

Signposts Week 14 Discussion Guide: When God Speaks

This week's lesson walks us through one of the most powerful transitions in Israel's spiritual history—the rise of Elijah during a time of national drought and moral collapse. We'll see how Elijah's ministry begins during deep silence from God, continues with undeniable miracles, and anticipates a new wave of revelation through the prophets. From confronting idolatry on Mount Carmel to hiding in despair on Mount Horeb, Elijah shows us the heart of a God who answers with fire, rain, and whispers. His story reveals a pattern seen throughout Scripture: silence, miracles, and then the Word of the Lord. As we close this semester of *Signposts*, we look ahead to the *Sounds* of the prophets—voices that echo toward Jesus and remind us that even when God seems silent, He is preparing to speak again.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How does Elijah's emergence in Israel's darkest hour reflect the way God works in times of spiritual drought?**
 - God raises up prophets and miracle-workers during seasons when His Word has been rejected and His people are in crisis. Elijah appears when Israel is at its moral lowest, mirroring Moses' arrival during Israel's slavery. (1 Kings 17:1)
 - Have you ever experienced a season of silence in your life? Looking back, how did God begin to speak or move again?
- 2. Why is Elijah's question, "How long will you waver between two opinions?" still so relevant today?**
 - God demands full allegiance. Elijah confronts Israel's double-mindedness with a call to choose—God or Baal. (1 Kings 18:21)
 - What "Baal-like" distractions or idols are tempting you to waver in your faith right now?
- 3. What does the showdown on Mount Carmel teach us about prayer?**
 - Elijah's prayer was bold, public, and purposeful—focused on God's glory and Israel's repentance. (1 Kings 18:36–37)
 - Are your prayers more focused on comfort or on God's mission? How can you begin praying with more Kingdom purpose?
- 4. How did God respond to Elijah's depression and exhaustion after Mount Carmel?**
 - God met Elijah with physical provision (food and rest), emotional care (gentle whisper), and restored purpose (a renewed mission). (1 Kings 19:5–16)
 - How do you typically respond when you're emotionally or spiritually depleted? What does this story reveal about how God wants to care for you?
- 5. What is the biblical pattern we see between silence, miracles, and Scripture—and how does it prepare us for the prophets?**
 - God often follows periods of silence with miraculous activity and then a fresh outpouring of written or spoken revelation. (See Moses → the Law; Elijah → the Prophets; Jesus → the New Testament)
 - In what areas of your life are you longing to hear from God? How can you position yourself to hear it?

Prayer Prompts

- Thank God for the ways He has spoken into your life during this semester—through His Word, through miracles, through whispers.
- Ask God to strengthen anyone in the group who feels like Elijah under the broom tree—tired, afraid, or isolated. Pray they would feel God's care and hear His voice.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart for the *Sounds* of the prophets next semester, and to help you respond with obedience to whatever He reveals.