

The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament:
Week 10 – Elijah on Mount Carmel: More Than Fire from Heaven

1 Kings 18:16–39 | 1 Kings 19:9–13; Matthew 6:24;

Matthew 27:45–54; Acts 2:1–4

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, quiet the distractions around us and within us. As we open Your Word, reveal the things competing for our hearts and draw us closer to You. Help us see Your power, Your grace, and ultimately Jesus in this story. Amen.

Theme: Mount Carmel is remembered for fire falling from heaven, but the deeper story is about divided hearts. Israel had not completely abandoned God—they were trying to hold onto God while also trusting Baal. Elijah's challenge still speaks to us: “How long will you waver between two opinions?”

We may not worship Baal, but success, money, security, approval, politics, comfort, and control can all compete for the place that belongs to God.

Mount Carmel calls us to examine our hearts, while the cross reminds us why we can give those hearts completely to God: He first gave Himself completely to us.

Secular Quote: “*The things you own end up owning you.*” — Chuck Palahniuk

Starter Question: If you had witnessed the events on Mount Carmel firsthand, what part of the experience do you think would have stayed with you the most—and why?

Digging Deeper Questions:

1. Read 1 Kings 18:16–21 — The Divided Heart

Elijah asks, “How long will you waver between two opinions?”

- Why do you think the people remained silent?
- What things compete with God for our trust today?
- What is the difference between believing **in** God and actually **trusting** God?

2. Read 1 Kings 18:30–39 — Repairing the Altar

Before the fire falls, Elijah repairs the broken altar and prays that God would “**turn their hearts back again.**”

- Why do you think restoration comes before the dramatic miracle?
- What might a “broken altar” look like in our lives?
- What spiritual practice might God be calling you to rebuild?

3. Read Matthew 27:45–54 — From Carmel to Calvary

At Carmel, fire falls upon the sacrifice. At Calvary, **Jesus becomes the sacrifice.**

- What similarities and differences do you see between Carmel and Calvary?
- What does the cross reveal about God's heart that the fire on Carmel could not fully reveal?
- How does God's grace change our reason for giving Him our whole heart?

4. Read 1 Kings 19:9–13 & Acts 2:1–4 — Fire, Whisper, and Spirit

Carmel reveals God's **power**, the whisper reveals God's **tenderness**, and Pentecost brings God's **presence** into His people.

- Why might Elijah have needed a whisper instead of another spectacular miracle?
- Where might God be quietly present in your life right now?
- What would it look like for the Holy Spirit to transform your everyday life?

Actionable of the Week:

This week, take some quiet time and ask yourself:

“What competes most strongly with God for my trust, attention, and devotion?”

Don't immediately look for something obviously sinful. Consider the good things that may have become too important—work, success, money, security, reputation, comfort, relationships, politics, control, or even your own plans.

Then identify **one altar that needs repairing**. Choose one concrete practice for this week:

Spend ten intentional minutes in prayer each day.

Read Scripture before checking your phone in the morning.

Give something generously without expecting anything in return.

Set aside something that has been consuming too much of your attention.

Reach out to someone with whom you need reconciliation.

Spend time quietly listening rather than asking God for something.

Whatever you choose, make it simple and achievable. The goal isn't to impress God. **It's to turn your heart toward Him again.**

Closing Prayer:

God of Carmel, Calvary, and Pentecost, forgive us when our hearts become divided. Tear down the idols we have built and repair what has been neglected within us. Teach us to trust Your power, receive Your grace, and listen for Your voice. Through Your Spirit, turn our hearts fully toward Jesus. Amen.

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Monday — Joshua 24:14–24 — “Choose Whom You Will Serve”
Joshua gives Israel a challenge similar to Elijah’s: stop dividing your allegiance and choose whom you will serve.
Focus: What competes with God for my devotion?

Tuesday — 1 Kings 19:1–13 — “God in the Whisper”
Continue Elijah’s story after Carmel. Elijah discovers that the God who sends fire is also the God who meets exhausted people with gentleness.
Focus: Am I looking only for dramatic signs while missing God’s quiet presence?

Wednesday — Psalm 115:1–11 — “The Idols We Make”
The psalm contrasts the living God with idols that cannot speak, see, hear, or save.
Focus: What am I trusting to give me something only God can provide?

Thursday — Matthew 6:19–24 — “Two Masters”
Jesus brings Elijah’s challenge directly into discipleship: “No one can serve two masters.”
Focus: What does my use of time, money, and attention reveal about what I truly value?

Friday — Matthew 27:45–54 — “From Carmel to Calvary”
At Carmel, fire falls upon the sacrifice. At Calvary, darkness falls as Christ becomes the sacrifice. The centurion ultimately declares, “Surely he was the Son of God!”
Focus: What does the cross reveal about the heart of God?

Saturday — Acts 2:1–4, 14–21, 37–39 — “The Greater Fire”
End the week at Pentecost. The fire that consumed the sacrifice on Carmel now rests upon God’s people as the Holy Spirit fills them.
Focus: Where is the Holy Spirit calling me to transformation?

WEEKLY Thread

A DAILY JOURNEY TO DRAW CLOSER TO GOD

“The Lord—He is God!”

1 KINGS 18:39



MONDAY: *Choose.*



TUESDAY: *Listen.*



WEDNESDAY: *Examine.*



THURSDAY: *Surrender.*



FRIDAY: *Look to Jesus.*



SATURDAY: *Be filled.*

♥ ONE WEEK. ONE PURPOSE. ONE GOD. ♥