

groups.

— Notes | July 20, 2025

Hymns | New Thing Coming

Freedom—close your eyes and hear the sound. Perhaps it sounds like a gentle rain, or maybe a cleansing shower. For many, freedom may sound like it's far away—impossible even. Destructive habits, old regrets, shame, and emptiness can stand in the way of the freedom we are offered.

But it is for freedom that Christ set us free.

The Israelites stood between the old and the new. After turning away from God, they faced a three-and-a-half-year drought that threatened their very lives. Yet, even in their sin, God wanted to do a new thing. Today, God wants to do a new thing in you. But just as the Israelites discovered, the new thing only happens when you deal with the old.

Key Scripture | 1 Kings 18:21

“Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

Related Scriptures

— 1 Kings 17:1, 1 Kings 18, Isaiah 43:18-19, James 5:16-17, 1 John 1:9, Galatians 5:1

Icebreakers:

— Q: What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?

Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Practical problems have a spiritual source.

Q: When you face a challenge, how do you naturally respond?

Q: What is a problem you've faced that could not be resolved through human effort?

Q: After three-and-a-half years of drought, the Israelites wanted God to do a new thing—make it rain.

According to 1 Kings 18:18, what old habits were they indulging in that may have served as a spiritual source for their practical problem?

II. Let go of the Old.

Q: Why is letting go of destructive habits, old regrets, and shame difficult?

Q: Do you believe that God has freedom for you? Why or why not?

Q: In our key scripture, Elijah asked the people how long they would waver between living life their way over God's way. Have you found it difficult to let go of the old for the new? What had to change?

III. Step into Freedom.

Q: Read 1 Kings 18:36-39. When the people realized their idols had no power, what did Elijah do? How did God respond to their surrender?

Q: Today, Jesus is our fulfilled Elijah. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. How does His sacrifice provide freedom from bondage?

Q: What would it look like if God did a new thing in your life and led you into freedom?

Get Practical

Once the Israelites had a change of mind and God dealt with the spiritual issue they faced, rain began to fall. God did a new thing that day, and He's ready to do a new thing for you, but to receive the new, you must let go of the old. Pray for the Lord to search your heart and reveal anything that He wants to deal with. Confess any revealed sin to God and accept Jesus' hand of invitation to repent and turn to Him. A simple prayer of repentance might look like this: "Father, thank You for Jesus who died for my sin. I confess of 'x' and choose to turn away from my sin and turn toward Jesus. I declare that I am no longer bound to 'x'. I am a child of God, set free through the grace and mercy of Jesus. I come out of agreement with any lies that led me into sin, and I choose to follow You. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit and lead me into the way You have for me to go. I thank You for the freedom that Jesus came to give me and choose to rest in Your blessing of abundant life." This week, meditate on Galatians 5:1 and praise the Lord for this freedom. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.