

# XXXIX

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Leader Conversation Guide – 1 Kings

#### Main Idea

It's easy to start strong, but finishing well takes intentionality. Solomon began his reign with wisdom, humility, and a heart that loved the Lord. God responded by blessing him with more than he asked—wisdom, riches, honor, and influence. But over time, compromise crept in, and Solomon's divided heart led him away from wholehearted devotion to God. His story is both inspiring and sobering—a reminder that God desires not just our moments of surrender but a lifetime of allegiance. This week, we look at what it means to choose God above all else. In a world full of distractions and divided loyalties, we're invited to come near to Him, call on Him, and choose Him—again and again. Let's allow the Word of God to shape us, challenge us, and call us back to the altar of wholehearted worship.

**How long will you waver between two opinions?  
If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is god, follow him.**

I KINGS 18:21

#### Make It Practical

##### God Honors a Heart Fully Devoted to Him

- Solomon began his reign by asking for wisdom, and God honored his request because his heart was aligned with God's purposes (1 Kings 3:9–13; 1 Kings 4:29–32). But even great wisdom cannot protect against a divided heart.

##### Compromise Leads to Spiritual Drift

- Solomon's downfall came through compromise—loving foreign women and turning to their gods (1 Kings 11:1–6). God calls us to worship Him alone (Exodus 20:3; Matthew 6:24), and anything we place above Him becomes an idol.

##### God Calls Us to Choose, Come Near, and Call on Him

- Like Elijah on Mount Carmel, we're faced with a choice: follow God or follow the world (1 Kings 18:21). God responds when we come near (1 Kings 18:30), call on Him (1 Kings 18:36–37), and surrender fully to His lordship (John 14:6; Romans 8:31–37).

## Talk About It

1. Solomon began his reign with a heart that loved God and a desire for wisdom (1 Kings 3:9–13), yet over time his heart turned toward other things (1 Kings 11:1–6). What are some ways we can guard our hearts from slowly drifting away from God?

2. Elijah’s challenge to the people in 1 Kings 18:21 was direct: “How long will you waver between two opinions?” Where in your life are you tempted to live with divided loyalties, and what would it look like to fully choose God in that area?

3. The fire of the Lord falling on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:38–39) was a powerful sign of His presence and power. How have you experienced God showing up in unmistakable ways in your life, and how did it impact your faith?

## Choose Him. Come near. Call on Him.

### Prayer

God, thank You for meeting us here and for speaking through Your Word. We confess that it’s easy to be pulled in many directions, but today we choose You. Help us to walk in wholehearted devotion, to guard our hearts, and to seek You above all else. Teach us to come near, to call on You, and to trust that You are faithful to respond. As we go from here, may our lives reflect that You alone are God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Next Steps

#### 1. Identify and Remove Spiritual Distractions:

Take time this week to prayerfully evaluate anything in your life that may be competing for your attention or affection—whether it’s a habit, relationship, or mindset. Ask God to help you lay it down so He can take first place.

#### 2. Prioritize Time with God Daily:

Set aside intentional time each day to come near to God through prayer, Scripture, and worship. Even a few focused minutes can realign your heart and deepen your connection with Him.

#### 3. Make a Public Commitment:

Talk to a trusted friend, group member, or leader about a step of faith you feel prompted to take—whether it’s serving, reconciling a relationship, or surrendering an area of compromise. Accountability helps turn conviction into transformation.