

THE MAN FOR THE DAY BIBLE STUDY

J. Josh Smith

Lifeway Press®
Brentwood, Tennessee

Published by Lifeway Press® • © 2026 J. Josh Smith
Author is represented by Wolgemuth & Wilson.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted in writing by the publisher. No part of this work may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems. Requests for permission should be addressed in writing to Lifeway Press®; 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707.

ISBN: 979-8-3845-4867-6
Item: 005856477
Dewey decimal classification: 248.842
Subject heading: MEN \ BIBLE--STUDY AND TEACHING \ ELIJAH, PROPHET

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. ESV Text Edition: 2016.

Portions of this study are adapted from J. Josh Smith, *The Man for the Day: Answering the Call to Godly Manhood* (Nashville: B&H, 2025).

To order additional copies of this resource, write Lifeway Resources Customer Service; 200 Powell Place, Suite 100; Brentwood, TN 37027-7707; fax 615-251-5933; call toll-free 800-458-2772; order online at lifeway.com; email orderentry@lifeway.com.

Printed in the United States of America

Adult Ministry Publishing
Lifeway Christian Resources
200 Powell Place, Suite 100
Brentwood, TN 37027-7707

EDITORIAL TEAM, LIFEWAY GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

JOHN PAUL BASHAM
Director,
Adult Ministry Publishing

JOEL POLK
Publisher,
Small Group Publishing

TYLER QUILLET
Managing Editor

BRETT MCINTOSH
Lead Editor

REID PATTON
Editor

CYNTHIA WOOLDRIDGE
Editor

KATIE VOGEL
Copy Editor

LAUREN ERVIN
Art Director

GRACE MORGAN
Graphic Designer



CONTENTS

About the Author 5
How to Use This Study 6
Introduction 9

WEEK ONE 12
SURRENDER

WEEK TWO 24
PREPARATION

WEEK THREE 36
DIRECTION

WEEK FOUR 48
COURAGE

WEEK FIVE 60
RESOLVE

WEEK SIX 72
FIRE

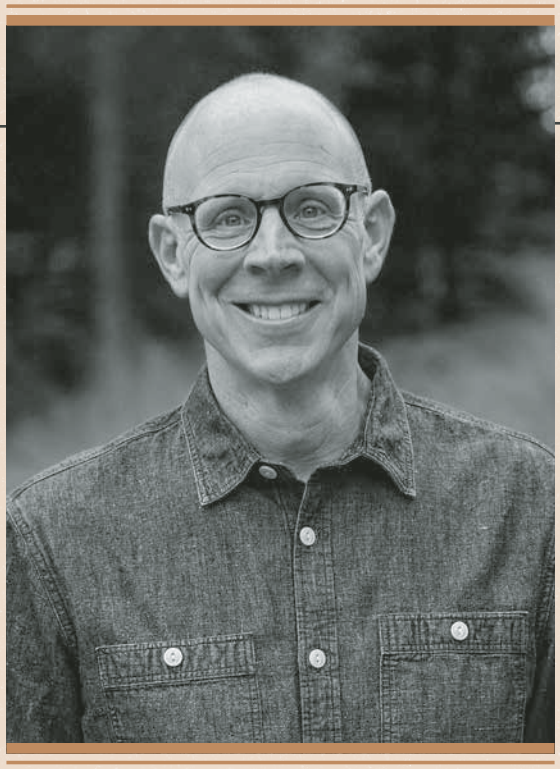
WEEK SEVEN 84
REPENTANCE

WEEK EIGHT 96
ANGER

WEEK NINE 108
PRAYER

WEEK TEN 120
WEAKNESS

Leader Guide 133



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J. Josh Smith is the pastor of Prince Avenue Baptist Church, just outside of Athens, Georgia. He is the author of *The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood*. He and his wife, Andrea, have four daughters and one son.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

INTRODUCTION

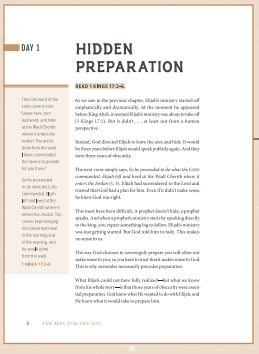
This will be your first group meeting. Take time to introduce group members, hand out books, and discuss the expectations and schedule for the group throughout this study. Watch the introduction video and take time to assess where group members are spiritually as they begin this study.

