

PREPARING FOR POWER: Assume a Posture of Total Dependence

March 6, 2022

Week 1 Reading Plan

DAY 1 Confront the god imposters in your life

Scripture: [1 Kings 16:30-34](#); [1 Kings 17:1-7](#); [Colossians 3:5-10](#)

Reflection: In the time of Elijah, the king of Israel, Ahab, was worse than any before him. He led the people away from God at a breakneck pace. He married a foreigner, Jezebel, who helped Ahab institute worship practices to her god, Baal, the god who brought rain for crops to thrive. God was preparing Elijah to remind the king and the Israelite people who He is. First, God needed to dismantle the perceived power of the false god Baal by bringing a drought to the land. He used Elijah to share this message with King Ahab and Jezebel. While we don't *explicitly* worship other gods in our culture today, we *effectively* do by putting other things before God. In a sense, we see these things as gods in our lives. A few examples of these would be relying on money, alcohol, sex, relationships, or work to bring us security, happiness, or meaning. The truth is that God is the only one who can give us those things we seek. For us to see His incredible power in our lives, He asks us to put those things aside and turn to Him alone.

Ask Yourself: Where do you need to be broken of your dependencies on imposter gods?

Pause to Pray: God, reveal to me the things in my life that I have put before you. Help me to turn away from them and back to you.

Take a Next Step: Look at the list of imposter gods from Colossians 3:5-10 and identify which ones you need to confront in order to make God first in your life.

DAY 2 Listen to God

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:1-7](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#); [Luke 11:28](#)

Reflection: In 1 Kings 17:2, we see that “*the word of the Lord came to him [Elijah]...*” as he was going about his life. Elijah maintained a consistent connection with God through regular prayer throughout everything he was doing. Because of this, he was ready the moment that the Lord spoke to him and gave him direction. Many of us don't have this regular connection with God. We have a specified time with God where we read the Bible, but then we often forget about him the rest of the day. If we aren't connected to Him, we aren't ready for him to bring about revival in our lives or the lives of those around us. Connection to God through prayer prepares our lives for His power. This doesn't have to be complicated—perhaps instead of just talking to ourselves throughout the day, we switch to talking with the Lord.

Ask Yourself: Am I really listening to God throughout my day?

Pause to Pray: Lord, I want to listen to you throughout my day. Help me to see ways that I can stay connected with you in prayer...

Take a Next Step: Set a few reminders on your phone at various times of the day to remind you to pray and listen for God's voice. When your alarm goes off, take a deep breath and start with, "God, You are with me..."

DAY 3 Submit to the teachings of brokenness

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:1-7](#); [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#)

Reflection: As Elijah listened to the Lord, he was commanded to go to a remote place, Cherith. God was asking him to give up control of everything and submit to God's plan. And Elijah had a choice at this moment- to either obey or to disobey. He could gladly follow God's plan or rebel against Him and miss out on the amazing power God was going to display through him. Our brokenness is often a space God uses to prepare us and to show us His power. Paul also experienced this through the "thorn in his flesh," which God used to teach him that God's power is made perfect in our weakness and brokenness. When God asks us to do something where we have to depend totally on Him, usually our gut instinct is a resounding no! Or if we are facing a difficult circumstance, we grumble and complain, instead of allowing God to work through that difficulty. Consider this- the Lord wants to display His power and greatness to us, in us and through us. But first, we must submit to Him.

Ask Yourself: What area of brokenness in your life might God be asking you to submit to him?

Pause to Pray: God help me to submit to you in _____. I believe You are greater...

Take a Next Step: Tell a trusted friend or mentor about the area of brokenness that you need to submit to God. Ask them to pray with you and walk with you through it.

DAY 4 Learn daily obedience in the small things

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:1-7](#); [Matthew 16:24](#); [James 1:22-25](#)

Reflection: Notice that as Elijah submitted to God's plan, he received only what he needed for that day—nothing more, nothing less. Every night, he had to trust that when he woke up the next morning the Lord would provide what he needed. God asks us of the same thing today. He wants us to give up our own plan and reliance on our own talents, skills, and abilities and turn to Him for everything we need. He wants us to be faithful to follow Him, moment by moment.

A word picture (credit to Bill Bright) helps to understand this idea: spiritual breathing, sometimes called a breath prayer. When we exhale, we confess our sin and the ways that we have messed up. When we

inhale, we surrender control to God, asking him to give us the strength for obedience. Just like we constantly breathe to stay alive, we must also breathe spiritually to be obedient to God's calling in each moment.

