

Elijah Series
1 Kings 18:1-46
Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read 1 Kings 18 together.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Open: Everybody loves an underdog story. What's your favorite? Why?

Study:

1. In 1 Kings 18:1, God calls Elijah after three years to return to Israel, for He's going to bring the drought to a close. So far in our study, how many different times has God directed Elijah to move? What does this say about Elijah's faith to obey God? What's the connection between faith and obedience?
2. In 1 Kings 18:2-6, we read about what life has been like in famine-stricken Israel since Elijah left. What do we learn about Ahab's priorities in this section of Scripture? What do we learn about God's provision for His prophets through Obadiah (Ahab's Palace Administrator)?

3. When Ahab meets with Elijah, he calls him a “troubler of Israel”, which is a reference to Achan’s sin (see Joshua 7:10-26, also 1 Chronicles 2:7). Why would Ahab make this accusation? What does this say about the blinding nature of sin?
4. Elijah came near to the people in 18:21 and asked the people a crucial question. What is the nature between “following” and discipleship? Why do you think the people didn’t answer Elijah? What do you believe was causing them to waver between following God or Baal?
5. The contest on Mount Carmel in 18:20-40 demonstrates unmistakably that the Lord, not Baal, is the true and living God. How do the details of the story reinforce this message? Consider, for instance, Elijah’s taunting (18:27), the extremes to which the prophets of Baal go to get Baal’s attention (18:28-29), the extra water poured on Elijah’s altar (18:35), the simplicity of Elijah’s prayer (18:36-37), the fire of the Lord consuming everything (18:38), the peoples response to God’s power (18:39), and the slaughter of the prophets of Baal (18:40). What is the irony of this showdown taking place on Mount Carmel? Why was it necessary for the prophets of Baal to be destroyed?
6. Why was it so important that God defeated the “storm god” first, then sent the rain after Elijah prayed?

Apply:

- 5) What things today cause you to “waver between two different opinions”? What are the enticing promises of these lesser “gods”? (Could be comfort, ease, status, power, prestige, provision, security, peace, etc.)
- 6) Why is it right and good for God to insist that His people choose Him, obey Him, and stick with Him? Does the demandingness of God surprise you? (Take time to consider Matt. 16:24-28; Luke 9:23-27; John 12:24-26; Eph. 4:22-24)
- 7) How does this passage help to remind you that the God of Elijah is the One true and living God and is to be followed no matter the circumstances you find yourself? How can rehearsing the good news about Jesus’ incarnate birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, and glorious ascension increase your confidence that following God is always the right way?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God that He is faithful to His people even when they wander.
- Ask God for faith to continue to trust Him.
- Ask God to cause those who have wandered away to return to Him.
- Take time to pray for one another to faithfully follow God wherever He leads.

NOTE: have taken some questions for this discussion guide from Gavin Ortland’s *Knowing the Bible: 1-2 Kings, A 12-Week Study*.