

# Trusting the God of Wonders

God is able to do tremendous things through those who seek and trust Him.



GOD'S STORY  
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

1 Kings 18:16-46

July 26, 2020

(1 Kings 18:16-46) <sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup> When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup> "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." <sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. <sup>23</sup> Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good." <sup>25</sup> Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." <sup>26</sup> So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. <sup>27</sup> At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup> So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup> Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> 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." <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. <sup>35</sup> The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" <sup>40</sup> 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. <sup>41</sup> And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> "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." <sup>44</sup> 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.'" <sup>45</sup> Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> 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.

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What do you consider to be one of your greatest accomplishments?
- Few feats are accomplished without the help of others. Who came alongside you, and how did they help you?

**CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD’S STORY**

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:16-21

- In what sense might Elijah have been a “destroyer” or “troubler” of Israel (v. 17)? Was there any substance to Ahab’s accusation?
- How did Elijah respond to Ahab’s false accusations? What can we learn from Elijah’s response about trusting God when falsely accused?

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:22-29

- What was Elijah hoping to accomplish by establishing the contest?
- Who had more conviction about the ability of their god—Elijah or the prophets of Baal? What does this say about the nature of faith?

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:30-39

- Consider the steps Elijah took to douse the altar, and also consider his prayer. What did Elijah ultimately hope to accomplish in this moment? Was he successful?

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 18:40-46

- What did the provision of rain after the contest with the prophets of Baal ultimately show about God?

**COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD’S STORY**

- Is there something taking place in your life in which you need God to work, but you are not trusting God to do so? How will you build your trust in God once again?
- When have you experienced walking by faith – doing something God wanted you to do that didn’t make sense to others and seemed risky to you at the time? What was the result? How did God show up and prove Himself faithful?
- The gospel forces us to decide: will we trust God or trust ourselves? Elijah forced this moment of decision with the people of Israel in v. 21. When they saw God’s power demonstrated and the lack of power of Baal, they chose to repent and return to God. How is God using your life to demonstrate the power of the gospel to those around you?

**PRAYER:** Pray for boldness to stand for God in all circumstances of your life. Ask God to reveal Himself to you and show you great and mighty things that you do not know apart from Him (cf. Jer. 33:3).

**CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD’S STORY**

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Jonah 1-2  
 DAY 2 – Jonah 3-4  
 DAY 3 – Hosea 1-3  
 DAY 4 – Amos 1:1, 9  
 DAY 5 – Joel 1-3

KEY VERSE: Jonah 4:11

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.  
 Explain what the text means.  
 Apply the verse to your life.  
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God’s Story. Visit [chetscreek.com/gods-story](http://chetscreek.com/gods-story) for videos, study guides, and more.