Ask Yourself: What are the physical things that I need to depend on God for every single day? What are the emotional things? Spiritual?

Pause to Pray: Lord, help me to rely on You and to obey You in all the small things today...

Take a Next Step: Practice spiritual breathing throughout your day as it relates to one of the small things that you find yourself struggling with.

DAY 5 Embrace change

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:1-7](#); [2 Corinthians 4:16-17](#)

Reflection: In 1 Kings 17:7, we see God allowing the brook to dry up, forcing Elijah to depend on God in a new way (which we will explore in part 2). God uses this new challenge to move Elijah to a new place where God will use him in a new way. That's a lot of new!

In our own lives, we sometimes see our situation change for the worst, and we complain and wonder why this is happening. Often God will use these things as a catalyst for a new thing that He wants to do. Change is always happening in and around us and when we allow God to transform our lives and demonstrate His incomparably great power through every new thing, He is glorified and our lives become His light in a dark world of painful circumstance. Our challenge is to trust Him through it all.

Ask Yourself: How can I embrace an area of change in my life and shift my perspective to see God at work in it?

Pause to Pray: Father, open my eyes to see how You are working through my life. Help me to be patient in the preparation time and to continue to trust You.

Take a Next Step: Share with someone how depending on God has changed your life.

Find more resources at www.whoisgrace.com/READ

PREPARING FOR POWER: Take Steps of Great Faith

March 13, 2022

Week 2 Reading Plan

DAY 1 Will you leave your comfort zone?

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:7-24](#)

Reflection: In the first part of 1 Kings 17, Elijah has the boldness to tell evil king Ahad that drought is coming. Elijah then hides alone by a brook, and God meets his needs. God speaks to Elijah again in 1 Kings 17:7 and sends him to a new place. A place named Zarephath, about 100 miles from the brook. And this town is in Sidon- this is where the evil queen Jezebel is from. This is a pagan place, and its name means “furnace.” Not only that, but the Lord sends Elijah to the home of a widow- they would have been strangers to one another in every way: morally, racially, economically, and of course, she’s a woman. God is testing Elijah’s faith. In part 1 of this plan we learned that God’s preparations often lead us through valleys of brokenness and pain. And almost every time, they lead us outside of our comfort zones.

God is doing something deeply in us so that He can do something powerful through us.

Ask Yourself:

- Where are you most comfortable? With whom?
- Are there activities and people in your life with which you are not always comfortable?
- How do you see God working in both your areas of comfort and discomfort?

Pause to Pray: God, instead of running from the uncomfortable, open my eyes and heart to consider the work you are doing through it...

Take a Next Step: Talk to a trusted friend about taking a step out of your comfort zone. Ask them to pray for you and to keep you accountable to the first small step.

DAY 2 Will you be generous with a little?

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:7-24](#); [Matthew 6:25-34](#)

Reflection: Elijah walked 100 miles to the town of Zarephath without any provisions, so when he sees the widow, he’s desperate for food and water. But she’s also in desperate need, down to her last meal. So when he asks for some water, and then asks for some bread, she breaks down.

“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

Your God- Elijah is a stranger, a foreigner, serves a strange and foreign god. What does he expect from her? In the face of her despair, Elijah offers a challenge. If she will give up her last meal, she will get to see just who this God of his is.

If you don't trust God when you have a little, you won't trust Him when you get more.

Ask Yourself:

- What do you hold back from God?
- What do you hold back from the church?
- Are you trusting God in all areas of your life?

Pause to Pray: God, forgive me for hanging on so tightly to _____. I want to be more generous...

Take a Next Step: As you worked through today's reading, have you felt the Holy Spirit nudge you to give more of something? Make a plan to be generous and then do it!

DAY 3 Will you trust in people to provide for you?

Scripture: [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [1 Kings 17:7-24](#)

Reflection: In the first part of 1 Kings 17, Elijah is alone and depending on the Lord. In this section, God has sent Elijah to a widow, and it is God's intention that Elijah depend on her. But God also wants to teach the widow that she can depend on Him. So she needs Elijah to come and Elijah needs her. This chapter, this situation in Elijah's life... maybe it's not all about him. Maybe the trip to Zarephath wasn't just about Elijah being fueled for his *future* work. Maybe it was about a woman and her son who needed God in their life.

