



GROWTH GROUP SERMON CURRICULUM

THE BIG STORY SERMON SERIES | JULY 1 2018

1 KINGS 17-18

“ANSWER ME, O LORD, ANSWER ME, THAT THIS PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT YOU, O LORD, ARE GOD, AND THAT YOU HAVE TURNED THEIR HEARTS BACK.” - 1 KINGS 17:37

FROM THE TEXT

- 1 KINGS 17 INTRODUCES US TO ELIJAH, A PROPHET OF GOD. IT STARTS WITH HIM TELLING KING AHAB THAT IT WILL NOT RAIN UNLESS HE SAYS IT WILL AND THEN ELIJAH DEPARTS. WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL SETTING FOR ELIJAH'S BOLD CLAIM? WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF GOD'S PEOPLE? READ 1 KINGS 16:29-34 FOR AN EXAMPLE.
- AFTER READING 1 KINGS 18, WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT ELIJAH? HOW DOES ELIJAH CONSISTENTLY RESPOND TO THE LORD'S CALL AND COMMAND? LOOK AT 1 KINGS 18:1-2, WHAT IS REALLY AT STAKE FOR ELIJAH IF HE OBEYS? IT HASN'T RAINED FOR OVER 3 YEARS AND WHO IS AHAB GOING TO BLAME?
- DISCUSS THE SET-UP OF THE “COMPETITION” BETWEEN ELIJAH AND THE FALSE PROPHETS. WHAT STANDS OUT?

FROM THE SERMON

- ON SUNDAY, PASTOR NATHAN POINTED OUT THREE CHARACTER TYPES WE CAN SEE IN 1 KINGS 18: “THE MOVERS” REPRESENTED BY OBADIAH; “THE SHAKERS” REPRESENTED BY ELIJAH; AND “THE FANS” REPRESENTED BY THE CROWD WATCHING. DISCUSS EACH OF THESE THREE CHARACTER TYPES AND HOW GOD USES THEM IN THIS PASSAGE. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EACH?
- IN 1 KINGS 18 WE SEE AN EXTREMELY CONFIDENT PROPHET IN ELIJAH. WHERE DOES ELIJAH'S CONFIDENCE COME FROM? READ 1 KINGS 18:36-37. PASTOR NATHAN DISCUSSED THE CONTRAST BETWEEN ELIJAH'S OFFERING TO THE LORD COMPARED TO THE PROPHETS OF BAAL'S OFFERING TO THEIR GOD. WHAT DOES THIS DIFFERENCE TEACH US ABOUT GOD AND OUR ROLE IN HIS WORK?
- HOW DO THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD SENDING DOWN HIS CONSUMING FIRE AND ANSWERING ELIJAH'S PRAYER?

FOR YOUR LIFE | APPLICATION | ACCOUNTABILITY

- WHICH CHARACTER TYPE DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH MOST IN THIS STORY (THE MOVER, THE SHAKER, OR THE FAN)? WHAT CHARACTERISTICS DO OBADIAH (THE MOVER) AND ELIJAH (THE SHAKER) HAVE THAT ARE MOST DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO EMMULATE? DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN HELP EACH OTHER GROW AS MOVERS AND SHAKERS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS.
- ELIJAH GIVES US A PICTURE OF SOMEONE SOLD OUT TO THE LORD AND FULL OF FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM. WHAT IDOLS OR DISTRACTIONS KEEP YOU FROM BEING MORE LIKE ELIJAH? WHAT THINGS PULL AND LURE YOU AWAY FROM THE LORD AND KEEP YOU IN THE CROWD AS A FAN?
- WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO APPLY THIS WEEK AND HOW CAN WE HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE?

PRAYER FOCUS

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE A CHURCH, THE LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST, THAT WOULD BE IN MOTION AND SHAKE THINGS UP THROUGH FAITH AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD. PRAY FOR BOLD CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD. THANK GOD FOR HIS WORK OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. REPENT OF THE IDOLS IN YOUR LIFE THAT HOLD YOU BACK FROM FOLLOWING THE LORD.