



CHOICES

THE MOMENTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

WEEK 6. Fire from Heaven

Pastor Josh will begin preaching on the story of Elijah this Sunday. To get us ready for that message we'll be studying the key text in lifegroup first. In this story, we see Elijah challenge the prophets of Baal (who was a major god that the people of this time worshipped) to a showdown to see who's god really is God.

Introduction Question: When have you witnessed the incredible power of God?

Bible Study: 1 Kings 18:22-39

22 Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. **23** 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. **24** 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." **25** 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." **26** 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. **27** 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." **28** So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. **29** 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.

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!”*

In small groups of 3-4:

- 1) What strikes you about this story?
- 2) What do we learn about God?
- 3) What do we learn about people?
- 4) What might God be saying to me through this passage?
- 5) Pray for each other.