

Jezebel and Spiritual Conflict Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, how well do you navigate conflict?
2. What is your favorite way to learn?

Read the following passage: 1 Kings 16:29-33; 18:4; 19:1-2

Ahab “married Jezebel” and “set up an altar for Baal.” These two events are probably not unrelated. Jezebel was the daughter of a king who served Baal, and some scholars argue that Jezebel likely would have been a priestess of Baal. In fact, 1 Kings indicates that Jezebel was personally supplying the needs of 450 prophets of Baal. Jezebel’s alliance with pagan deities gives us a window into how demonic spirits operate in the world today. In particular, we are reminded that there is a spiritual battle for the word of God. What is true? How will we understand the Scriptures? And what stories will shape our lives?

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you think that all non-Judeo-Christian religions or other approaches to spirituality are complete fairy tales, like the tooth fairy, or do you think that there is some spiritual reality behind these other religions and forms of spirituality?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:20-21. Why did Paul urge the Corinthians to avoid meals involving meat sacrificed to idols? What are some of the potential problems of getting involved with, for example, astrology, tarot cards, crystals, or psychics?
3. Read Mark 3:22. Why do you think the teachers of the law made this claim about Jesus? How can we tell when some spiritual activity is a legitimate expression of God’s power and authority and when it is demonically inspired?
4. Read 1 Kings 19:13b-18. Describe the story that got in Elijah’s head and caused him to fall into despair. What was God’s response to Elijah’s story?
5. Describe some of the internal stories that have shaped your life in the past or are shaping your life currently.
6. When it comes to the Christian faith, how engaged is your mind? Explain. Why is it important to have both lived experience and better understanding?
7. Are you consistently reading the Bible? Do you use any tools to help you understand the Bible? What are the biggest obstacles you are currently facing to a fruitful habit of Bible reading?

Pray