THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR STUDENTS

UNIT 13 | SESSION 2

THE SIGNS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

1 Kings 18:31-39; 19:5-8,15-18

MAIN POINT:
Even in our moments of fear and stress, God is with us.

HIS STORY

- **How often do you ask God to turn people to Himself in repentance?**

Hardly at all ○ ○ ○ ○ *Sometimes* ○ ○ ○ ○ *Often* ○ ○ *Daily* ○

- **Elijah stood on the side of truth in the midst of widespread opposition to him and his belief in God. What are some ways we can do the same in our own culture today?**

- **What brings you the most discouragement? In what ways do you identify with Elijah's struggle?**

- **Share about a difficult time in your own life where God was faithful in ministering to you.**

- **How are you tempted to forget about God's power and allow your circumstances to overwhelm you?**

Essential Doctrine

Christ's Humiliation | Although God the Son was equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating death on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

Christ Connection

Elijah was a prophet whom God used to perform amazing miracles, yet he still faced persecution and opposition from those who rejected God. His example points forward to Jesus, the greatest prophet, who endured opposition and rejection for delivering God's words of life.

In Defense

Previously in Israel's history, God sent fire at the inauguration of the tabernacle worship (Lev. 9:24). It signified Yahweh's acceptance of the sacrificial system. Later, David sacrificed, as ordered by God at Ornan's threshing floor, and Yahweh answered with fire, signifying his acceptance of the offering (1 Chron. 21:26). David then said that this particular spot would be the place for the future temple (1 Chron. 22:1). Similarly, when Solomon completed and dedicated the temple, fire again fell, showing God's acceptance of their worship (2 Chron. 7:1-3). Here in our story, the fire from heaven was a sure sign that God accepted Elijah's sacrifice.

HEAD

- **How does the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal mirror our situation in today's culture?**
- **Elijah confronted the false prophets, not to show that he was superior, but so they would know God is the one true God who could turn their hearts to Him. What does this tell us our motivation should be today when we stand for truth?**

HEART

- **What can we learn from Elijah's own period of fear and hopelessness?**
- **What are some biblical and healthy ways we can respond to moments of fear?**

HANDS

- **Part of Elijah's disappointment came from the fact that the events at Mount Carmel didn't have quite the impact he imagined they would. Have you ever experienced something similar? In light of Elijah's story here, how should you respond to similar moments?**
- **How can you use your difficult times to minister to others this week?**