

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I KINGS 18:16-38



The STORY

Read "The Raving Priests of Baal" and "The Faithful Prophet of God" from the 365 Read-Aloud Bedtime Bible Stories pages 137-138. Then read from the NIV Bible 1 Kings 18:36-39.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did the prophets of Baal and Elijah do? (They had a contest to see whose god was real. Whichever god burned up the offering would prove to be the true God.)
- Why didn't Baal burn up the offering? (There is only one God. Baal is a fake god. He doesn't exist.)
- What happened when it was Elijah's turn? (God answered his prayer. God burned up the offering, the stones, and even the water that they had poured on the sacrifice.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: the altar just before the fire came down from heaven. Engage the children by asking:

- Have the children color the water blue.
- Ask the children to describe what Elijah is doing and what is going to happen. (Elijah is praying and God is going to answer his prayers by sending fire from heaven.)
- Have the children take red and orange crayons and draw in the fire from heaven.
- What can we learn from God about this story? (God is real, He is not a fake god. He is all-powerful and can do anything. God speaks to his people.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children by asking:

- Why did Elijah have water poured on top of the altar? (Water puts out fires. He wanted to make sure that God would get the glory. Only God could consume wet wood and stones with fire. The prophets of Baal would not be able to say Elijah tricked them.)
- Who was Elijah trusting in? (God)
- What happened earlier in Elijah's life that helped him to trust in God? (God provided for him by the ravens and the widow's oil and flour never ran out.)
- What lesson did Elijah learn about God from these past events? (Elijah learned that God was powerful and able to do all things.)

Where is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

On mount Carmel God revealed Himself through consuming the sacrifice offered to Him by Elijah. This was an expression of His grace. Even though the people of Israel rejected Him, He showed Himself by accepting Elijah's sacrifice.

The sacrifice of the bull was another reminder before God that one day a sacrifice would be made to atone for all the sins of His people. Knowing Jesus' sacrifice would come; God poured out mercy and accepted Elijah's sacrifice that day.

When Jesus hung on the cross the people mocked Him saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to save him?" (see Matthew 27:49). Little did the people know that all of Elijah's wonders were meant to point to Jesus.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.