Remember, the blessings and work of God were never meant to dead end with you. Your life was never meant to be a pond that collects all the blessings of God, but a rushing river that passes them along.

Ask Yourself:

- How have other Christians blessed your life recently? Thank them!
- How have you allowed your life to be a blessing to others?
- What do these scriptures teach you about God's purpose for His blessing?

Pause to Pray: God, your work and your blessing is enough for me and for every person you have made. That's incredible! Lord, I want to be a river and not a pond today. Open my eyes, my hands, my mouth to be a blessing...

Take a Next Step: What can you do or say for someone in your family, in your workplace, in your school that will bless them in a small way today?

DAY 4 Will you run toward God in times of adversity?

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:7-24](#); [John 21:18](#);

Reflection: Elijah watched the miracle of ravens providing him food in the wilderness. Elijah and the widow watched God resupply the oil and the flour in abundance. And now, God is going to bring the widow's son back from the dead.

But first, the widow asks Elijah, *"What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!"* And Elijah asks God, *"O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?"* And then Elijah does the strangest thing and stretches himself out over the boy 3 times... what?!

Scholars debate the meaning of this, but some interpret this in light of John 21:18. In that passage Jesus was predicting how Peter would die. He would die by crucifixion. His body would be *"stretched out"* on a cross. So here we see the woman looking to God and asking - is my son paying for my sin? And God looks back and says no - your son can't pay for your sin. My Son is going to pay for your sins. My Son is going to stretch out on a cross. My Son is going to descend to death- and stretch out and cry out. My Son will die as payment for your sin and not yours.

And here in the Old Testament, Elijah cries out, and God instructs Elijah to stretch himself over the boy as a little preview of the cross and the mighty power of God, even over sin and death. And the boy was saved, brought to life.

Ask Yourself:

- Where have you been looking for "salvation" from hard and painful circumstances?
- How does this story stir your faith?
- How do you see God's power at work around you? (acts of love and mercy, physical healing, hard hearts softened, etc)

Pause to Pray: God, you are mighty to save! Forgive me for relying on my own strength rather than your power...

Take a Next Step: Share where you see God's power at work with someone- encourage their faith!

DAY 5 Take a Step of Great Faith

Scripture: [1 Kings 17:1-24](#); [Romans 5:1-5](#)

Reflection: God is doing something deeply in Elijah so that He can do something powerfully through him. If Elijah hadn't had an audience with Ahab, he never would have gone to the brook, and if he hadn't gone to the brook, he wouldn't have made it to meet the widow. And if he hadn't met the widow he would have never seen the miracle of the flour and oil. And if he hadn't stayed around for that he would have missed out on the resurrection of her son. And if Elijah hadn't first walked through all of that who

knows if he would have had the faith to face what is coming next... God is preparing Elijah for a greater work. God is preparing him for fire to fall.

But first Elijah had to learn dependence and then he had to learn faith.

Ask Yourself:

-How has God stretched Elijah's faith and dependence in 1 Kings 17:1-24?

-How has God been stretching your faith and dependence?

Pause to Pray: God, where you tell me to go, I'll go. Whatever you assign to me, I'll do. Because I know I can depend on You -and You can be trusted...

Take a Next Step: What "test" are you facing in your faith today? What step will you take to depend on God? Perhaps **God is doing something deeply in you so that He can do something powerful through you.**

Look for "Preparing for Power" parts 3 and 4 to get the rest of Elijah's story!

Find more resources at www.whoisgrace.com/READ.

PREPARING FOR POWER: Proceed with Bold Obedience

March 20, 2022

Week 3 Reading Plan

DAY 1 Struggles allow us to enter into God's presence and protection.

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:1-19](#), [Isaiah 41:10](#), [Isaiah 43:1-4](#)

Reflection: In 1 Kings 17, we read about how God is preparing Elijah for things to come by testing and growing his faith. At this point in 1 Kings 18, Israel is three years into the drought Elijah warned was coming as a result of the Israelites turning their back on God. It's a devastating consequence for their disobedience. Drought brings about famine, poverty, illness, starvation, and a lot of suffering.

God is showing his disobedient and sinful children that He, not an idol like Baal that they have begun to worship, is the only one in control and the only one worthy of praise. It's no coincidence that in the Canaanite religion, Baal controls rain and fertility. The "god" the Israelites have been praying to for the restoration of their land has been completely silent. Those three years of drought stood to prove that no other God but Yahweh controls the earth and everything in it.

