

# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Icebreaker:* Who is someone you'd like to spend more time with this year, and why?

1. What are some areas that seem so stacked against you that even with God you can't overcome them...and why do you feel that way?
2. [1 Kings 18:16-24](#) reveals how the Israelites were mixing and matching their faith practices. How have you seen or experienced this, and how did that work out? (Read John 14:6 as a good reminder!)
3. The prophets of Baal had lots of faith, but having faith isn't as important as the *object* of your faith. What are some ways you can be tempted to place your faith in someone or something besides God and how have you battled that temptation? ([1 Kings 18:25-29a](#))
4. What are some ways that having misguided faith can be worse than having no faith at all?
5. After reading Elijah's response in [1 Kings 18:30-37](#), along with God's response in [verse 38](#), what are some of the differences between Elijah and God, and the 450 prophets and Baal?
6. Where are you today—mixing and matching and hoping for the best, or confidently committed to God alone? What's holding you back from placing your whole confidence in God, and how can we help you work through it?

Day One: [Matthew 16](#)

Day Two: [Genesis 16](#)

Day Three: [Romans 16](#)

Day Four: [2 Timothy 2](#)

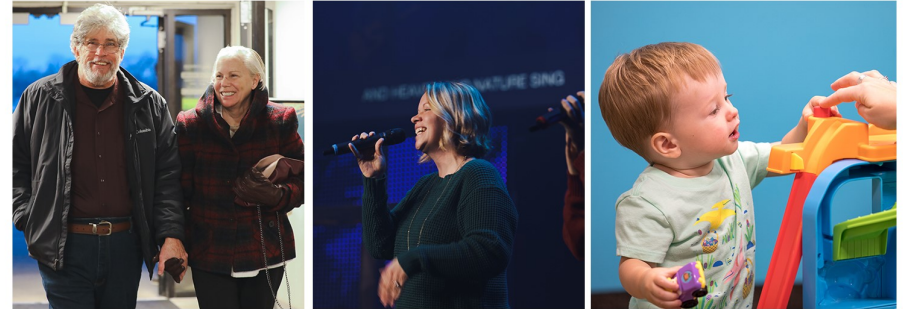
Day Five: [Job 16](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

## PERSONAL GUIDE



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH



## Your story matters.



## MYRC.CHURCH



## "450 TO 1"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

### MESSAGE NOTES

450 to 1 odds mean \_\_\_\_\_% chance of winning.

In our series we're learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His \_\_\_\_\_ when everyone and everything around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

I think a lot of us as Jesus followers look at what's happening around our world today in 2022 where there is so much anger, division, \_\_\_\_\_, violence, disillusionment, and hopelessness that we feel like the odds are against us are 1 to 450.

But Elijah will demonstrate why the odds are never \_\_\_\_\_ for God and for everyone who follows and trusts Him.

### 1. All \_\_\_\_\_ are not Simply Different Paths to the Same God

In Elijah's day, the people of Israel were trying to \_\_\_\_\_ their faith in the one true God (Yahweh), with the gods of the surrounding nations, especially:

- \_\_\_\_\_ = god of fertility and storms (rain!).
- \_\_\_\_\_ = consort of Baal, goddess of fertility and motherhood.

Note 1 Kings 18:19

It's not a coincidence that God commands Elijah to proclaim a drought (3 ½ years long!) in direct opposition to the \_\_\_\_\_ god of thunder/rain/storms.

Note 1 Kings 18:16-24

Note John 14:6

### 2. You Can Be \_\_\_\_\_ But Be Sincerely Wrong

The prophets of Baal had a \_\_\_\_\_ of some kind (note 1 Kings 18:25-29a).

\_\_\_\_\_ faith isn't really important.

It's the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith that is the most important thing. (D. Jeremiah)

I can sincerely believe something that isn't real, \_\_\_\_\_, right, good, or eternal.

I can be passionately misguided, misinformed, and embrace

\_\_\_\_\_ of just about any kind (note 1 Kings 18:29b).

### 3. What You Choose to Believe and Pursue has

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ chooses to believe and pursue some direction in life.

And the reality is, whatever we choose to believe and pursue in our life takes us \_\_\_\_\_, both in this life and eternity.

Note 1 Kings 18:27, 30-35

In stark contrast to the all day shouting, \_\_\_\_\_, self-flagellation, and desperate prayers of the prophets of Baal, Elijah offers a short (60 word) simple prayer which shows his \_\_\_\_\_ in who he chose to believe and pursue (note 1 Kings 18:36-37).

Note 1 Kings 18:38-39

God takes what we believe and pursue seriously, and truth matters because God is truth, and the source of all falsehood/lies/untruth is our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (note John 8:44; Deuteronomy 13:13-18; 17:2-5; 1 Kings 18:40).

### SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

- Note 1 Kings 18:21—hesitate...try to have things both ways...go \_\_\_\_\_...sit on the fence...
- What you choose to believe about \_\_\_\_\_ will take you somewhere.
- How long will you waver, hesitate, limp along, try to have things both your way while giving God's way \_\_\_\_\_?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy).

\*[MyRC.link/connect](https://myrc.link/connect) or text *riverside* to 94000



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## "450 TO 1"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

### MESSAGE NOTES

450 to 1 odds mean 99.7783% chance of winning.

In our series we're learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His mission when everyone and everything around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

I think a lot of us as Jesus followers look at what's happening around our world today in 2022 where there is so much anger, division, hatred, violence, disillusionment, and hopelessness that we feel like the odds are against us are 1 to 450.

But Elijah will demonstrate why the odds are never stacked too high for God and for everyone who follows and trusts Him.

### 1. All Religions are not Simply Different Paths to the Same God

In Elijah's day, the people of Israel were trying to mix and match their faith in the one true God (Yahweh), with the gods of the surrounding nations, especially:

- Baal = god of fertility and storms (rain!).
- Asherah = consort of Baal, goddess of fertility and motherhood.

Note 1 Kings 18:19

It's not a coincidence that God commands Elijah to proclaim a drought (3 ½ years long!) in direct opposition to the supposed god of thunder/rain/storms.

Note 1 Kings 18:16-24

Note John 14:6

### 2. You Can Be Sincere But Be Sincerely Wrong

The prophets of Baal had a faith of some kind (note 1 Kings 18:25-29a).

Generic faith isn't really important.

It's the object of faith that is the most important thing. (D. Jeremiah)

I can sincerely believe something that isn't real, true, right, good, or eternal.

I can be passionately misguided, misinformed, and embrace falsehoods of just about any kind (note 1 Kings 18:29b).

### 3. What You Choose to Believe and Pursue has Consequences

Everyone chooses to believe and pursue some direction in life.

And the reality is, whatever we choose to believe and pursue in our life takes us somewhere, both in this life and eternity.

Note 1 Kings 18:27, 30-35

In stark contrast to the all day shouting, gyrations, self-flagellation, and desperate prayers of the prophets of Baal, Elijah offers a short (60 word) simple prayer which shows his confidence in who he chose to believe and pursue (note 1 Kings 18:36-37).

Note 1 Kings 18:38-39

God takes what we believe and pursue seriously, and truth matters because God is truth, and the source of all falsehood/lies/untruth is our spiritual adversary (note John 8:44; Deuteronomy 13:13-18; 17:2-5; 1 Kings 18:40).

### SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

- Note 1 Kings 18:21—hesitate...try to have things both ways...go limping...sit on the fence...
- What you choose to believe about God will take you somewhere.
- How long will you waver, hesitate, limp along, try to have things both your way while giving God's way lip service?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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