Introduction: Define the term “prophet.”

Invite a few group members to share their understanding of what makes a person a prophet of God.

Say something like the following: “Over the coming weeks, we’re going to be looking at books that tell about the lives of some of the Old Testament’s most famous prophets. Before we start, let’s consider what being a biblical prophet really means.”

Show the following video, “The Prophets” (5 minutes, 17 seconds):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edcqUu_BtN0

[Note: Though this video focuses on the books of prophecy in the Bible, the definition and explanation still applies to Elijah as one of the earliest prophets.]

Put the following sentences into your own words: “God used prophets to speak His words; we can see God’s heart and mind through the words of His prophets. Today let’s look at a favorite prophet, Elijah.”

Point 1: Talk about Baal.

After reading aloud the 1 Kings 17:1-4 along with the first paragraph in the DDG (page 12), point out that the worship of Baal, the false god of rain and fertility, was being promoted by the king and queen of Israel.

Ask the following question: “What do you know about Baal?” Then read aloud some of the interesting tidbits you pick up from the following article about Baal, particularly as it relates to the Israelites:
https://mythology.net/others/gods/baal/

Raise the following question for discussion: “What might be a parallel of the power and influence of Baal in our world today?”
**Point 2: Illustrate with unexpected answers to prayer.**

After reading and discussing 1 Kings 17:10-16, say something like the following: “The widow likely didn’t wake up thinking that day that she would be someone’s answer to prayer. And Elijah didn’t look at her and think that she would be his answer to prayer. But God sees things we can’t see and gives us exactly whom and what we need exactly when we need them.”

Share the following story about an unexpected answer to prayer: [https://missionnext.org/unexpected-answers-to-prayer/](https://missionnext.org/unexpected-answers-to-prayer/)

Then raise the following discussion questions:

- When has God answered your prayer in a way you may have never expected?
- How can your generous tip or donation, display of forgiveness, smile, or simple act of kindness answer someone’s prayer that you didn’t even know about?

**Conclusion: End with application leading into next week’s session.**

Point out that Elijah, like most prophets, struggled physically, mentally, and emotionally through the call of God on His life.

Put the following question before your group: “What role do you think prayer played in Elijah’s life?”

Explain that next week’s session will dig even more deeply into Elijah’s powerful praying.

Invite someone to volunteer to read James 5:13-18 aloud. End with the following questions:

- From these words, what can we learn about Elijah’s prayer life?
- How can we be inspired and instructed to pray like Elijah?
**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Elijah’s life proves that following God in obedience does not always lead to a clean, happy, easy life. Point out that, though God was always with him, Elijah had a hard time. Encourage learners not to believe the lie that difficulty points to a lack of faith.