Now, God has spoken to Elijah again and He is ready to end the drought. But Elijah has some work to do first.

Ask Yourself:

- What is an area of struggle for you right now?
- In the midst of this struggle, how have you experienced God's presence and protection?
- How can you view struggle differently if you think about it as a way to rely more heavily on God's power in your life?

Pause to Pray: Father God, thank you for choosing me as your child. Thank you for your presence in my life, even if I don't see it. Please help me as I work to overcome _____....

Take a Next Step: Is there someone in your life who is struggling right now? Take some time to reach out to them and let them know they're not alone.

DAY 2 God asks us to be obedient.

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:1-19](#), [Psalm 112:1](#), [James 1:22-25](#)

Reflection: God promises good to those who follow Him. Following Him requires daily surrender and being willing to take bold steps of obedience. Especially when it's scary.

Let's think for a moment about what God is asking Elijah to do. Ahab is an enemy of Elijah. It is not safe for Elijah to be out and about. His life is at risk. He's been in hiding for the last three years. And now,

God has called him to come out and continue the work set before him. This requires Elijah to be face to face with a very powerful threat. God is asking Elijah to trust him and obey.

It's no small thing for Elijah to say "yes" to God again. This act of obedience is a bold one. Elijah steps into God's power and chooses to obey. He already knows that God will lead the way and protect him come what may.

Ask Yourself:

- Where is God asking you to step into bold obedience?
- What holds you back from obeying God when you sense Him calling you into (or out of) something?
- If you take a moment to think back on the different experiences in your life, how can you see God's hands in the times you have obeyed?

Pause to Pray: Father God, I chose to trust in you and your ways. Open my heart and eyes to where I need to step into deeper obedience...

Take a Next Step: Talk to a trusted friend or advisor about an area of your life that you need to say "YES" to God. Invite this person to pray over you and hold you accountable to follow through with bold obedience.

DAY 3 Stand firm when the opportunity to compromise comes calling.

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:7-15](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#)

Reflection: In this portion of 1 Kings 18 we see an interaction between Elijah and Obadiah. Obadiah is described as a God-fearing Israelite. He just doesn't want everyone to know it. He both helps Ahab try and find water in a drought-stricken land, and hides prophets who have been threatened by Ahab's wife, Jezebel. In the course of their conversation, Elijah lets Obadiah know it's time to step out of hiding. He is part of God's plan for Elijah to meet with Ahab.

Obadiah does not jump at the chance to help Elijah. Initially, he isn't willing to come out as a follower of God, and feels that what he has already done is plenty.

"And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? 10 As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. 11 And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here.'" 12 And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. 13 Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? 14 And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"; and he will kill me."

Obadiah is hoping his prior good works would be enough to keep himself in good favor with the Lord. He's not willing to compromise his personal comfort by taking a risk and telling Ahab about Elijah.

The reality is, Obadiah is in good company. It can be a slippery slope when we start to justify what we are doing based on what we've already done. It can feel easier to fit into the world around than to stand out and be set apart. We are called for more than what is available in this fallen world. Let's not compromise the everlasting promises of God for the lackluster pleasures of this world.

Ask Yourself:

- Do the people around you know that you love and follow Jesus?
- Do you rely on your past and the things you've done to carry you through seasons of drought in your faith journey?
- What is one area in your life in which you need to turn toward God and flee from the world's way?

Pause to Pray: Father God, I confess that I don't always love you like I should. I confess that sometimes (oftentimes) I choose things of the world over you. Father, please help me to love you and choose you in new ways.

Take a Next Step: Come up with one thing you can do this week to walk in step with God in a deeper way. It might be something like replacing an hour of TV time, with worship music and prayer. Whatever it is, look toward God and away from the world.

DAY 4 When God asks you to do something, He will provide what you need.

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:1](#), [Matthew 28:19-20](#), [Philippians 4:6-9](#), [John 14:27](#)

Reflection: At the very beginning of 1 Kings 18, God has a big command for Elijah. He's asking him to GO and show himself to Ahab. As we discussed in Day 2 of this plan, this is no small request. The amazing thing about this ask is that it's followed with a promise of provision. God will end the three years of drought and suffering if Elijah goes to Ahab. Elijah can go to a sworn enemy with confidence that God will protect him. Elijah's story is evidence of how surrender and obedience allow God to show up in incredible ways.

