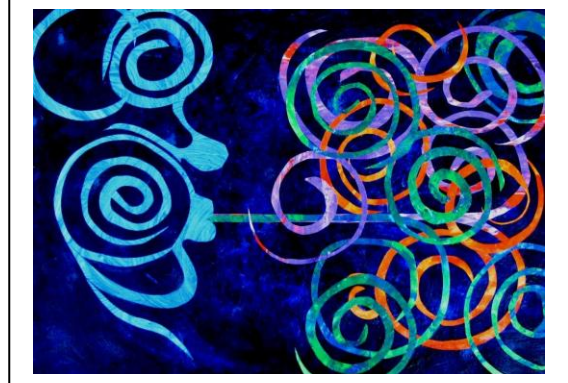


# The Elijah Stories and Revival on Campus

The One who spoke creation into being and breathed life into a lump of clay is always about revival. He is always creating and recreating; always bringing dead things, forgotten things, and lost things back to life. Whatever he touches becomes alive. Despite humankind's best efforts to thwart, control, or ignore the Irrepressible, we will fail. Yahweh will always win because he alone is God.



Over the past year, the leaders of InterVarsity have sensed that the organization is being called to pray and partner with the Lord for revival on campus. The call is not new. The Lord has been working for revival on campus from the day collegiate campuses were invented. But we sense that we are being invited into a new season of hope and expectancy at a time when the world is getting darker. Political civility is declining; racial tension is increasing; and evangelical credibility has fallen.

Might the Elijah stories found in 1 Kings 17-19 have something to say to us? Elijah was called to serve at a time when the worship of Yahweh was threatened with extinction. The Canaanite gods who had been cleared from the pantheon of worship by Moses and Joshua when the nation was born centuries before were reintroduced in the years following the death of David. Successive kings followed the slippery slope of syncretism. Then King Ahab and Queen Jezebel showed up, killed the prophets of Yahweh, and replace his altars with the altars of Baal. They formed alliances with suspicious characters and altered acceptable moral standards.

Elijah, whose name means El is Yah or God is Yahweh, makes it clear from day one whose side he stands on. He undermines the credibility of the false rain god Baal by declaring a drought. His financial supporters included a flock of ravens and a no-name widow with a magical flour jar. His first convert, the no-name widow from Jezebel's home town is a person you would least expect at the beginning of a revolution. Elijah, who stood outside the political system, partnered in revival with a fellow named Obadiah, the consummate insider to the system. That partnership, which led to the dramatic shoot-out with the 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel is one of the high points in all of Scripture and contains all the elements of a Hollywood blockbuster. But that victory was immediately followed by a humiliating set back that left Elijah depressed and wanting to die. The cycle of stories concludes with Elijah returning to the womb of the nation, Mt Horeb, where his spirituality was restored by the sound of silence.

## Retreat Guides

I have created a series of six stand-alone retreat guides based on 1 Kings 17-19. These guides could be used on successive retreat days over the course of a semester or some could be combined for a three-day retreat. In addition, there are two art brochures—one of paintings I did on the life of Elijah in 2011 and the other of artwork found on the web of the Widow of Zarephath. Finally, I have included art project ideas that could be used for individuals or groups to deepen their encounter with the text. Copies of these documents can be found on my website ([www.stevenstuckey.com](http://www.stevenstuckey.com)) under the tab "Current Retreats"

Steve Stuckey