



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Mount Carmel: A Bold Showdown*

Text: 1 Kings 18:16-46

Service Date: September 1, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Paul shared Elijah's mountaintop experience. Can you recall a mountaintop experience in your own life?
- Read 1 Kings 18:16-46. What are some reflections you have from the passage?

Sermon Discussion

- Paul talked about unrealistic expectations leading to disappointment. When has this occurred in your own life?
- Psalm 121:1-2, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of the heaven and earth." In the midst of difficult times in life, why is it so difficult to look beyond the immediate and trust God who is the "Maker of the heaven and earth"?
- In the story of Elijah at the altar and his use of water, some would have said he was being very irresponsible by dousing the altar with water in the middle of the drought- almost as if he had lost his sense of sanity. There are times in our lives when we stand for Christ and receive the same reception from people that we don't expect. What truths do you remind yourself of in those moments? Are there any scriptures come to mind that you may have on repeat in your heart?
- Like Elijah, some of our mountaintop experiences come as result of confrontation. In our mountaintop moments, we see God shining through the trial we endured to get there. If you've had a mountaintop moment, how

did God see you through to the summit? If you're currently going through a difficult moment, how would you like God to speak or carry you?

- Paul mentioned and referenced the growing opposition to Christianity not only in the United States but around the world. Further, he mentioned Missionary Jim Elliott who was killed along with 4 other missionaries- surrendering themselves to death while sharing Jesus with others. What moments have you experienced in your life where you may have felt as an outsider when sharing Jesus? What kept you from wavering in your faith in that moment?
- What signs do you see that Christianity's beliefs and values are not as appreciated as they once were?
- "Normal living requires effort on your part and a deep trust in God." How does the theme of trusting in God impact the way you live your life?
- Would you say that the way you serve, give (both with your talents & financially), and tell others about Jesus indicate a life of fear or faith? Why?
- Although we tend to focus on mountains and valleys in our life, most of life is just about staying faithful even when things aren't that exciting. Why do you think Christians have such a hard time staying faithful? What ways have you found that have helped you stay focused on Jesus and not your own desires- even in the "in-betweens" of life's highs and lows?

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.

Resources

Book: *I Am Weak, I Am Strong* by Jay Hewitt

Website: S.H.A.P.E. Test (tri-village.org/shape)