

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Icebreaker

I would like to spend my last years:

- In a retirement community
- Seeing the country in my motor home
- Playing golf
- With my children
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: What kind of Kids did you hang out with in High School?

---

Read 1 Kings 16:29-17:7

### Elijah was a man like us

James 5:17

*[17] Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (ESV)*

Why is the truth that Elijah is like us a bit surprising?

---

In this passage we find that Elijah dealt with the same sin as we do, but he also had the same God as we do.

### Same Sin

Lets look at the sins that were in the land...

What was the biggest sin that Ahab committed?

---

Why not build Jericho? (See Joshua 6:26-27)  
What did Hiel do to his sons?

---

Question: Why do you think Hiel was willing to sacrifice his sons for this project in Jericho?

- Fame
- Fortune
- He was just following orders
- Maybe he didn't know
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

IN our culture today, we don't make idols out of wood or stone or metal. But we still have idols. John Calvin said *"The human mind is a perpetual factory of idols...men have in almost all ages since the world began, set up imaginary idols before their eyes to take the place of God."*

What are some idols that you can see in our world today?

- Comfort
- Success
- Being Liked by others
- Sexuality
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

An idol is anything we look to, other than God, for our ultimate meaning, validation, and purpose.

Is there a particular idol that tends to have a grip on your heart?

---

## Same God

What is the curse that Elijah brings to Ahab?

---

How is this curse related to Deuteronomy 11:16-17?

*[16] Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; [17] then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. (ESV)*

Baal was believed to be a fertility God as well as a storm God. He was the god that the pagans thought could send rain. And so when Elijah comes along and says "no more dew" and "no more rain", this is a direct challenge to Baal. Elijah is saying this:

*"Your god is dead. And my God is alive. Your God isn't even competent in his supposed expertise."*

Question: How does God show Himself to be the true God?

- He brings about the drought.
- He rescues Elijah.
- He provides for Elijah.
- He commands the birds and the storms.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The idols in our lives over promise and underdeliver. Share something in your life that can be an idol and the empty promises that you are tempted to believe?

---

What we see in Elijah is that God rescues a certain kind of person? What kind of person does God rescue?

- Good people
- People that try hard
- People that trust God
- People that
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How can we help one another turn from idols and trust God? What does this look like in the community of the church?

---

## Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

---