The story of scripture shows us time and time again that when God asks, He also provides. In Exodus 4:12 we see this just after God has told Moses to go set his enslaved people free from Egypt. When Moses expresses concern in his abilities to do what God asks, God responds by saying, *"Now therefore go, and I will be your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."* Moses isn't capable, but God is. You are not capable, but God is.

We see it again in Matthew 28:19-20 as Jesus, the son of God is preparing to go back to his Father in Heaven. In his parting words to the disciples, Jesus says, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe*

all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” The disciples aren’t capable, but God is. You are not capable, but God is.

God is not asking you to do anything without also promising to provide what you need.

Ask Yourself:

- How do you think Elijah felt knowing he was about to face Ahab?
- How has God provided for you in unexpected ways?
- How can you trust God more to provide what you need?

Pause to Pray: Father God, I believe that You are the ultimate provider. I believe that I can trust You to provide what I need. Today, I am trusting You to provide in this area of my life _____....

Take a Next Step: Write out on post it, or record in the note section of your phone, Matthew 19:20 *“And behold, I am with you, (ADD YOUR NAME HERE), always, to the end of the age”* – refer back to this passage when you are leaning on your own abilities and not on God’s provision.

DAY 5 Claim and step into God’s power in your life

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:18-19](#), [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

Reflection: At the end of this passage, Elijah comes face to face with Ahab. Elijah is accused of being the reason behind the troubles and suffering the Israelites are facing. He confidently responds to Ahab that he is not the enemy in this situation.

Elijah speaks with authority that it’s Ahab who has abandoned God and led his people into sinful worship of idols. Elijah is able to face his enemy because he knows the true power of God. He knows that God has called him to this time and place. Elijah has seen how God walks before him and beside him when he acts according to God’s will.

As the beloved sons and daughters of the Most High King, we know through what we read in scripture that when we follow God’s way, the same power that is alive in Him is also in us. Best of all – for both Elijah as he faces Ahab in 1 Kings, and for all of us – the fullness of God’s power is yet to come.

Ask Yourself:

- Where have you seen God’s power at work?
- What would it look like for you to live fully receiving God’s power over my life?
- What are some of the roadblocks that keep you living within your own power instead of in God’s power?

Pause to Pray: Father God, I believe that you are alive in me. I believe that in your power anything is possible. Please help me to step into your power when it comes to _____ in my life...

Take a Next Step: As you pray to receive God's power in your life, pray for your friends, family members, coworkers, to also see and feel God's power in their life.

PREPARING FOR POWER: Get Ready to Risk it All

March 27, 2022

Week 4 Reading Plan

DAY 1 Preparing the Altar of Your Heart for God's Power

Scripture: [2 Peter 1:2-11](#)

Reflection: Over the past weeks we studied ways Elijah was being prepared for a major showdown of God's power. Elijah had to learn dependence on God for everything in his life and he had to learn to let God use other people to be instruments to meet his needs. In order to do this he had to step out in radical faith and trust God to do even what seemed impossible. He had to be bold in day-by-day obedience.

Like Elijah, our faith is built step-by-step as we obey God and find him faithful. Each time you trust God and watch him provide, your faith muscles grow stronger so you can trust him for something bigger. Several times in this passage Peter mentions the importance of knowing God. How does knowing God and Jesus (who is his exact representation) prepare us to have more of his power?

Ask Yourself:

- As you read these verses from 2 Peter what do you see is God's part in your preparation and what is your part?
- How has God prepared you to see him do something powerful in your life?
- What specifically can you do to be ready for more of his power?

Pause to Pray: Read these verses again, then ask God to show you one way you can know him better so that you can be prepared for God's power in your life.

Take a Next Step: Choose one characteristic listed in these verses and concentrate on asking God to develop that in your life.

DAY 2 Only One God is Worth Risking It All

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:20-21](#); [Matthew 6:24-26](#)

Reflection: Elijah told the people of Israel it was time to make a choice: go "all in" to serve God or serve Baal. But the people didn't answer him at all. They refused to make the choice. However, as the saying goes, "Not to decide, is to decide." If you are not all in for God, then he is not your Lord. Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 6: "No man can serve two masters."

Still, so many of us keep trying to serve BOTH God AND money. Or BOTH God AND personal success. Or BOTH God AND pleasing people. We want to serve God when it's convenient or when we feel we need his favor but still spend our lives serving lesser gods—our own personal Baals.

