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## Elijah: Knowing God's Power

*1 Kings 18:16-40*

Imagine yourself living in a country where everyone is following other gods or religions. There are no churches, no Bible studies, no fellowship, no Christian literature. As far as you know, you are the only Christian in the land. How would you respond?

GROUP DISCUSSION. Describe a specific situation where you found yourself standing alone for Jesus. How did you feel and respond?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. How would you feel if every Christian abandoned the faith and you had to stand alone in your commitment to Jesus? Explain.

The prophet Elijah faced enormous odds. Israel had abandoned the Lord for another god, Baal. They had rejected Elijah in favor of the 450 prophets of Baal. Yet in spite of these odds, Elijah challenges Baal and his prophets to a contest with God. *Read 1 Kings 18:16-40.*

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1. What do you learn about Elijah from this passage?

2. Why do you think Ahab agrees to a contest in verse 19?

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3. What is Elijah's challenge to the people of Israel (vv. 20-21)?

What does their failure to answer indicate?

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4. Israel was an agrarian society dependent on rain for its survival. Baal was the god who supposedly controlled the weather. How does this help to explain why it was so difficult for the Israelites to completely abandon Baal and trust solely in God?

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5. In what ways are you or the people around you wavering between two gods?

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6. Describe the conditions of the contest on Mount Carmel (vv. 22-26).

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7. What is pathetic about the frenzied activities of Baal's prophets and their taunts of Elijah (vv. 26-29)?

8. What do Elijah's actions indicate about his knowledge of God's reality and power (vv. 30-37)?

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9. Summarize the dramatic outcome of the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal (vv. 38-40).

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10. What are the "Mount Carmel" situations you face? (For example, at work, at school, in your family or neighborhood.)

In what ways are God's power and reality challenged there?

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11. How can you, like Elijah, rely on God's power in that situation? (Take into account what your part and God's part might be.)

*Spend time in prayer, committing your situation into God's powerful care.*

### **Now or Later**

Make a list of every situation where you feel weak today. Then read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 for further insight into how God's power can flow through us.