



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, pens/pencils, paper

Turning Hearts in the End Time

Surveying the Source

Matt. 17:10–13

Plotting the Course

The students will:

► Understand that God is a change agent.

► Discuss examples of how God has changed hearts in human history.

► Have a desire to turn their own hearts towards God and be a vessel, like Elijah, for hearts to be turned to God before the second coming of Christ.

Preparing to Lead

Though we may not always believe it to be true, whether about ourselves or others, God is in the business of changing hearts. However, so many things seem to stand in the way of change, orientating

hearts in a different direction to that of the Savior. This lesson will focus on the story of Elijah, who God used to be a vessel for unprecedented change in the hearts of both individuals and nations!

Getting Started

A. *Ask* the class the following questions: “Have any of you experienced change in your Christian experience? How did it happen?” Encourage them to share personal anecdotes of changes they have experienced. Make sure to have a few stories of your own to share too!

B. *Read:* “Nothing keeps us from changing more than our tendency—our willingness—to remain locked into versions of ourselves, into personae and identities barred in by heavy leaden rods of self-righteousness. Too often, we’d rather be right than understand...” (www.brainpickings.org/2018/10/24/anne-lamott-almost-everything)

Ask: “What do you think of this quote? Do you agree or disagree? Why?”

Delving Into the Word

A. Say: “While God uses individuals as vessels for changing human hearts, He is the One who starts and finishes this work (Phil. 1:6). Yet we have a part to play.”

Ensuring that the class uses scriptural evidence for their answers, divide into groups of three and discuss the following questions based on 1 Kings 17. Afterwards, encourage the groups to share their findings.

What was the context of the setting at Zarephath? (e.g. secular, Baal worshippers, woman was not an Israelite) How might this compare to your setting today?

What are the characteristics of the widow? What do these tell us about her heart? (1 Kings 17:9, 12, 15, 16, 18)

What is the change that occurs in her? How is it brought about? (1 Kings 17:11, 12, 15, 18, 24)

What part does Elijah play in the widow’s turned heart? (1 Kings 17:20–22) What characteristics helped and hindered him in this work? (1 Kings 17:8–10, 13, 14, 16, 23)

B. Say: “There are so many things competing to orientate our hearts in different directions. In love, God desires to orientate our hearts towards Him, desiring both our joy and salvation.”

Making sure that the class uses scriptural evidence, divide into groups of three and discuss the following questions from 1 Kings 18:20–40. Have them share their findings afterwards.

What religious state was Israel in? (1 Kings 18:19, 21)

What change occurs in the Israelites’ hearts? (1 Kings 18:39)

How was this change brought about? What part does Elijah play? (1 Kings 18:21, 22, 37)

What truths is Elijah trying to restore to Israel’s hearts and minds and how does he do it? (1 Kings 18:21, 26–29)

What part does Elijah play in their changed hearts? (1 Kings 18:21, 30–32, 36–39)

What characteristics helped and hindered him in this work? (1 Kings 18:22, 27, 30, 36, 37)

Discussing the Ideas

1. How can we be sensitive to joining in with the work that God has already started in people (like He had with the widow at Zarephath)? cf. Luke 4:24–26.

2. What are some of the key stages in life when people are open to change? How can we use these opportunities to point them to Jesus?

3. In the account of Mt Carmel, how were the Israelites “locked into versions of themselves” that were resistant to

change? What can we do when we are confronted with similar situations?

4. What are God’s and humanity’s roles in the work of turning human hearts (cf. Mark 4:26–29)?

5. What are signs of a changed heart?

6. Jesus describes Elijah’s work as a restoration “of all things” (Matt. 17:10–13). How did Elijah restore truths about God? How can we do likewise, both on a personal and corporate/church level?

Closing the Activity

Distribute the Reproducible Activity. Ask students to write down names of three individuals whose hearts they believe God is working to turn to Himself and a relevant verse. Pray for those names, and encourage class members to

continue praying for these individuals regularly. *Say:* “God desires to change both our hearts and the hearts of those around us. Let’s take time to pray for the people we know that God has already begun His work in (Phil. 1:6).”

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MEMORY TEXT



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