

2026-10-07 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide

Based on 1 Kings 18: "How Long Will You Waver?"

Overview

This session draws from the confrontation between Elijah and King Ahab on Mount Carmel. The central challenge of the passage -- and of this sermon -- is the question Elijah posed to the people of Israel: "How long will you waver between two opinions?" The sermon calls believers to examine whether they are truly following God or simply claiming His name while living on their own terms.

Key Takeaways

Ahab represented the kingdom of God but failed to represent the King. Christians today can fall into the same pattern -- wearing the name while ignoring the commands.

Elijah responded to Ahab's personal attack by staying professional and focused on what God had said, rather than what he personally felt.

The people's silence when asked to choose between God and Baal was itself an answer. Indecision is a decision.

Elijah involved the people in the work of rebuilding the altar and gathering water, because having skin in the game matters in spiritual life.

Elijah's prayer was brief, focused, and God-centered -- and God answered with fire.

Following God is not merely a matter of belief. As the sermon noted, Jesus consistently called people to follow Him, and following is demonstrated through obedience.

Opening Question

Take a few minutes to get the conversation started before diving into the deeper material.

Think about a time when you had to make a difficult decision and kept putting it off. What finally pushed you to commit one way or the other? What did that experience teach you?

Discussion Questions

On Wavering and Commitment

Elijah asked the crowd, "How long will you waver between two opinions?" The crowd said nothing. What do you think their silence communicated? In what areas of life do Christians today tend to go silent when a clear answer is needed?

The sermon described two kinds of compromise: doing things God said not to do, and failing to do things God said to do. Which of those do you think is more common among believers today, and why?

The pastor said, "We've made God adjust to our lifestyle instead of us adjusting to His." What does that look like practically in everyday life? Can you think of examples without pointing fingers at others?

On Identity and Representation

Ahab was king of Israel but was not representing the God of Israel. The sermon drew a parallel to Christians who claim the name but do not live out the calling. How do you personally evaluate whether your life is representing Christ or just claiming Him?

The pastor described Christians as ambassadors and said, "When I'm out there by myself, I'm still His church." How does thinking of yourself as the church -- not just a member of a church -- change the way you approach your daily life?

On Elijah's Example

When Ahab called Elijah "the troubler of Israel," Elijah did not get defensive or personal. He redirected the conversation to what God had said. Why is that so difficult to do in real life? What would it take to respond that way when someone attacks you personally?

Elijah rebuilt the altar in the name of the Lord, involved the people in the work, and then poured water on the sacrifice -- making the miracle harder, not easier. What does this tell us about how God works and what He asks of us before He moves?

Elijah's prayer was short and direct. He asked God to act so the people would know God is real and so their hearts would turn back to Him. His motivation was not personal vindication but restoration of the people. How does that challenge the way we typically pray when we are in conflict with someone?

On Personal Application

The sermon said, "We need to be willing to suffer for Christ if it comes down to that. Otherwise, you are a churchgoer, but not a Christian." That is a strong statement. How do you respond to it? Do you agree or disagree, and why?

The pastor asked the congregation to consider whether God might be using hardship to get their attention, and to ask: "God, are you punishing me, or is this a situation where you want to come in close so we get through it together?" How do you typically respond when difficulty comes? Do you first look inward, look to God, or look for someone to blame?

Reflection Exercise

Take five minutes of quiet, individual reflection before sharing with the group. Consider the following:

Write down one area of your life where you have been wavering -- where

you know what God says but have not fully committed to it.

Ask yourself honestly: Is this an area of active disobedience, or is it something God has been calling you to do that you have been avoiding?

What is one concrete step you could take this week to move from wavering to following?

After the five minutes, invite anyone who is willing to share what they wrote down. No one should feel pressured to share something deeply personal.

Practical Applications

This Week

Read 1 Kings 18 in full on your own. Pay attention to details you may have glossed over before. Ask God to show you something new.

Identify one command of God -- not a suggestion, but a clear command -- that you have been treating as optional. Bring it before God in prayer and ask for the willingness to obey it.

If you are registered to vote, research where candidates stand on issues that align with biblical values. Do not rely solely on commercials or party affiliation. Pray before you vote.

As a Group

Consider identifying a project or area of service that your group can work on together -- something that requires actual effort and investment, not just attendance. The sermon's reflection on the church building project illustrates that shared work builds shared faith.

Pray together for revival -- not as a vague hope, but as a specific request. Ask God to start with each person in the room.

Closing Prayer Points

Close your time together by praying through the following:

Confession -- Ask God to reveal areas of wavering, compromise, or silence where He has called you to speak or act.

Commitment -- Ask for the willingness to follow, not just believe. Invite the Holy Spirit to make obedience feel less like obligation and more like devotion.

Intercession -- Pray for your community, your country, and the church at large. Ask God to raise up people who will stand for His commands without apology and without bitterness.

Gratitude -- Thank God that He is still the God who answers by fire. He has not changed. He is still able to move, still able to turn hearts back to Himself.

Supplemental Reading

For those who want to go deeper this week, consider reading the following alongside 1 Kings 18:

Romans 12:1-2 -- on the transformation that comes from not conforming to the world

James 1:5-8 -- on the double-minded person and what wavering costs

Revelation 3:14-22 -- Jesus's words to the lukewarm church at Laodicea

Hebrews 12:1-11 -- on discipline, endurance, and the race set before us