



This week we are diving into a story of a showdown between God and idols. Israel is in a tough spot as there has been no rain for a long time. Ahab, the king, blames the prophet Elijah for the trouble facing his country, when in fact it is the result of the people's adoption of idol worship. Elijah challenges the priests of Baal, the idol, to a showdown in order to see which of their gods is truly powerful. The nation of Israel must decide who they will worship.

1. Humans are made to worship and as such are always worshiping something or someone. Often, the objects of our worship are idols, even if we don't label them as such. Idols are anything we place above God in our lives. What are some of the idols Neal mentioned in the sermon, and can you think of other common ones in our culture?
2. **Read 1 Kings 18:17-18.** Elijah calls Ahab out for the way he has abandoned the Lord in order to worship idols. What does it take for us to identify the idols in our own lives? Do you have someone you trust to call you out as Elijah did Ahab?
3. **Read 1 Kings 18:21.** The people of Israel are on the fence about who should receive their true worship. Do you find yourself diluting your worship of God by trusting in idols as well? Is there anything that prevents you from trusting Him alone?
4. **Read 1 Kings 18:22-29.** The showdown has begun, but no matter what the priests of Baal do, there is no response. Tell us about a time when you have been let down because your trust was misplaced.
5. **Read 1 Kings 18:30-35.** Why do you think Elijah prepared the altar in this way? What was he trying to accomplish?
6. **Read 1 Kings 36-40.** In this passage, we read that God showed up in a big way. Do you believe he can do the same in your life? Encourage each other by sharing a time when you have seen God come through, even though the odds were against you.
7. Close your time in prayer, and ask God to help you commit to worshiping him only, leaving any idols in your life behind.