

# WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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1 KINGS 18

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

We must *deny* false gods, *defend* the true God, and *declare* the only God. When you step out for God, God will step up for you.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Have you ever been in a situation where you had to “choose sides”? What are some contributing factors to making such a decision?**

**Share an example of boldness and power that inspires you to take a stand. Have you ever looked to Elijah as such an example?**

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:1-19

***We must deny false gods.* Israel was in the middle of dark and discouraging days, with rampant sexual immorality, spiritual idolatry, and social indifference. How are these false gods still prevalent in our culture today? How should we respond?**

**How does Obadiah play an important role in this story? How does Elijah’s interaction with Obadiah provide an example of how to take steps of boldness?**

**Elijah was not a troublemaker; he was a troubleshooter. He was not intimidated; he was the intimidator. What was Elijah’s source of confidence?**

**What happens when God’s people abandon God’s commands and follow false gods? How does Elijah confront such idolatry?**

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:20–35

***We must defend the true God.*** It's not enough to deny false gods—we must follow the true God. How did Elijah make the call and draw the line in defending God? What might this kind of stand look like today?

**How did the people try to appeal to Baal? In what ways do false gods overpromise and underdeliver, leaving people to suffer the consequences of idolatry?**

**Read Isaiah 45:20.** Dr. Merritt said, “A whisper in the ear of God by one godly man or woman is more powerful than the shouts of an unbelieving world to a god who doesn't exist.” How does this give you perspective when defending the true God?

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:36–40

***We must declare the only God.*** How is the message of Christianity good news for people who think they must sacrifice to please God? In contrast to an idol, how do we know that God hears us and loves us when we call to Him?

**What was unique about Elijah's prayer? Knowing that “Elijah was as human as we are” (James 5:17–18), how can you also have the same source of power and boldness?**

**Jonathan Edwards lived by two resolutions: “I will live for God. If no one else does, I still will.” How does Elijah's story reveal that one person can truly make a difference?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Whose side are you on: the true God or a false God, God's Word or human opinion, conviction or compromise?** Dr. Merritt asked, “If you were in this story, would you be that one solitary human being that stood for God, or would you be that person who hid in the crowd?” How does this message inspire you to be on the Lord's side?

**Dr. Merritt said, “Maybe people out there would believe what we say in here, if we lived what we said in here out there.” How is it obvious that you are on God's side?**

## PRAYER

Thank the Lord that you are on His side. Pray that you will be faithful by forsaking any idols and by following the true God. Ask for boldness and power to take a stand and share the gospel.