

4th Week of May
The Living God's Answer

- **Text:** 1 Kings 18:36~40 (May 19 text)
- **Bottom line:** Unlike idols made with hands, the living God is sure to answer our prayers.

≡ **1. Praise**

Revival 2000, (오소서 진리의 성령님)

≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for uniting our family in your Word. May we share an abundance of love and comfort with one another in this hour and in the power and Word of wisdom.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 1 Kings 18:36~40 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the text over and over again in different translations will help us to deepen our understanding of the material.

<ESV>

36 And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God." 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

<NASB>

36 Then at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, "Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that You, Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God!" 40 Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

Understanding Text

Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal to see if Baal or God was the real god. The prophets of Baal cried out, but Baal did not respond. Elijah carefully prepared an altar to worship God and prayed earnestly. God responded with fire, letting everyone know that He is the true and living God.

□ Understanding the text for leaders

Northern Israel was so drought that even the king's horses and mules had no water to feed. Then Elijah met Ahab at God's command. Ahab told Elijah that he was a troublemaker for Israel (1 Kings 18:17). Elijah warned that God would not send rain (1 Kings 17:1). But Elijah countered that Ahab's family was incurring God's wrath by leading the people into idolatry, and that they were afflicting Israel. Elijah challenged Ahab to a showdown, asking him to prove who was the true God, Jehovah God or Baal. For this showdown, 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah gathered on Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal, who were much more numerous, first prayed for the fire to be brought down at their altar. But nothing happened. Then the prophets of Baal prayed while hurting their bodies. But Baal wouldn't respond. This is because Baal is nothing more than a fake god created by man. Now it was Elijah's turn. Elijah prepared to sacrifice to God. They built an altar, dug a ditch around it, and poured water into it. To shut out the voices that distort God's power by chance and to show the best miracles. When Elijah was ready, he prayed earnestly that God would answer him with fire. As soon as Elijah finished praying, fire came down from heaven and instantly consumed the offerings and the water in the ditch. God responded with fire before Ahab and the multitude of people, and in front of the prophets Baal and Asherah, demonstrating that He alone is the true living God.

4. Sharing

1) Have a family member read Elijah's prayer with Elijah's heart (verses 36~37). How did God answer Elijah's prayer? Verse 38).

■ Upper Grades

When Elijah finished praying, how did God respond? (verse 38).

■ Lower Grades

How did God answer Elijah's prayer? (verse 38).

□ Question Guide

Briefly describe the story of 450 prophets of Baal praying all day and nothing happened (1 Kings 18:22~29). And if you tell the story of today's text, you will be able to recall more vividly the history of the living God who answered with fire. If you ask a family member to imitate Elijah's voice and read it, it will be more effective.

□ Comments for Leaders

The text is a very humorous account of 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:22) struggling to pray to Baal. Elijah also mocks them. The god Baal seems to be out for a while or sleeping, so don't taunt him by calling him louder (1 Kings 18:27). Finally, the Weil prophets cut their bodies with swords and spears, bleeding and praying fervently. But Baal, the fake god created by the people, will not respond. On the other hand, God is the living God who hears Elijah's firm but simple prayer and immediately responds with fire. The fire was so powerful that it even burned the water in the ditch to extinguish it. God responded with fire, clearly showing that He is the true and living God.

2) What do I want to ask of God who hears and answers our prayers?

■ **Upper Grades**

What kind of prayer do I want to offer to God who answers me?

■ **Lower Grades**

Pray to God about what you need right now.

□ **Question Guide**

It's foolish to believe that a man-made idol will listen to your prayers and do something for you. But God lives and answers those who pray in faith. With this in mind, share your prayer requests and encourage each other.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

The living God must answer those who seek Him in faith and pray (Hebrews 11:6). The fact that God lives, is with us, and loves us gives us great strength and courage in our faith. God, who vividly showed us that He is alive in the days of Ahab through His confrontation with the prophets of Baal, is still with us. If you believe that the God of Elijah is your God, you don't have to despair or give up in advance. As long as God lives, our good desires will surely come true.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Say a prayer of thanks to God who is living and is still with us and who cares for us with love.

≡ **6. Prayer**

We believe that the living God, the God who was with Elijah, is with us now. Let us experience Your love when you answer our prayers of hope and live a life of boasting in You.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.
