PRE-PRAYER
A HEART AFTER GOD

HEAVENLY CALLING
Craig Rees, Lead Pastor

BIG IDEA
God has prepared a hidden place of refreshing accessed by faith.

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17:1-6

Leviticus 11:13, 15

Deuteronomy 33:27

Psalm 17:8-9; 27:5

Proverbs 30:17

Luke 12:22-26

Ephesians 2:4-6

Colossians 2:2-3, 3:3

Revelation 3:17

1. Read 1 Kings 17:1. Very little is known about Elijah before he steps on the scene in this way. What preparation would be necessary to be used by God in the way Elijah was from the outset? What features of Elijah's life contribute to this obscure prophet becoming such a strong part of the Biblical story from here on out—think Old and New Testaments.

2. The context for Elijah's ministry was national crisis. Our nation has experienced a very difficult week. Would you commit to spending 5 minutes a day for the next 5 days in prayer for our national leaders?

3. Right at the start of his ministry Elijah discovers that the place of protection and direction is found where God is (1 Kings 17:3). When you read that statement what comes to your mind? How easy is it for you to accept that God wants you to experience His presence and be satisfied (Psalm 17:15)?

4. How would you summarize Colossians 3:3 in your own words?

5. Pastor Craig shared how the most basic definition of prayer is 'talking to God.' Prayer takes many forms. Which form of prayer is the easiest for you and which is the most difficult? In 2021, what is your goal for your prayer life?

6. Consider the implication of Elijah being fed by unclean birds. All too often people feel they cannot pray because they are unworthy. How should that reality be rethought in light of Luke 12:22-26?

7. Can you think of a time when you were blessed by a 'raven'—someone who you would never have expected to be a vehicle for God's blessing? Thank God for that person and seek a way of sharing this lesson as an encouragement to someone else this week.

8. How can this message help you grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus and with other people? What is the one thing that you can implement as a result of it?