

## Life Group Discussion Questions

September 20, 2009

### Warming up

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. In our church, do you feel more like the stranger, the host or something in between? What about in your neighbourhood? Explain your answer.
3. Describe a time in your life when you felt completely vulnerable and alone. Was there ever a time in which you had to completely rely on someone who was a stranger to you? Were you ever the recipient of a stranger's hospitality?

### Digging in

4. Read 1 Kings 17
  - a. Jot down any observations or questions from this passage.
  - b. Does Elijah bring anything with him on his journey? Where does he get all of his basic supplies (water, food, information)?
  - c. What is the outcome of his journey?
5. Read Luke 9:1-6
  - a. Jot down observations or questions from this passage.
  - b. Compare this passage with 1 Kings 17. What important lesson do you learn about obedience and the result of obedience?
6. Share a time in your life in which you sensed God asking you to do something that you had no idea how you were going to do, or how your basic needs were going to be supplied. Or simply relate a time in which your basic needs were met unexpectedly. What did you learn?

### Living out

7. Living in Canada can sometimes make us forget how totally dependent upon God we are for everything. As Pastor Steve reminded us on Sunday, freedom and grace are found in open and empty hands. Discuss ways that we can live God-dependent lives in spite of much material blessing.
8. Discuss practical ways to 'take up your cross daily' and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). How can this attitude impact your hospitality to strangers?
9. Plan either an individual or life group event/function that helps build bridges with 'strangers' in your community. Think of ways you can be hospitable to strangers (i.e. neighbourhood bbq) or ways that you can receive hospitality from a 'stranger' so that *they* are blessed by giving.

**Reflecting:** "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion." Psalm 84:5-7