

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

When you hear the phrase "*the Word of God*," what comes to mind?

- ☐ The Bible
- ☐ Preaching
- ☐ Rules
- ☐ Comfort
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Other: _____

Think about a time when you didn't follow directions exactly — what happened?

Read 1 Kings 13

A Man of God Delivers God's Word

Jeroboam had built a false religion, but God sent a prophet from Judah to confront him.

Why is it significant that the man of God came to Bethel "**by the word of the Lord**"?

How does this story remind us of the power and authority of God's Word — even when people ignore it?

When have you seen God's Word challenge or interrupt someone's plans — maybe even your own?

The man of God refuses the king's invitation to eat or drink in Bethel.

What does his initial obedience show us about what it means to be faithful?

Why do you think God gave him such a specific command — *not to eat or drink or go back the same way*?

- ☐ To test his obedience
- ☐ To separate him from Jeroboam's idolatry
- ☐ To protect him from temptation
- ☐ Other: _____

A Man of God Disobeys God's Word

The story takes a strange turn when another prophet lies to him.

Why might it have been easier for the man of God to resist **Jeroboam's** temptation than the **old prophet's**?

What are some ways we might be tempted to believe someone who contradicts God's Word today?

- ☐ "God told me..." statements
- ☐ Popular opinions
- ☐ Personal feelings
- ☐ Other: _____

What does this story teach us about how to discern truth from lies?

How does the story show both the seriousness of disobedience and the reliability of God's Word?

Read Romans 3:4 — "*Let God be true though every man a liar.*"

How does this verse summarize what happens in 1 Kings 13?

Hope in the True Prophet

Both prophets failed — one lied, the other disobeyed — yet God's Word still came true.

How does this story remind us that **our leaders and pastors are flawed**, but **God's Word is not**?

The old prophet wanted to be buried with the man of God, hoping to share in his peace.

How does this point us toward the gospel and the one **perfect prophet** who never disobeyed?

What difference does it make for you today that Jesus — the true Man of God — always obeyed and now lives again?

Work It Out!

One area where I need to **trust and obey God's Word** — even when it's hard or unpopular:
