



ELIJAH

SESSION 2

- **Main Passage:** 1 Kings 18:20-40
 - **Purpose:** To understand that following God requires boldness.
 - **Session Snapshot:** The nation of Israel was being led astray by Ahab and Jezebel's following of the false god, Baal. God called Elijah to take a stand and face off against 450 prophets of Baal. It was a stand that by all outward appearances, Elijah would take alone. But Elijah knew He was not alone. He stood with God, boldly obeying the Lord. It's a lesson for us as men, as well.
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GETTING STARTED

Kick-off your time together with a quick connection time or reviewing what you did in the last session.

FIRST, explain to your group that they will be continuing a video series on Elijah that is part of a larger study on men of the Bible.

If Elijah is your first study in the Real Men curriculum, even though it's your second session as a group, consider re-introducing yourself and having the men in your group re-introduce themselves. Then, ask for volunteers to share any thoughts they took away from last week's session. If you want to pass around a contact sheet, again, or do any other second-session "housekeeping tasks," this is the time to do it.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

DIGGING IN

Jump into the session by watching this week's video.

FIRST, play the video. You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.

When the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **What role does your wife play in your faith? Who is the spiritual leader in your home? Who takes on the most responsibility in discipling your kids?**
- **Taking bold stands for Christ doesn't mean people will stand with you. What can you do to prepare for moments you have to stand alone?**
- **How could persecution prove you are doing the right thing? If you don't ever face persecution for your faith, does that mean you aren't living by faith? Why or why not?**

- How can you know when it's the right time and circumstance to take a bold stance? Rick said we are living in a "cancel culture." Does that idea ever give you pause in taking a stand?
- The word *limp* is used a couple of times in the passage Rick discussed. What imagery comes to mind when you think about a limping faith?
- Should we oppose everyone that opposes God? How do you pick and choose your spiritual battles?

FINALLY, transition into the *Opening the Word* portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **Elijah could see Ahab and the prophets of Baal pulling his friends and countrymen away from the one true God. He didn't like it. The Lord called Elijah to pick a fight with the false prophets and their false god. So, Elijah took a stand—a bold one.**

OPENING THE WORD

Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.

FIRST, explain that you will take a more in-depth look at 1 Kings 18:20-40. But before you do, make sure your group has a good understanding of the context of the passage you'll be studying. Provide the context for the passage using the following bullet points:

- **Author:** Ancient Jewish history has Jeremiah as the author of 1 Kings and 2 Kings. However, this view has never been widely supported by scholars. It's best to view the books as a collection of writings with no known author.
- **Time frame:** 1 Kings and 2 Kings are extremely difficult to date because it's a collection of writings that could have been written and edited in stages.
- **Purpose:** 1 Kings and 2 Kings tell the stories of the kings of Israel. These books speak of the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of kings and the impact that a godly leader can have on God's people.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:20-29. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **In verse 21, the people's silence speaks volumes about their faith. When was a time you remained silent but felt as though you could or maybe even should have spoken up on God's behalf?**
 - Give plenty of time for the guys to answer. As they do, encourage them with the truth that we all miss opportunities to stand up for Christ, but the Lord also gives us more chances. Maybe even point to Peter's denial of Christ after Jesus' arrest as an example (Luke 22:54-62). Peter went on to take a massive stand at Pentecost, making an incredible impact for God's Kingdom (Acts 2:14-41).
- **Why do you think Elijah had such boldness to stand alone against so many prophets of Baal?**
 - Answers will vary here, and all of them may be correct, but focus on who the battle is actually between. The fight was between God and Baal, not Elijah and Ahab or his prophets. Elijah was so confident because God could not lose.
- **In verse 27, Elijah began to openly mock the prophets of Baal with *spiritual smack talk*. What would it take for you to speak on God's behalf with such confidence and in such a public setting?**
 - Answers will vary.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Elijah not only knew how to talk the talk, but he could also walk the walk. When the occasion called for action, Elijah led in a godly way. And he did it with boldness.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention to 1 Kings 18:30-37. Then, ask:

- **Before Elijah did anything, he drew the people in closely so they could watch him repair the altar of the Lord. Why do you think this is so significant?**
 - Answers will vary but try to guide the group to what an altar represents: surrender and sacrifice. For blessings from God to appear in an area of our lives, we must surrender that area to Him.
- **With that last question in mind, what “altars” need repair in your life? The altar of personal devotion? The family altar? The work altar? Explain your answer.**
 - Allow plenty of time for as many guys to share who want to. This is one of the big benefits of a group study; men learn from each other.
- **Reread verse 37. Elijah not only made a stand for God's honor but also for the benefit of God's people. How can our faithful stands affect those around us?**
 - Answers will vary, but help your group see that when we faithfully work for the Lord, others will see those good deeds and be pointed to God's glory (Matthew 5:16).

THEN, read 1 Kings 18:38-39. God has no problem displaying His glory. The proof of Him lies in His work all around us (Romans 1:20). Just as God worked through Elijah to demonstrate His power to His people, God can work through us. Ask something like:

- **After Elijah's prayer, the LORD's fire fell, consuming not only the offering but everything else too—the wood, stones, water, and even the dust. What does this tell you about God's ability to answer prayers? What does it say about the way we should pray?**
 - *Answer:* God has the power and authority to answer our prayers in much more significant ways than we could even ask or think up (Ephesians 3:2). Elijah was confident in what He asked from the Lord and bold in how he approached God (Hebrews 4:16).
- **On Mount Carmel, God left no doubts about who He is. Yet, His people would wander away from Him time and again. Why do we need so many reminders that God is God?**
 - Personal answers will vary, but for humanity overall, sadly, it is in our nature to turn away from God (Isaiah 53:6). Remind the group that God is good and always willing to take wanderers back just as He did with His people of Israel.

FINALLY, have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:40. Then, say something like:

- **This verse might seem a little extreme to us, but the Law Elijah lived under called for the destruction of people worshiping false gods (Exodus 22:20; Deuteronomy 13, 17:2-7). Elijah boldly demonstrated God was the one true God, so he then also boldly demonstrated God's Law was to be upheld. Our big takeaway here is that Elijah spoke and acted boldly, and he did it in a God-honoring way.**

Ask if there are any questions. If there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Focus your group's attention on one key takeaway from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Consider starting this portion of your session by asking your group what they think are the main application points from your session. Allow discussion to go until there are no more suggestions.

Then, if necessary, supplement your discussion with the following application points. Say something like:

- **What areas of my faith life do I exhibit boldness, and what areas am I too timid?**
 - This is a powerful way of evaluating our faith, but also one that requires deep reflection. It's not a question that can be easily answered in one sitting. Challenge your people to ponder this as they go throughout the days and weeks ahead.
- **How would being bolder in your faith transfer over to your family?**
- **Who do you know that has *bold* faith? Try to spend some time with that person in the next few days and ask them how they do it. Ask how they became so bold.**

If it feels appropriate, allow some discussion about the kind of processing they find themselves doing.

FINALLY, encourage men to continue to marinate on these points in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.