



Sermon Discussion Guide: God Is Alive

Series: *Favorites*

Date: 08/10/2025

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:30–39 (NRSVue)

Opening Prayer

Living God,

You are not silent or distant. You are powerful and present. As we reflect on Elijah's story, remind us that You are still answering, still near, still at work in the world and in our lives. Open our hearts to see You clearly and trust You more deeply.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction & Context

This week in our *Favorites* series, Pastor Shawn shared one of his favorite scriptures—1 Kings 18:30–39. It's a story filled with drama and fire, but even more, it's a story about a God who answers. On Mount Carmel, Elijah goes head-to-head with the prophets of Baal. They shout, dance, and cry out—but no fire falls. Elijah prays a quiet, confident prayer—and God responds with unmistakable power.

This story reveals the transcendence of God (God is holy and above all), the immanence of God (God is close and personal), and the aliveness of God (God is real and responsive). As we reflect, we're invited to ask: What altars are we building—and who are we trusting?



Discussion Questions

1. Transcendent and Present

Elijah doesn't manipulate God or put on a show. He simply prays and trusts.

- How does this story challenge the way you think about God's power and presence?
- When have you experienced God showing up—not to impress, but to assure?

2. Idols Then and Now

The prophets of Baal cried out to something that couldn't respond.

- What "idols" or false hopes are common in our world today?
- Are there things you find yourself looking to for validation, control, or comfort—things that ultimately cannot save?

3. What Kind of God Do You Trust?

Elijah's God is not silent, distracted, or asleep. He is active and alive.

- What does it mean to you that God is *alive* and hears your prayers?
- How does that affect how you pray, wait, or surrender in hard moments?

4. Building Altars

Elijah rebuilds the altar before praying. He prepares space for God to act.

- What might it look like to "rebuild the altar" in your own life?
- Are there rhythms, practices, or spaces where you could meet God more intentionally this week?

Application & Challenge

Reflect on the Altars in Your Life

Take time this week to name the things you've been trusting to give you peace or purpose. Are they true altars—or false ones?

Rebuild an Altar for God

Set aside a simple, intentional space or moment each day this week to be still before God. Pray this prayer:

"God, let it be known today that You are God in my life."



Surrender Instead of Strive

If you find yourself striving, pushing, or performing to “make things happen,” pause. Ask God for strength to trust instead of control.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God,

You are holy, powerful, and near. We confess the times we’ve turned to idols that cannot answer and tried to solve life on our own. Help us surrender striving and choose trust.

Rebuild the altar in our hearts, that we may know and proclaim: You are God, and You are with us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

God is not asleep, distant, or uninterested. God is alive. God is listening. And God still answers.

This guide was developed from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.