

July 16, 2017



# CONNECT

**THIS WEEK**  
*ONE TRUE GOD*

## CONNECT IN WORD

**DAY ONE**  
*The Wicked Man of Power and the Righteous Man of Poverty*  
[1 Kings 16:29-17:24](#)

**DAY TWO**  
*The Lord Alone is God*  
[1 Kings 18](#)

**DAY THREE**  
*The Touch of Grace*  
[Proverbs 12:15](#)  
[1 Kings 19](#)

**DAY FOUR**  
*Idolatry's Foolishness*  
[1 Kings 21](#)

**DAY FIVE**  
*Our Hearts Are Restless Until They Find Their Rest In God*  
[Matthew 11:25-30](#)

## BELONG

In your opinion, what is the greatest showdown of all time? The great all-time battles? Greatest rivalries? Maybe these were political battles, battles of ideology, battles in athletics, battles of fictional characters. Why do you answer the way you answer?

## GROW

### READ [1 KINGS 16:19-23](#)

We're studying one of the bad kings of Israel, King Ahab. His story shows us the complete insanity of idolatry. "Idolatry" may come across as "Christianese," so in your own words, how would you define idolatry or an idol?

Baal was a Canaanite fertility god who was believed to be responsible for providing rain on the earth. He did so as the human worshiper entered into sexual activity with a cult prostitute at one of the altars or temples of Baal. This would provoke Baal to remember to fertilize the earth, and thus provide rain. This was highly offensive to the Lord, as He alone is God, He alone is the Creator, He alone is the Provider and Sustainer of the earth. Thus, the showdown...

### READ [1 KINGS 18:17-19](#)

Elijah is a man who actively follows the Lord, and Ahab is a wicked man following idols; yet Elijah is the one convicted of troubling God's people. Have you ever felt like the culture around you misunderstands the Gospel you believe or live by? (Don't be surprised by this, it's been happening for thousands of years.)

### READ [1 KINGS 18:20-46](#) IN ITS ENTIRETY

The set-up is fantastic, the trash-talk is epic, the story is fascinating. After no rain on the earth for three years, God sends Elijah the prophet to King Ahab to present the offer. Have you ever felt utterly alone in your obedience to the Lord? (Elijah was surrounded by hundreds of prophets battling him over his worldview.)

An idol could be defined as anything that competes with God as #1 in our hearts. This story is a set-up to one central question asked by Elijah in [1 Kings 18:21](#). What idols do you find yourself holding on to? What are you pursuing to bring joy and significance to your heart or to "complete" you? What are you seeking to make you feel whole or important? Do you say, "I have to have this or I don't think I can go on?"

Augustine in the 5th century AD said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God." Do you believe this? What's leading you to seek other things besides the goodness and grace of the Lord?

Defeated by the lack of repentance in the nation of Israel after the showdown at Mount Carmel, Elijah has quit the ministry. He has fled to the other side of the country, left his servant (a sign of truly being finished with his ministry career), and gone to the mountain of God, expecting Him to show up (Mount Sinai, where Moses had gone all those centuries before). Look at God's response.

### READ [1 Kings 19:11-12](#)

God doesn't give Elijah a power display. He doesn't show up in fire. He doesn't show up in the earthquake. Elijah had experienced all that and still felt defeated. God gives him what he wants but doesn't expect, a gentle touch of grace. A whisper. God knows what we need, even when we're too tired, defeated, and anxious to know what we need. Do you truly believe that God is in control? Do you believe that He is better than the idols you're seeking? What is holding you back? What is leading you further into the worship of your idols?

The Baal prophets end the story bloodied, bruised, and limping. Idols always lead to exhaustion, anxiety, hurt, pain, and regret. Let's take some time to pray for each other, that we would push each other back to the grace and mercy we experience by what Jesus has done. The Gospel is the only cure for our idolatrous hearts.

## PRAY

Spend some time praying for each other, that you might see the goodness and grace of Jesus. That you might experience the touch of grace that He provides, and it would cause the idols to pale in comparison.

## NWA SERVE

### SAMARITAN COMMUNITY CENTER BACKPACK SUPPLIES

Each August, the Samaritan Community Center provides thousands of backpacks to children in Northwest Arkansas with grade-appropriate school supplies. This year, Fellowship is partnering with SCC to collect **one-inch binders, index cards, and wide ruled composition notebooks**. Collection bins will be available in the Worship Center Foyer through July 23.



Scan QR Reader for today's teaching slides. For previous services, go to [fellowshipnwa.org](#) and select sermon audio from the Quicklinks menu.

## FELLOWSHIP

BIBLE CHURCH OF NWA

## QUESTIONS

**EMAIL**  
[communityministries@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:communityministries@fellowshipnwa.org)

**WEB**  
[community.fellowshipnwa.org](http://community.fellowshipnwa.org)

**PHONE**  
479-659-8884