

if God is

1. If God is Real

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read 1 Kings 18.20-39

21 Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.'

But the people said nothing.

- Have you ever been held back by an unhelpful view of God, like Philip's PE Teacher God? Where did you pick up that view and how did (or does) it affect you?
- v21. *'how long will you waver'*. Do you ever feel like you waver between two opinions – believing in God but behaving no differently to those who don't? Do you sometimes follow the same 'gods' as those around you – the sex god, the money god, the materialism god, the pleasure god?
- The name Elijah literally means 'The real God is Yahweh'. In other words, Elijah's very identity was defined by his knowledge of who God was, and it gave him tremendous confidence. To what extent does your knowledge and experience of God define you – your vision, your desires, your relationships, your choices, your dreams, your values?
- What does it mean to 'follow God'? What should it mean for you practically – in your job, in your finances, in your relationships?
- How can you find and follow Jesus more? How can we as a group help one another with this?

Big Idea: 'If Jesus is the real God then it's not just moderately important. If we believe it to be true, our very lives must be defined by finding Jesus and following him.'

Break down into twos and threes and pray for a greater revelation of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ. Pray for the boldness and clarity of Elijah. Ask God to prove Himself to you as He proved Himself to the Israelites on Mount Carmel.

Pray for those you know that don't know Jesus. Pray for the sensitivity, wisdom and boldness to share the good news with them.