Growth Group Questions – 20/6/2021 – Jack Kapinga

Read 1 Kings 19:1-21.

1) Discuss the stark contrast between the Elijah of chapter 18 (especially v16-46) and the Elijah of chapter 19 (especially v1-5a, 10, 14). Why has this man gone from courage and confidence to fear and frustration, running for his life?

2) Describe some 'mountaintop' experiences of your own, when you felt so in tune with God, when your trust was firm, your confidence was high and your joy was deep. Describe also how you felt when, like Elijah, you went from the 'mountaintop' to the 'valley' and felt discouraged, hopeless and alone.

3) What does the Lord teach us about himself in verses 5b-9a, both by what he does and doesn't do? How does Romans 8:37-39 help us to apply this through Christ?

4) What does the Lord teach us about himself in verses 11-13a? Why's it so important for us to remember that God is still present in a 'gentle whisper'?

5) What does the Lord teach us about himself in verses 15-21? How do we see the outworking of this in the coming of Jesus, and how does this give us confidence for the future?

6) How can these 3 truths about God help us in our daily lives, especially when we feel like Elijah, full of fears and frustrations?

If you have time:

7) What are the connections between this passage (especially v11a) and Exodus 33:18-23 and 34:4-7? And what are the further connections with Matthew 17:1-13?

8) How is this passage beautifully illustrated in the Footprints poem (see below)?

> Footprints.
> One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to him and the other to the LORD.
> When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."
> The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."