

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

HOPE

DEFINITION:

Having confidence in God's promises

MEMORY VERSE:

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13 NLT**

FINISH LINE:

People may disappoint us, but God never will

READ: 1 KINGS 18

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

READ 1 KINGS 18:20-26, 29

1. Who was at Mount Carmel?
(King Ahab, Elijah, the prophets of Baal, and the people of Israel)
2. What contest did Elijah suggest to prove if Baal or God was truly worthy of worship? *(They would each prepare sacrifices and whoever's god set it on fire was the real god.)*
3. What did the prophets of Baal do? *(They tried everything to get Baal's attention: yell, dance, pray, etc.) Did it work? (No.)*

READ 1 KINGS 18:30-39

4. What did Elijah do differently?
(He rebuilt the Lord's altar with 12 stones, dug a trench around the altar, and poured 12 jars of water over everything.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

READ 1 KINGS 18:30-39

1. How does Elijah's prayer show that he put his hope in the Lord and not in himself or other people? *(Elijah wanted everyone to see and know who God is.)*
2. How did God show His power? *(God immediately sent down fire from heaven.)*
3. What was left after the fire came down from heaven? *(Nothing, the fire burned up the sacrifice and wood and even the rocks and water!)*
4. How did the people respond in verse 39 when they saw the power of God? *(They believed that only God was real, so they worshipped Him.)*

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. You probably do not have false prophets trying to get you to bow down to an idol, but can you think of some people you might put your hope in instead of God?
2. Is anyone completely perfect? Has anyone ever disappointed you or told you something that turned out to not be true?
3. How can remembering that God always keeps His promises help you hope in Him?
4. God puts believers in our lives to teach, care for, and encourage us and it is good to thank God for them. However, even people who really love God can make mistakes and might let us down sometimes. Only God will never ever let us down so we can always hope in Him.