GETTING STARTED

The introduction will serve as the kickoff to begin personal study the first week. After week one, each week will begin with a "Getting Started" video where Josh will recap what you studied the previous week and help you transition to the next week of personal study.

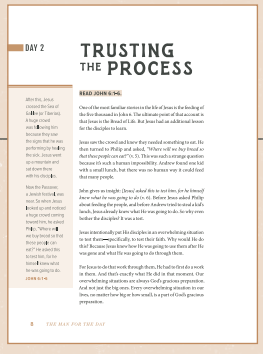
PERSONAL STUDY

Each week features three days of personal study. You'll find questions to help you understand and apply the text, as well as insightful commentary to clarify your study.


DAY 1

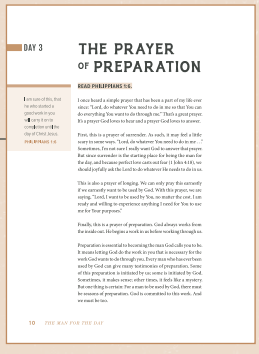
HIDDEN PREPARATION

READ 1 KINGS 17:2-6


DAY 2

TRUSTING THE PROCESS

READ JOHN 6:1-6

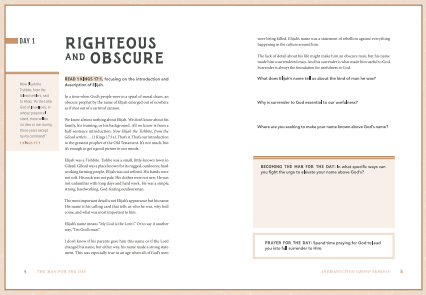

DAY 3

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:6



To access the video teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.


DAY 1

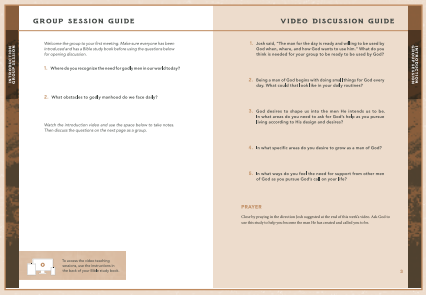
RIGHTEOUS AND OBSCURE

BECOMING THE MAN FOR THE DAY: In what specific ways can you fight the urge to elevate your name above God's?

PRAYED FOR THE DAY: Spend time praying for God to lead you into full surrender to Him.

BECOMING THE MAN FOR THE DAY

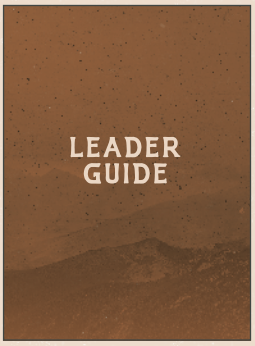
At the end of each day of personal study, you'll find an action step to help you move toward becoming the man for the day. Use the space provided to respond directly.


GROUP SESSION GUIDE

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROUP SESSION

At the end of each week, you will find a group discussion guide page. This guide begins with questions to reflect back on the most recent week of personal study, followed by space for you to take notes during the video teaching and discussion questions for the group to reflect on the video content.



LEADING A GROUP?

You'll find a few discussion questions at the close of each session. A leader guide is available at the back of this book. The leader guide offers further points of reflection to help in facilitating discussion in your group.


THE MAN FOR THE DAY



INTRODUCTION

In a sermon titled, "Holding Fast the Faith," Charles Spurgeon proclaimed: "Here is the day for the man, where is the man for the day?"[1]

Just as in Spurgeon's day, godly men are needed in our world today. Can you see it? Can you feel how desperately we need faithful, strong, courageous, self-sacrificing, Spirit-filled men? Do you look around and wonder if there are men who will have the backbone and resolve to stand against cultural pressures that seek to diminish our faith? Do you see that today is the day for the man?

In this study, we will be looking at the life of Elijah recorded in 1 Kings. As we examine Elijah's life, we will see ten characteristics that mark the kind of men our world needs—the men we need to be. Elijah's story will not only help us understand what's needed but will motivate us, encourage us, and inspire us to become "the man for the day."

GROUP SESSION GUIDE

Welcome the group to your first meeting. Make sure everyone has been introduced and has a Bible study book before using the questions below for opening discussion.

