



POETS PROPHETS AND KINGS

Small Group Questions

Part 5: All In

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Read

1 Kings 18:21–40 and 19:18; and Deuteronomy 31:6

Reflect

Elijah confronts Ahab—one of the most evil of any Israelite king—for worshipping other gods in addition to God. Elijah challenges him to gather the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 of Asherah to determine the one true God, according to whichever answers by sending down fire. On Mt. Carmel, the 450 prophets go to extreme measures while crying out to their gods, but they receive no answer. Yet, the Lord hears Elijah's cry and a fire consumes the entire offering and altar, causing the people to emphatically acknowledge that the Lord is indeed God. What will it take for you to be all in?

Pastor Josh Walters offers us three steps to go all-in with God:

1. Speak into the silence.
 - a. Like the Israelites, do you ever hedge your bets? Why are you afraid to commit wholeheartedly?
 - b. In the past, what have you placed more confidence in than God?
 - i. How have those false gods let you down?
 - c. What brings you the greatest sense of security, worth and satisfaction?
2. Burn the ships.

In the 1500s, Captain Cortes, intent on conquering Mexico, decided to burn his ships, leaving his men the option to be victorious or die trying—there would be no retreat.

 - a. What temptation do you need to get rid of that is competing with your devotion to God?
 - b. When trying to overcome a temptation, have you ever found it difficult to let go completely? To make that final, clean break?
 - c. What temptation seems too great?
 - i. Is a clear-cut act of disobedience or a compromise of long-held convictions?
 - ii. Or have your priorities simply drifted out of order? Your family and job are important, but are they becoming idols, supplanting God?
 - iii. What are you willing to do to put God first?
 1. Are you willing to ask those closest to you for their opinions on what might be taking priority in your life?
 2. Do you have someone to hold you accountable?
 - d. Do you view facing temptation as something that only needs done once? Or do you see it as needing done repeatedly, sometimes daily?
3. Be willing to stand alone.
 - a. Describe a time when you felt alone from doing what God called you to do.
 - b. Elijah learns that he is not alone; 7,000 Israelites never bowed to the false gods. How has God shown you that you, too, are not alone?
 - c. When you've stuck it out, how has God blessed you?
 - d. Is God calling you to step forward in obedience right now?

What are you letting hinder the life God has planned for you?

Respond

We can learn from our mistakes, and finish well. What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?