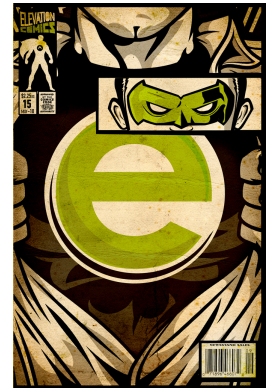


onechurch

big idea small group discussion



We're looking at the type of person God chooses and uses. God's choice of a person is diametrically opposed to how we choose a person. So many times, we choose individuals based upon *what that person is*. God chooses people on the basis of what they are to *become*. But if we're going to become the person that God uses mightily, that means we're going to have to prioritize Him and not waver and dance between God and idols that bleed us dry.

BIG IDEA: You cannot love God half-heartedly and expect to have a whole life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ever get burned playing with fire? How so?
2. Complete this thought for an upcoming context (sporting event, election, etc.) you are interested in: "If I were a betting person, I would put my money on _____?"
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Kings 18:16-18.* Why does Ahab think Elijah is the troubler of Israel? Why does Elijah reverse the charges?
4. How many people do you think assemble on Mt. Carmel (v.19)? What do you think the people are expecting to see?
 - a. A slaughter of a prophet?
 - b. A UFC showdown?
 - c. Something to talk about around the water cooler the next day at work?
 - d. Something to relieve the boredom?
5. Why was Ahab willing to risk a confrontation at Mt. Carmel?
 - a. He respected Elijah
 - b. He was sure he would win
 - c. He too wanted the people to decide
 - d. He was curious
6. What were the odds of the prophets of Baal and Asherah against the prophet of God? (v.19) _____ to 1.
7. Which team would a bookie put their money on? Knowing the outcome of this story, what does this teach you about odds and God?
8. Why don't the people say anything in response to Elijah (v.21)? What attitudes could account for their silence?
 - a. Fear
 - b. Indecision
 - c. Dismay
 - d. Confidence in Baal
 - e. Disdain
9. What reason does Elijah give for the prophets of Baal going first (v.22-26)? How would you feel if you were Elijah with those odds—850 to 1?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Kings 18:27, 32-35.* Why was Elijah creating an impossible situation? What does this tell you about Elijah's faith? His confidence? His relationship with God?
11. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Kings 18:28.*

Chris said, "The things that we have put our faith in other than God will always bleed us dry."

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

12. What things in your life right now are bleeding you dry?
13. What do you think the priests of Baal and Asherah were thinking when no response came from their god?
 - a. We didn't really expect anything
 - b. Where is our god when we need him?
 - c. We're in trouble now
 - d. Maybe we've been wrong about Baal



14. What do you think the people's feelings were when Elijah repaired the altar of God?
- a. Revenge
 - b. Fear
 - c. Respect
 - d. Reluctance
 - e. Disbelief
15. When the Lord sent down fire, He was:
- a. Speaking a language pagans would understand
 - b. Purifying His people
 - c. Showing His anger
 - d. Leaving no room for doubt about His power
 - e. Approving Elijah's ministry
16. When the people shouted, "the Lord—He is God!" they were...
- a. Scared to death
 - b. Convinced
 - c. Humbled
 - d. Wishy-washy
 - e. Converted
17. Do you think it is over-reacting to have all the priests of Baal slaughtered (v.40)? Why or why not?
18. The thing that convinces me that God is more powerful than anything else in my life is...
- a. Thunder and lightning—fire from heaven
 - b. Seeing how God has changed me
 - c. The truth of the Bible
 - d. The sincerity of Christian people
 - e. A miracle
19. I wish God would bring to my life...
- a. A little lightning
 - b. His power
 - c. An answer to prayer
 - d. Conviction
 - e. Proof of His existence
 - f. His presence

MOVING FORWARD

Any Baal worshipers here? Yeah, we will worship God. But we bring other little gods alongside the *Big G* God. For you, it might be dating. You cannot tell God you love Him and sleep around and expect God to be okay with that. You're dancing between two lovers. You can't find your identity in people and expect to also find your identity in God. You're dancing between two lovers. It may be your job and being a success. You will show up at church, but when it comes to giving your money, or when it comes to giving your time, you just never seem to have enough money and time left over to give to God. The problem? It's leftovers. You're not prioritizing God. You're wavering. You're dancing between two lovers. For others, it may be abusing a substance. Prescription drugs. Others, your little god—your Baal—is pornography. It is bleeding you and your relationships dry.

Any Baal worshipers here? Elijah says, "It's time to decide. It's time for you to stop wavering. You're dancing between two lovers.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What pagan idols do you need to smash in your life that are bleeding you dry? What altars do you need to spend some time repairing in your life in order to live a life that prioritizes God? Write these down. Share them with the Group. This week, start smashing—or start repairing!!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" 1 Kings 18:21

