

ELIJAH

Group Guide

ordinary people; extraordinary power

1 Kings 18:30-39

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!"

LIGHT THE FIRE // May 12, 2024

1. Think about a time where you had to be courageous. Then, share that moment and what it was like for you.
2. Read 1 Kings 18:17-39.
 - If you were to summarize in one sentence what the contest on Mount Carmel is ultimately about, what would you say?
 - Where in the passage do you see this?
3. In 18:21, Elijah confronts the divided worship of Israel.
 - What does divided worship look like according to Elijah?
 - What does divided worship look like in your life?
 - Why is divided worship not the best kind of worship? Consider Exodus 20:1-3, Matthew 4:10 and 6:24, 2 Kings 17:38-39, and Isaiah 42:8.
4. Discuss the following two statements:
 - *Human beings were made by God to worship.*
 - *We have things in our lives that compete for our worship of Jesus.*
5. In the Bible, altars are a place of sacrifice and a place where the divine and human interact. Using 18:30-32 to help you, answer the following:
 - What is the purpose of altars in the Old Testament? Consider Genesis 8:20, 12:7-8, 22:9, 26:5, 33:20, 35:7, and Exodus 17:15 and 24:4.
 - Why is the altar an important piece of this story?
 - Why is it important that we see our lives as an 'altar' to God? Consider Romans 12:1-2.
6. Elijah shows us a way to reorient our worship when it gets sidetracked: *repair broken altars and reignite prayer*. As you think about these two steps, which one do you find the most difficult? Share why.
7. Ask God for the following in prayer:
 - God, ignite a desire in me to be with you in prayer.
 - God, reveal an altar in my life that's been broken.
 - God, help me rebuild that altar so I can worship you.



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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>