1. **Where do you recognize the need for godly men in our world today?**

2. **What obstacles to godly manhood do we face daily?**

Watch the introduction video and use the space below to take notes. Then discuss the questions on the next page as a group.



To access the video teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.

1. Josh said, "The man for the day is ready and willing to be used by God when, where, and how God wants to use him." What do you think is needed for your group to be ready to be used by God?

2. Being a man of God begins with doing small things for God every day. What could that look like in your daily routines?

3. God desires to shape us into the men He intends us to be. In what areas do you need to ask for God's help as you pursue living according to His design and desires?

4. In what specific areas do you desire to grow as a man of God?

5. In what ways do you feel the need for support from other men of God as you pursue God's call on your life?

PRAYER

Close by praying in the direction Josh suggested at the end of this week's video. Ask God to use this study to help you become the man He has created and called you to be.



WEEK ONE

SURRENDER



"As the LORD God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"

1 KINGS 17:1B


THE MAN FOR THE DAY



SURRENDER

Just one hundred years after King David's death, the nation of Israel was in a state of absolute moral chaos. Under the rule of King Ahab, new temples to false gods were constructed on every hillside, while the Lord's prophets were being gathered and killed. It's a sad story and a good reminder: Nothing causes more damage to a family, church, or nation than ungodly people.

If there was ever a "day for the man," this was it. And in the presence of these ungodly men, God was about to raise up a man to meet the challenges of the day. This is what God does. When there needs to be a man for the day, God raises him up and calls him out. Nothing has a greater impact on a family, church, or nation than godly men. And being a godly man begins with surrender.

DAY 1

RIGHTEOUS AND OBSCURE

> Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"
>
> **1 KINGS 17:1**

READ 1 KINGS 17:1, focusing on the introduction and description of Elijah.

In a time when God's people were in a spiral of moral chaos, an obscure prophet by the name of Elijah emerged out of nowhere as if shot out of a carnival cannon.

We know almost nothing about Elijah. We don't know about his family, his training, or his background. All we know is from a half-sentence introduction: *Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers . . .* (1 Kings 17:1a). That's it. That's our introduction to the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. It's not much, but it's enough to get a good picture in our minds.

Elijah was a Tishbite. Tishbe was a small, little-known town in Gilead. Gilead was a place known for its rugged, outdoorsy, hard-working farming people. Elijah was not refined. His hands were not soft. His neck was not pale. His clothes were not new. He was not unfamiliar with long days and hard work. He was a simple, strong, hardworking, God-fearing outdoorsman.

The most important detail is not Elijah's appearance but his name. His name is his calling card that tells us who he was, why he'd come, and what was most important to him.

Elijah's name means "My God is the LORD." Or to say it another way, "I'm God's man."

I don't know if his parents gave him this name or if the Lord changed his name, but either way, his name made a strong statement. This was especially true in an age when all of God's men

were being killed. Elijah's name was a statement of rebellion against everything happening in the culture around him.

The lack of detail about his life might make him an obscure man, but his name made him a surrendered man. And his surrender is what made him useful to God. Surrender is always the foundation for usefulness to God.

What does Elijah's name tell us about the kind of man he was?

Why is surrender to God essential to our usefulness?

Where are you seeking to make your name known above God's name?

BECOMING THE MAN FOR THE DAY: In what specific ways can you fight the urge to elevate your name above God's?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Spend time praying for God to lead you into full surrender to Him.

DAY 2

GOD'S MAN IN A GODLESS CULTURE

> Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"
>
> **1 KINGS 17:1**

READ 1 KINGS 17:1, focusing on Elijah's words to Ahab.

Fulfilling the role of a faithful prophet, Elijah's first words were from God. And they weren't easy. The very first thing Elijah did was stand before King Ahab and say, *"As the LORD God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"* (17:1b).

These were words of judgment from God to the people for their continual rebellion. But they were not only words of judgment; they were also words of grace. The lack of rain was not only God's judgment on His people but also a call for them to repent and come home.

This was not an easy message to hear, and it was not an easy message to deliver. But Elijah came on the scene with a word from God and seemingly delivered it without reservation, fear, or fanfare.

Standing before the king with a word of judgment was an act of incredible courage. But Elijah's name ("My God is the LORD") reminds us that his courage flowed from somewhere deeper. Elijah was not controlled by anyone else but God. He could not be bought by worldly leaders because he already belonged to God. And though he is known for many notable things, this surrender, above everything else, was the primary mark of his life.