The thing is, centuries of history have proved that none of these lesser gods can satisfy us. More importantly, none of these gods can save us from our sin and give us eternal life. We can't be "a little saved"—surrender to God means making the choice to serve him only.

Ask Yourself:

- Why do you think no one answered when Elijah asked them to choose between Baal and the Lord God?
- Truthfully, what is your answer to that choice today?

Pause to Pray: Ask God to show you if there is any other god you are serving in your life and ask him for the strength to put that god aside and serve only the One True God.

Take a Next Step: Write out Matthew 6:24 and put it in a place where you can see it often. Every time you read it ask God to teach you to be "all in" for him.

DAY 3 Risking It All May Be Lonely

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:22-24](#); [Matthew 7:13-14](#); [1 Kings 19:18](#)

Reflection: Elijah felt he stood alone against 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah. He thought he was all alone, but he wasn't. He had God on his side, and God was all he needed. Jesus told us in Matthew 7 that going all in with God puts us in the minority. Even if we're in the minority, though, we are never alone. God can even use our weakness or our feelings of being alone to get more glory—when he wins the victory in our lives, we know that victory came only through his power, and he gets all the praise.

It's interesting, though, to note in 1 Kings 19:18 that God tells Elijah there are 7000 people in Israel who did not bow to serve Baal. Elijah had more company in serving God than he realized! And that is often the case for us, too. Telling us we are all alone can be one of Satan's favorite lies.

Ask Yourself:

- What are some ways going all in for God will put me in the minority?
- What are the benefits that will come in my life when I stay faithful to God even when it sets me apart?

Pause to Pray: God, help me know I am never alone when I surrender to you. Help me stay focused on your promise that you will never leave me and let me find other believers who will share my life and support me. Amen.

Take a Next Step: Reach out to another Christ-follower today with a phone call, text, or email to encourage him/her so they know they are not alone. If you are not already part of a church or a small group of believers, take a first step today to join a group either online or in-person.

DAY 4 False gods Promise what only the True God Can Provide

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:25-39](#)

Reflection: After all the preparation it's time for the big showdown. The prophets of Baal went first and they danced and slashed themselves. It seems barbaric, but a lot of us are dancing and slashing our whole lives with things like overworking or overspending in the race to achieve or satisfy ourselves. But after all their dancing and yelling, vs. 29 says, "no one answered." Those false gods can never be the answer. They will never give us satisfaction.

Now it was Elijah's turn. He was ready—prepared by years of obedience. The first thing he did was build an altar and remind the people of Israel who they were and whose they were. Then he made sure that altar was soaked in water to make the task of burning it up even harder. And THEN he did the most revolutionary thing of all. He prayed. He asked God to prove himself and the fire fell. Then the people fell and worshiped God. God's power revealed his person.

Ask Yourself:

- Are there ways I am dancing for other gods?
- Who in my life needs to see God's power?
- How can I ask God to show himself to those persons?
- How is God preparing to show his power through me?

Pause to Pray: Spend some time praying for those people in your life who need to see God's power and recognize who he is, then pray God will use you to show his power to them.

Take a Next Step: What is God calling you to do today that will prepare you to display his power in your life? Maybe it's memorizing some Scripture or setting aside more time for prayer. Take that step to obey him.

DAY 5 God Only Needs to be Approached, Not Impressed

Scripture: [1 Kings 18:36-39](#); [James 5:17-18](#)

Reflection: James tells us Elijah was a man just like us. His prayer recorded in 1 Kings 18 is not very long. He doesn't use fancy words. He doesn't go through any special dancing, slashing, or yelling to impress God. He simply reminds God of his promises to his people. Elijah reminds God he did what God told him to do. And then he shares with God his pure motivation that God will show his power so people will know him and turn back to him.

You don't have to be some sort of spiritual giant to see God's power fall in your life. The greatest power God displays is his power to change a life. When people see changes in your life as you follow Jesus—when you become more loving, more giving, more caring—they see God's power in you.

Ask Yourself:

-How has God shown his power in my life already?

-In what ways does he want to use me to show even more of his power to those around me?

Pause to Pray: Read 1 Kings 18:36-37 again. Now think of a way you want to see God's power in your life or in the life of someone for whom you have been praying. Then, like Elijah, remind God of his promises and ask him to show his power so people will see it and know that God is real and powerful.

Take a Next Step: Make a list of three people or situations for which you will pray in faith daily and then trust God to show His power.

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