

# Speaking Truth to Power

## 1 Kings 18:1-19

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Unstoppable Hope

### Think About It!

What did we learn?

### Talk About It!

What does it mean?

### Do It!

What are we going to do?

### Think About It!

“Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes.” Surely by now you’ve seen this quote floating around the Internet. It might be cliché, but for good reason — sometimes speaking the truth is hard! Sometimes telling the truth comes with severe consequences because other people don’t always want to hear it. The crazy thing about telling the truth is, even when it’s hard to speak, it’s the most loving thing we can do for another person. Telling the truth is always more loving than telling a lie. As we continue our journey with the prophet Elijah, this week we’ll watch as he speaks some really difficult truths to the king of Israel...with amazing, God-inspired results!

[LINK to SMALL GROUP VIDEO MATERIALS](#)

### Talk About It!

#### 1. Fear the Lord.

- **1 Kings 18:1-6**
- **Leader Notes**
  - **Have you ever been afraid of someone? Why were you afraid?** In this story, we learn about Obadiah. He worked for King Ahab, and a lot of people were afraid of King Ahab. Obadiah knew that God was more powerful than King Ahab, so he chose to do what God wanted instead of what the king wanted.
  - **Have you ever heard someone talk about “the fear of God”? What do you think that means?** We know that God loves us, so when we talk about the “fear of the Lord” it’s not the kind of fear that makes us run and hide. It means that we know that God is more powerful than anyone. Because Obadiah feared God, he had the courage to do the right thing.
  - **When we’re afraid of people, do we make good decisions?** The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). When we fear God, we want to please him more than anyone else. We want what he

wants. It means that we're afraid of breaking his heart because we love him so much.

## 2. Trust God in your circumstances.

- **1 Kings 18:7-15**
- **Leader Notes**
  - **When is it hardest to trust God?** Obadiah was good at trusting God when he had to protect his friends. But when he was in danger, he panicked. Even if we can trust God to protect our friends and family, it can be hard to trust him to protect us.
  - **When was the last time you told someone how good God is?** When we see a brother or sister having a hard time, we need to remind them of how good and how big our God is. Sometimes our friends, our siblings, or our parents just need a little encouragement. When we remind them of how good God is, we help them find the courage to keep doing what is right.
  - **When was the last time you told yourself how good God is?** We need to decide to trust God everyday. That means that we need to remind ourselves how good and how big our God is. Telling other people is good, but sometimes, we need to look ourselves in the mirror and say, "God is good, and you can trust him." When we tell ourselves that, we are giving ourselves the courage we need to do what is right.

## 3. Speak the truth.

- **1 Kings 18:16-19**
- **Leader Notes**
  - **Can you remember a time when it was really scary to do the right thing?** It's really hard to do what is right. Part of doing what is right, means telling the truth, even if people don't want to hear it. King Ahab didn't want to hear the truth, but Elijah feared God so he spoke the truth anyway.
  - **When is it hardest to tell the truth?** Ephesians 4:25 says that we are to each speak truth to our neighbor. When we lie, it gets in the way of the good things that God wants to do in our lives. God still does good things, but when we don't tell the truth, it's hard for us to see them or be a part of them.
  - **Where in your life do you need to speak the truth?** Just like Elijah, we need to be brave enough to (1) Speak the truth in love. (2) Speak the truth to powerful people, even if we're afraid. And (3) Speak up for what is right, even if people don't want to listen.

### Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- What makes you say that?

- How does that make you feel?
- How would you explain this to someone who doesn't know Jesus?
- Why do you think God did it that way?
- Why should we do the things that God tells us?