Elijah was ready and willing to do whatever God called him to do. He was the man for the day because he was God's man.

Elijah was willing to stand alone and suffer. He was willing to say the hard things to the hardest people. He was willing to be confrontational and to be obscure. He was even willing to die. With the Lord's help, we can be that kind of willing man.

It all begins with a surrendered life. Before Elijah stood in front of the earthly king Ahab and said, "I'm God's man," his life showed he had already knelt before the true King in surrender.

Why is surrender essential to courage? How have you seen this in your own life?

How does a lack of surrender affect your ability to trust and follow Jesus?

In what ways is God calling you to stand alone like Elijah? What are the areas in which you feel tempted to compromise your convictions?

BECOMING THE MAN FOR THE DAY: What is one area in which you need to stand boldly for God this week?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Pray a prayer of surrender to God that leads to courage to stand for Him when the time comes.

DAY 3

SURRENDER VS. CONTROL

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.

MATTHEW 16:24-25

READ MATTHEW 16:24-25 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 15:31.

Surrender is a difficult word for most men. It goes against everything culture tells us about what makes a man. Cowards surrender. Weak men surrender. We are told to never be anyone else's man but to always be our own man.

Surrender is the reason so many men won't give their lives to Christ. Surrender means the loss of control, the loss of ownership, and the loss of rights. There may be no word that goes against our cultural idea of manhood more than the word *surrender*.

The invitation to follow Jesus is an invitation to death to self. To be saved you must be willing to lay down your life in order to gain His (Matthew 16:25). There is no salvation without the willingness to let go of all personal authority and rights and surrender yourself completely to the control of Christ.

But here is the beautiful irony: It is in that death to self that we gain life. When we lose our lives, we actually begin to live. The gospel explains why this is true.

The good news of Jesus Christ is this: We are sinners, separated from God because of our sin and under the just wrath of God (Romans 3:23); but God, because of His great love and mercy (Ephesians 2:4), sent His Son Jesus Christ to live a sinless life and die a criminal's death. His death was not for His sin but ours (2 Corinthians 5:21). And if we acknowledge our inability to save ourselves and trust in Jesus alone, calling upon His name and asking Him to save us, we will be saved by His death through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:13). But that is not the end

of the story. Jesus rose again, defeating death, ensuring we are not only saved by His death but also receive new, abundant, and eternal life by His resurrection.

All of this—being saved from death by His death and gaining abundant life through His Spirit—is ours by grace. This means we can't earn it. We simply acknowledge our inadequacy and ask God to save us (Ephesians 2:8-9).

As you trust and follow Christ in the continuous process of death to self (Luke 9:23) and experience His resurrection life, God makes you into the man He wants you to be. Life with Jesus is one of continuously releasing control and letting Jesus lead. This is how God makes us men for the day.

Have you come to a place in life in which you have chosen to trust and follow Jesus and surrender control to Him? If not, why not now?

In what areas of your life do you struggle to release control to the Lord (e.g., finances, family, career, time)?

Why must surrender be a daily action and not just a one-time decision?

BECOMING THE MAN FOR THE DAY: What is one practical step you can take to release control to the Lord this week?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Pray and ask the Lord to help you release control of your life in trust of Him.

GROUP SESSION GUIDE

Before watching this week's video, begin your group time by answering the questions below about your personal study.

1. **What stood out to you this week as you studied about Elijah living as a surrendered man?**

2. **How has this week's study challenged your view of what it means to live surrendered?**

Watch the Session One video and use the space below to take notes. Then discuss the questions on the next page as a group.



To access the video teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.

1. Read 1 Kings 17:1.

2. Elijah's name means "My God is the LORD." What about your life tells others you are surrendered to God?

3. Josh said the man for the day is ready and willing to do whatever God asks. In what aspects of your life do you find it difficult to walk in this readiness? Why?

4. Why must following Christ always begin with surrender?

5. Who or what do you need to surrender before the Lord today?

6. In what area of life do you need to seek help from God and support from our group as you pursue daily surrender to the Lord?

PRAYER

Ask God to reveal any areas where your group isn't fully surrendered to Him. Ask Him to give you the willingness and ability to surrender to Him and step toward His calling on your life.