

TIMELESS



AN **UNCHANGING** GOD  
IN AN **EVER CHANGING** WORLD

# EXPERIENCE A REAL GOD FOR YOUR REAL LIFE.

God is real.

This seems like a simple statement, but it's one we need to remind ourselves of now and then. Without a physical body or audible voice, we can forget that this God we love, worship, and pray to is *real*.

If anyone knew God's realness, it was Elijah. He experienced God through fire from heaven and in a still, small voice. And at the same time, He saw false gods fail to show up again and again.

But God's "realness" is even more apparent to *us*. Through the New Testament, we see God as an actual human person in Jesus. He cried, He laughed, He experienced temptations, He was killed.

Jesus knows real life.

Your anxiety? He gets it. Feeling abandoned? He's been there.

Struggling financially? He can empathize. Loving life with your closest friends? He knows that too.

We worship a real, powerful, perfect God who can speak into your real messy, confusing, beautiful life. Be honest with Him. He gets it.

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **1 Kings 18:25-29**

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” 28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. 29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

## **1 Kings 18:36-39**

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

## **Philippians 2:5-11**

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

## **QUESTIONS.**

1. Are there any stories in the Bible where Jesus seems particularly "real" to you?

2. Where have you seen God working in your life lately?

3. Share some ways you've connected with God in seasons where He's felt distant or not real.

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?

2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?

3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?