

BIBLE RUNAWAYS

There were at least 11 Bible characters who "ran away" when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.

Runaway #3 - Elijah

People who become "runaways" are not losers. In most cases, these people are talented and have great potential for success. However, they may face the issues listed below.

1. Check the items that you struggle with:
 - a. ___ Avoid consequences
 - b. ___ Cannot face a situation
 - c. ___ Fear of pending danger
 - e. ___ Feelings of failure
 - f. ___ Feelings of loneliness
 - g. ___ Feelings of discontent
2. If Elijah experienced any of these feelings above, he did not show it in his early years. Match the verses with Elijah's apparent positive attitude.
 - a. 1 Kings 17:1 ___ He told evil King Ahab that He was Israel's problem.
 - b. 1 Kings 17:13 ___ He told King Ahab that there would be no rain in Israel.
 - c. 1 Kings 17:19 ___ He called upon the LORD in front of the false prophets.
 - d. 1 Kings 17:20 ___ He told his servant to go look; the rain was coming.
 - e. 1 Kings 18:8 ___ He told the widow not to fear; give him all your bread.
 - f. 1 Kings 18:18 ___ He told the prophets he would challenge their gods.
 - g. 1 Kings 18:21 ___ He said, "I am Elijah; I am here."
 - h. 1 Kings 18:22 ___ He actually accused God of causing trouble to the widow.
 - i. 1 Kings 18:24 ___ He accused the evil prophets of being "wishy-washy".
 - j. 1 Kings 18:42-43 ___ He asked the widow for her dead son; he would handle it.

Elijah was not a weak man; he could not have done any of this without a firm trust in God.

Some Thoughts:

- *He did not seem to have a tolerance for sin & disobedience.*
 - *He had a contagious faith: " I trust God; Have courage & trust God with me."*
 - *He was not ashamed to be servant & prophet of the God of Israel.*
3. How are you handling sin & disobedience in your daily life? _____

 4. How are you demonstrating your trust in God with your daily struggles?

 5. Are you ashamed of being called a "servant" of Jesus Christ? ___Yes ___No
 6. What do you do when an unbeliever puts on the pressure for you being a believer?

7. What did Elijah do when Queen Jezebel put pressure on Him in 1 Kings 19:1-3?

8. Check the feelings you think Elijah might have had.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid consequences | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of failure |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot face a situation | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of loneliness |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of pending danger | g. <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of discontent |

9. Write down the verse in 1 Kings 19 that records the following actions of Elijah after he was threatened by Queen Jezebel. (They are not in order chronological.)

- He said, "I am no good, no better than my people & ancestors".
- He hid in a cave even after an angel came to help him and feed him.
- He traveled alone and left his servant & friend alone.
- The Bible says that "He ran for his life".
- He laid down in a depressed state even after the angel fed & helped him.
- He traveled far into the wilderness in the wrong direction.

10. Write down the verse in 1 Kings 19 that records what he said.

- "I want to die".
- "I am left alone with no one".
- "LORD, I have worked hard for You, and this is what I get".
- Two times he says, "My life is in danger, LORD. Do You really care?"

Some Thoughts:

- *He was really afraid of what Queen Jezebel might do to him; she could do what she wanted.*
- *He was mad at God. Elijah had faithfully obeyed God & followed His direction; God let him down.*
- *He felt his life from childhood had been "a loser"; he didn't have a chance to succeed or survive.*

11. Would you, like me, want to run if:

- The evil and influences around me were too much to handle or resist? _Yes _No
- The authority that I answer to is all wrong but they have the power? _Yes _No
- The people that I consider my friends chicken out & abandon me? _Yes _No
- There is no one to protect me & shelter me from harm. _Yes _No

Elijah felt this way; he knew God was powerful; he knew he was on the right side; however, HE RAN.

12. True False After Elijah stopped whining & complaining to God in 1 Kings 19:14, did God chew him out, punish him, or "fire him"?

13. True False Does it appear that God expects that we might run sometimes?

14. True False Did God have people for Elijah to mentor & help in 1 Kings 19:15-16?

15. True False In Romans 11:2-4, was Elijah still able to speak with God?

16. True False In Luke 45:25-26, did God still use Elijah in ministry?

17. True False In James, did God answer Elijah's prayers?

18. If I run from God like Elijah, does God love me any less? _Yes _No

19. If I run from God like Elijah, will God still use me to honor him? _Yes _No

Elijah ran away at one time; he came back & got a second chance. God did not criticize Elijah; God said, "Welcome back my dear son; we have work to do; I will be with you every step of the way; I love you."