

ST PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



THE STORY

OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

SUNDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2019



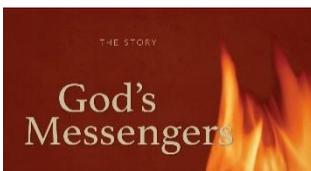
A Key Thought:

*God is faithful in
persistent in
seeking after
people's hearts.
It is humans who
play "hard to
get".*

GOD'S MESSENGERS *(Chapter 15 – Part One)*

After beginning badly with Jeroboam, Israel sank deeper and deeper into idolatry. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel took them to new lows, even killing God's priests. But God would not let his people go so easily. He called prophets who would speak on his behalf and demonstrate that there was no God but himself. The prophet Elijah warned Ahab that Israel would experience a 3-year drought because of their worship of the pagan god, Baal. Then, atop Mount Carmel, the supposed sacred dwelling place of Baal, Elijah challenged the idolaters to the ultimate smackdown—Yahweh vs. Baal. Baal failed to show up but the Lord made a dramatic statement when he consumed the water-logged sacrifice. The Lord – he alone is God ... yesterday, today and forever.

Read today's Bible passage (1 Kings 18:15–39) on pages 203–205 of the *Story* book.



Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group

CHAPTER 15



THE STORY

God's Messengers

Read

Reflect

Relate to God and others

In our “lower story” lives, we are vulnerable to the same sin that plagues the northern kingdom of Israel: we want to worship false gods of our own choosing. None of us would ever admit to idol worship, but consider how much time, energy and money we spend on things that have no eternal value ... then compare it to the time, energy and money we devote to God. We often chase our sports, hobbies and pleasures as if they were worthy of our worship. But God is not so easily dissuaded from his desire and intent to be our Lord and God. In the “upper story”, God invites us to enjoy all the blessings he has given us, but to worship him only. And while he may not send fire from heaven, he pursues us just as relentlessly as he did the Israelites of old. God uses whatever it takes to our turn our hearts back to him. The cross of Jesus is God’s ultimate act of “find and seek”.

READ pages 203-210 of *The Story*.

REFLECT on these questions:



What did Ahab and Jezebel do that made God angry? How does this relate to the first two commandments? In what ways do you seek to follow these commands? In what ways do you disobey them?



God used what took place on Mt Carmel to bring about change in the Israelites’ perception of his power and presence. In what ways do you experience God’s power and presence? What has God done to turn your heart back to him?

RELATE – Elijah was the only one of Mt Carmel who took a stand for the Lord. Ministry can be a lonely endeavor. This week, reach out to affirm and encourage a person who is serving in ministry in some capacity.



FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

1 – 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

This week's theme:

There is only one true God and Lord of all.

*Every night in
every home ...*



SHARE

highs and lows



READ

a Bible verse or
story



TALK

about how the Bible
might relate to your
highs and lows



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows



BLESS

one another

DAILY BIBLE VERSES

Sunday — 1 Kings 18:39 When the crowd saw what had happened, they all bowed down and shouted, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"

Monday — Isaiah 44:6

This is what the Lord says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God."

Tuesday — Isaiah 43:11 "I am the one and only Lord. I am the only one who can save you."

Wednesday — 1 Corinthians 8:6

We have only one God, and he is the Father. He created everything, and we live for him. Jesus Christ is our only Lord. Everything was made by him, and by him life was given to us.

Thursday — Jude 1:25

He is the only God, the One who saves us. To him be glory, greatness, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now, and forever. Amen.

Friday — John 17:3

And this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent.

Saturday — Acts 4:12

Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us."



- What did God do on Mount Carmel to prove to people that he was the one true God?
- In what ways has God shown you that he is real and in charge?
- God's purpose on Mt Carmel was to turn people's hearts back to him. What has God done to lead you to love and serve and follow him?



*Mealttime
Prayer*

**GOD, YOU ARE LORD OF
ALL AND GIVER OF ALL.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU
GIVE. MAY WE GIVE TO
YOUR OUR ALL. AMEN.**

A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May God show you that he is true and
real. May your heart be full of his
praises. Amen.***

