



## **Sermon Study Guide**

**Sunday, July 26, 2020**

***Desiring the Kingdom: The God of Fire and Rain***

**1 Kings 18:22-46**

**Key verse:** *Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God."* 1 Kings 18:38-39 (ESV). **Key idea:** In the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal we see a display of God's judgement and mercy which points to the hope we have in Jesus.

**Read through 1 Kings 18:1-21.** We also recommend watching Sunday's sermon again on the White Fields website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page. Pause the video, reflect on, and discuss areas that challenge you or speak to you in a significant way.

**1.** In this passage, we see the people of Israel seeking a sign from God to determine whether He or Baal deserved their worship. Baal could not answer, but God answered in a miraculous way. Have you ever sought a sign from God? Did He answer? If so, describe the experience.

**2.** Pastor Nick gave us two ways we can identify idols in our lives: 1) It is something you are willing to cross lines for that you never thought you'd cross, and/or 2) If you didn't get it you would be willing to turn your back on God. Can you identify anything in your life now or in the past that could be classified as an idol based on these descriptions? How did you, or how will you overcome it?

**3.** Read 1 Kings 18:36-37 aloud. Describe, in your own words, the prayer offered up to God by Elijah. What do you see as the primary elements of Elijah's prayer? What made Elijah's prayer effective? Does this influence the way in which you pray? In what way?

**4.** Read Matthew 12:38-40 aloud. What sign was Jesus talking about that would be given to the Scribes and Pharisees? Do you think this was something they would understand and believe? Read Luke 16:31 aloud. How does this affect your answer?

**5.** Read Romans 5:8 aloud. Pastor Nick asked the question, "What are you going to do in response to what Jesus has done for us?" He asked us to think about this question throughout the week. Describe how you would answer this question. How should your response be reflected in your life?

Continue to pray for our pastors, the members of our church, and our community. Pray that our church will be a refuge to those seeking to find and draw closer to God.