

## Circling For the Spectacular

July 5, 2015

<sup>1</sup> ...In the third year of the drought, the LORD said to Elijah, "Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!" <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to appear before Ahab...

*1 Kings 18:1-2 (NLT)*

### CIRCLING FOR THE SPECTACULAR:

#### 1. BEFORE YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, MAKE SURE

IT'S \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>24</sup> "...Call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!" And all the people agreed.

*1 Kings 18:24 (NLT)*

#### 2. BEFORE YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, MAKE SURE IT'S

FOR \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down. <sup>31</sup> He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, <sup>32</sup> and he used the stones to rebuild the LORD's altar. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. <sup>33</sup> He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood." After they had done this, <sup>34</sup> he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, <sup>35</sup> and the water ran around the altar and even overflowed the trench.

*1 Kings 18:30-35 (NLT)*

#### 3. AS YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>36</sup> At the customary time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. <sup>37</sup> O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

*1 Kings 18:36-37 (NLT)*

#### 4. ONCE YOU'VE DRAWN THE CIRCLE, \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>41</sup> Elijah said to Ahab, "Up on your feet! Eat and drink - celebrate! Rain is on the way; I hear it coming." <sup>42</sup> Ahab did it: got up and ate and drank. Meanwhile, Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bowed deeply in prayer, his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> Then he said to his young servant, "On your feet now! Look toward the sea." He went, looked, and reported back, "I don't see a thing." "Keep looking," said Elijah, "seven times if necessary." <sup>44</sup> And sure enough, the seventh time he said, "Oh yes, a cloud! But very small, no bigger than someone's hand, rising out of the sea." ... <sup>45</sup> Things happened fast. The sky grew black with wind-driven clouds, and then a huge cloudburst of rain...

*1 Kings 18:41-45 (MSG)*

**KEY TRUTH:** If you never \_\_\_\_\_ the circle, you'll never see the \_\_\_\_\_.

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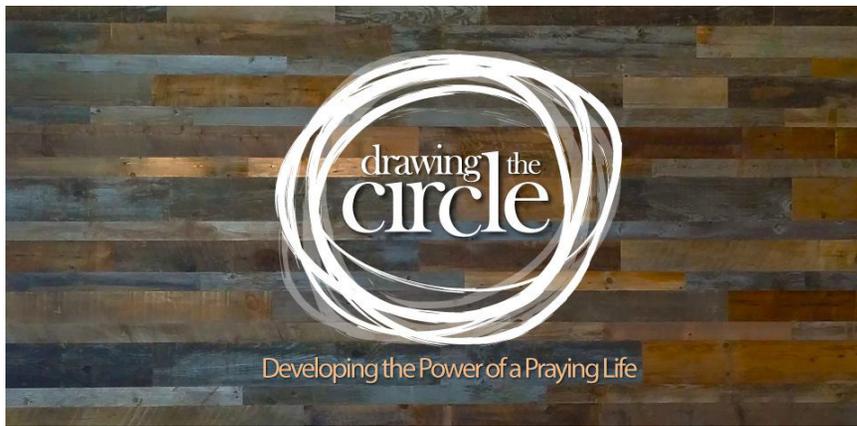
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### CIRCLING FOR THE SPECTACULAR:

#### **1. BEFORE YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, MAKE SURE IT'S GOD'S ALTAR.**

<sup>24</sup> "...Call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!" And all the people agreed.

*1 Kings 18:24 (NLT)*

#### **2. BEFORE YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, MAKE SURE IT'S FOR GOD'S GLORY.**

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down. <sup>31</sup> He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, <sup>32</sup> and he used the stones to rebuild the LORD's altar. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. <sup>33</sup> He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood." After they had done this, <sup>34</sup> he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, <sup>35</sup> and the water ran around the altar and even overflowed the trench.

*1 Kings 18:30-35 (NLT)*

#### **3. AS YOU DRAW THE CIRCLE, ASK IN FAITH.**

<sup>36</sup> At the customary time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. <sup>37</sup> O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

*1 Kings 18:36-37 (NLT)*

#### **4. ONCE YOU'VE DRAWN THE CIRCLE, DON'T GIVE UP.**

<sup>41</sup> Elijah said to Ahab, "Up on your feet! Eat and drink - celebrate! Rain is on the way; I hear it coming." <sup>42</sup> Ahab did it: got up and ate and drank. Meanwhile, Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bowed deeply in prayer, his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> Then he said to his young servant, "On your feet now! Look toward the sea." He went, looked, and reported back, "I don't see a thing." "Keep looking," said Elijah, "seven times if necessary." <sup>44</sup> And sure enough, the seventh time he said, "Oh yes, a cloud! But very small, no bigger than someone's hand, rising out of the sea." ... <sup>45</sup> Things happened fast. The sky grew black with wind-driven clouds, and then a huge cloudburst of rain....

*1 Kings 18:41-45 (MSG)*

**KEY TRUTH: If you never RISK the circle, you'll never see the MIRACLE.**