

ELIJAH

Group Guide

ordinary people; extraordinary power

1 Kings 18:36-46

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!" ⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. ⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" ⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the LORD came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

THE WAR OF GOD // MAY 16, 2024

1. What's your response to the phrase "spiritual warfare"? Do you feel intimidated? Indifferent? Interested?
2. Read 1 Kings 18:36-39. Try and imagine yourself in Israel's shoes as fire comes down from heaven and evaporates stone. What would you be thinking? What would you be feeling?
3. Read 1 Kings 18:40. This is not the kind of verse you'd put on an encouragement card.
 - When you encounter violence in the Old Testament, how do you tend to react?
 - How might the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus change how we approach passages like these?
4. Read 1 Kings 18:41-42. After God's victory on Mount Carmel, Elijah invites King Ahab to eat a meal. This meal was symbolic of eating in the presence of God, an incredible gift to the same king that led Israel to worship Baal. (Ahab also attempted to kill Elijah). Discuss whose story you resonate with more and why:
 - King Ahab (struck by the kindness of God toward you though you do not deserve it)
 - Elijah (praying for the sake of those who do not deserve the grace of God that they would experience his blessing)
5. Read 1 Kings 18:42-46. As God wages war against the powers of darkness, we see that we participate in this warfare through prayer. Elijah takes a position of complete vulnerability that yields immense power.
 - Where have you witnessed the power of prayer?
 - Where have you prayed yet missed the kind of response that Elijah receives?



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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>