

## F6. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:1-39

### Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
2. The children will examine what it means to put God first in our lives.

**Memory Verse:** *“No one can serve two masters at the same time.” --Matthew 6:24*

### Getting Started

Choose One

#### **All Ages**

##### Contest Time

Start your class today with some sort of a contest or competition. This could be a race to build something with blocks or even with marshmallows. Be creative. Remember that you can be a part of the competition, if you have only one student especially.

Then ask the children if they have ever participated in a contest. If so, ask what kind of contest it was and how they did. Be ready to share your own example if necessary.

Tell the children that in today's lesson we are going to see a contest that God has with all of the false idols in the land of Israel. Ask the children to predict who the winner of the contest will be. Continue with the lesson.

#### **Grades 3-5**

##### “Fact or Fiction?”

You will need to come up with a list of ten (10) statements about God before class. Some of the statements should be true and some of them false. Tell the children that you are going to be reading several statements to them about God. The children will get to vote on whether the statement is true or false. You will need to record how many votes for true and how many votes for false on each question.

When you finish the list read through the questions again only this time giving them the right answers. Ask the children if there were any surprises. Then tell them that in today's lesson they will be learning about the one true God and the many false gods that were being worshipped. Continue with the lesson.

### Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

**Message:**

**God wants to be FIRST!**

*Teacher Note: You may want to use brown paper lunch bags stuffed with newspaper and sealed with tape as stones to build the altar before the children. You could label the bags with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.*

#### **1 Kings 18 ~ Elijah Gives Obadiah a Message for Ahab**

It was now three years since it had rained. A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, "Go. Speak to Ahab. Then I will send rain on the land." So Elijah went to speak to Ahab.

## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued**

There wasn't enough food in Samaria. The people there were very hungry. Ahab had sent for Obadiah. He was in charge of Ahab's palace. Obadiah had great respect for the Lord.

Ahab's wife Jezebel had been doing putting to death the Lord's prophets. So Obadiah had hidden 100 prophets in two caves. He had put 50 in each cave. He had supplied them with food and water.

Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go through the land. Go to all of the springs of water and to the valleys. Maybe we can find some grass there. It will keep the horses and mules alive. Then we won't have to kill any of our animals." So they decided where each of them would look. Ahab went in one direction. Obadiah went in another.

As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him. He bowed down to the ground. He said, "My master Elijah! Is it really you?"

"Yes," he replied. "Go and tell your master Ahab, 'Elijah is here.'"

"What have I done wrong?" asked Obadiah. "Why are you handing me over to Ahab to die?"

"My master has sent people to look for you everywhere. There isn't a nation or kingdom where he hasn't sent someone to look for you. Suppose a nation or kingdom would claim you weren't there. Then Ahab would make them take an oath and say they couldn't find you. And that's just as sure as the Lord your God is alive. But now you are telling me to go to my master. You want me to say, 'Elijah is here.' But the Spirit of the Lord might carry you away when I leave you. Then I won't know where you are. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he'll kill me.

"But I've worshiped the Lord ever since I was young. My master, haven't you heard what I did? Jezebel was killing the Lord's prophets. But I hid 100 of them in two caves. I put 50 in each cave. I supplied them with food and water. And now you are telling me to go to my master Ahab. You want me to say to him, 'Elijah is here.' He'll kill me too!"

Elijah said, "I serve the Lord who rules over all. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I will speak to Ahab today."

### **The Lord Answers Elijah's Prayer on Mount Carmel**

Obadiah went back to Ahab. He told Ahab that Elijah wanted to see him. So Ahab went to where Elijah was. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel."

"I haven't made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have turned away from the Lord's commands. You have followed the gods that are named after Baal. Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god Baal. Also bring the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah. All of them eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent that message all through Israel. He gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. Elijah went there and stood in front of the people. He said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, follow Him. But if Baal is the one and only God, follow him." The people didn't say anything.

Then Elijah said to them, "I'm the only one of the Lord's prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the Lord. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God." Then all of the people said, "What you are saying is good."

Elijah spoke to the prophets of Baal. He said, "Choose one of the bulls. There are many of you. So prepare your bull first. Pray to your god. But don't light the fire."

## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued**

So they prepared the bull they had been given. They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. "Baal! Answer us!" they shouted. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah began to tease them. "Shout louder!" he said. "I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the restroom. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up."

So they shouted louder. Things were beginning to look hopeless. It was now past noon. The prophets of Baal continued to prophesy with all their might. They did it until the time came to offer the evening sacrifice. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. No one paid any attention.

Then Elijah said to all of the people, "Come here to me." So they went to him. He rebuilt the altar of the Lord. It had been destroyed. Elijah got 12 stones. There was one for each tribe in the family line of Jacob. The Lord's message had come to Jacob. It had said, "Your name will be Israel." Elijah used the stones to build an altar in honor of the Lord. He dug a ditch around it. The ditch was large enough to hold 13 quarts of seeds. He arranged the wood for the fire. He cut the bull into pieces. He placed the pieces on the wood. Then he said to some of the people, "Fill four large jars with water. Pour it on the offering and the wood." So they did.

"Do it again," he said. So they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered. And they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar. It even filled the ditch.

When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all of these things because you commanded me to. Answer me. Lord, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."

The fire of the Lord came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood and the stones and the soil. It even licked up the water in the ditch.

All of the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!"

