.’ So they shouted louder & slashed themselves with swords & spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, & they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come here to me.’ They came to him, & he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruins. . . He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood.

1 Kings 18:26f

- Then he said to them, ‘Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.’ ‘Do it again,’ he said, and they did it again. ‘Do it a third time,’ he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. At the time of the sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed:

1 Kings 18:26f

- ‘O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.’

1 Kings 18:26f

- Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, ‘The Lord – He is God! The Lord – He is God!’”

Finding God:

- We all love meeting God on the mountain top experiences. And this scene with Elijah is about as good as it gets – fire falling from heaven, people turning back to God in mass, and then he goes on to pray and the rain falls and the famine lifts. A good day in the Kingdom! (Healing at HS weekend; Doug at Dmin; personal experiences)

Finding God:

- Reflections on the mountain top:
- Intentionally take time to remember these Mountain top experiences. Testify to them. That's why Scripture records stories like this. Telling these stories seals lessons, and inspires faith.
- Respond to these life altering moments with deep surrender. You only capitalize on the mountain top to the degree you surrender to God. (Pastor – healing encounter & rebellion)

Finding God:

- God not only meets us and changes us in the Mountain top, but he meets us in the valley too. Elijah went from this exhilarating demonstration of God's power to his lowest moment in life – in the very next chapter.

1 Kings 19:5f:

- 1 Kings 19:5f, “Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. ‘I have had enough, Lord,’ he said. ‘Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.’ Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat.’”

1 Kings 19:5f

- He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drink and then lay down a second time.”
- When he gets to a cave, God speaks to him, “What are you doing here Elijah?” He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword.

1 Kings 19:5f

- I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’ 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.

1 Kings 19:5f

- 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.”
- Why did God meet Elijah in a whisper? It seemed like a time when he could have used the power of God – he was in a valley, despairing for life. Why?

Finding God:

- God has met Elijah through a demonstration of power on countless occasions. He has miraculously provided for him, done miracles through him, and manifested His presence to him. Yet, in his darkest hour God changes his approach, and Elijah only gets a whisper. Why?

Finding God:

- The whisper doesn't apparently help Elijah. God asks him the same question, "What are you doing here Elijah?" And Elijah gives the exact same answer. So, why does God use a whisper here in Elijah's darkest hour, when a demonstration of power would seem appropriate?

Finding God:

- There are some things that the power of God cannot do, that only the tenderness of God can do. There are some lessons and character traits that cannot be learned or developed in a moment, but only learned and developed in a process. (God gently coaxes us along – God isn't interested in fixing us, He wants relationship; Microwave cooking)

Finding God:

- Reflections from the valley:
- Embrace the process orientation of the valley. Don't just try to get through, try to go deep. Don't waste suffering.
- Slow down in the valley. Take time to rest, replenish, and soak in the tenderness of God. You'll be tempted to push Him away. Draw near.

