

Contest
July 30, 2023
1 Kings 18:20-40
Next Steps

OPENING PRAYER:

[Lord] I invite you – I appeal to You – to adjust my desires until they line up with Yours. Thank you for inviting me to make my requests known to You. Cultivate in me an overwhelming, unshakable desire for Your holy fire above and before all other desires. Work inside this heart, I pray, until every want of mine is consumed in wanting You, in wanting what I really need. More than anything. Amen. (Elijah by Priscilla Shirer p. 122 adapted.)

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- What is your favorite sporting event and/or competition? Why?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

Read 1 Kings 18:20-40.

- What are your initial reactions to this passage?
- Why does Ahab label Elijah ‘the troubler of Israel’? How do you see similar labels happening today? Where?
- What do you make of the people’s response in v. 21? Have you seen this happening? When have you been among the people?
- Do you believe the people are sincere when they return to the Lord? Why or why not?
- Elijah was willing to put his faith to the test. What would putting your faith to the test look like? Are you willing?
- What is your biggest struggle in submitting to God?

NEXT STEPS:

- God showed power to Ahab and the prophets. Where do you see God acting today?
- The people wavered throughout this passage. In what areas of your life are you wavering? What changes will you and God make?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

“O GOD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, make it known right now that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I’m doing what I’m doing under your orders. Answer me, GOD; O answer me and reveal to this people that you are GOD, the true God, and that you are giving these people another chance at repentance.” (1 Kings 18:36-37 NLT)