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What were the people in today's lesson doing wrong? *(They were worshipping the god Baal.)*
2. How many prophets did Baal have? *(450.)*
3. What did Elijah tell the people to do? *(He told them to get 2 bulls, putting one on their altar on top of wood, and one on his altar. They would pray to their god, and Elijah would pray to his God and the one true God would set his altar on fire in order to burn the sacrifice.)*
4. Why did Elijah tell the people to do all these things? *(He wanted to prove whose god was the one true God.)*
5. How do think the people felt when Baal did not answer their prayers? *(Frustrated, upset, angry, etc.)*
6. What extra step did Elijah do to his altar? *(He had water poured over the altar so it was really wet and even more of a challenge to set on fire, knowing that it would not be a match for his God.)*
7. How do you think the people felt when they saw what happened to Elijah's altar? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*
8. Why do you think it is important to put God first in our lives? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*

## **Application to Real Life**

### Time for God

See [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade school → Activities → Time for God

You will need to print out the activity chart handout and provide pencils for the children. Help the children to read the directions and fill out their activity charts. Then use your Bibles to look up Matthew 6:21 and 24. Discuss these verses together as you enjoy a healthy snack. See the above website for further discussion questions and details.

Matthew 6:21 ~ “Your heart will be where your riches are.” (NIRV)

Matthew 6:24 ~ “No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can’t serve God and money at the same time.” (NIRV)

At the end of the activity, remind the children of the message and memory verse. Then recite the first commandment together.

## **Memory Work Fun**

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Matthew located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the Lord’s Prayer together.
4. Recite the memory verse.

## **Activity Ideas**

*Choose One*

### ***All Ages***

#### **“Stuff” Skit**

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade School → Skits → “Stuff”

You will need a backpack filled with unbreakable (soft) items for this skit, and a few volunteer actors. This skit teaches that “things” are not what make us happy in life. The one person that will give us the most joy is Jesus (and of course God). It warns the children that we have to be careful not to let our “stuff” get in the way of our relationship with God. See the above website for the script and further details.

#### **Edible Altars**

For this activity, you will use edible materials to make an altar. You can either use mini-marshmallows and pretzel sticks OR use crackers and pretzel sticks, along with red/orange/yellow crayons for drawing the fire. Be as creative as you like. You may want to use card stock or a heavier paper for this activity, and you will use glue to attach the materials to the paper. The children may wish to draw Elijah or even the water around the bottom of their altar creation. Be sure to have a few extra edibles for munching as you work. Remember to keep the conversation going and review the story while you work.

**Grades 3-5****“Who is on the Throne”**

See [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade School → Object Talks → “Who is on the Throne?”

You will need several empty boxes with lids for this activity, along with a fancy chair (if possible – otherwise a regular chair will do). You will place the empty chair in front of the class. The children will name some of their favorite things which you will pretend to put into the boxes. As you fill each box it will go on the chair to symbolize how sometimes we crowd Jesus and/or God out of our life. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

**Role Play – Only One God!**

Before Class: Place the building blocks and wood on the side of the stage where Mount Carmel will be. Place the two jugs beside one of the altars. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See the Script at the end of this lesson.) Gather the props: a crown for King Ahab, building blocks or cardboard boxes, wood, and 2 jugs.

**Puzzle: Elijah on Mount Carmel**

You will need to print enough copies of the puzzle for your students before class. Please see the puzzle sheet following this lesson.

**Journal***Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of what you think it means to put God first in your life. Why do you think this is important? Write about it.

**Grades 3-5**

What things in your life “challenge” God for taking first place? Write about them.

How do you put God first in your life? What does that mean to you? Write about it.

**Homework Ideas**

- Read at home with a grownup the story about the **Elijah is Taken to Heaven** (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-11).
- Learn the memory verse: *“But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit.”*  
--1 Corinthians 6:17(NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #\_\_\_\_\_.
- Color the **Elijah is Taken to Heaven** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- If you could go anywhere, where would you go? Think about it. Then write it down or draw a picture and bring it to class to share.

## **Other Resources**

[www.daniellesplace.com](http://www.daniellesplace.com) → Resource Room → Search “Elijah – God Sends Rain”

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “Elijah Defeats the Prophets of Baal”



## Role Play: Only One God!

**Narrator:** It had not rained in three years. People could not find food. All the grass and rivers had dried up. *(Elijah enters.)* God gave Elijah very special instructions.

**God's Voice:** Elijah, it is time for you to go to King Ahab and tell him I will send rain. *(King Ahab enters. Elijah walks towards him.)*

**King Ahab:** Elijah! It has not rained in three years! This is your fault!

**Elijah:** I am not the one who caused this. It is you and your wife. You disobeyed God. You are praying to idols for rain instead of to God. Gather your people and the prophets of Baal and meet me at the top of Mount Carmel. *(Elijah pretends to walk up Mount Carmel.)*

**Narrator:** Quickly King Ahab gathered his people and the prophets of Baal. Together they went up Mount Carmel to meet Elijah. *(King Ahab, the prophets of Baal and his people go up Mount Carmel.)*

**Elijah:** *(Speaking to King Ahab.)* How long will you worship Baal? You must make a choice. Your prophets and I will each build an altar and place a sacrifice on top. Then you call on Baal to burn the sacrifice. I will call on the Lord. We will see who the living God is. Ahab can go first.

**Narrator:** The prophets of Baal started picking up rocks and piling them up to build an altar. *(The prophets of Baal start building their altar.)* When they were all done their altar, they put some firewood in the centre. *(Prophets of Baal begin dancing around their altar.)*

**Baal Prophets:** Oh Baal, answer us! Oh Baal, answer us! Oh Baal, answer us!

## Role Play: Only One God!

**Narrator:** The prophets of Baal did this all morning.

**Elijah:** Shout louder!

**Narrator:** The prophets kept shouting and dancing all day. By evening, there was still no fire. *(The prophets make the boxes tumble to the ground.)* Finally, they were too tired to continue and fell to the ground. It was now Elijah's turn. *(Elijah starts rebuilding the altar.)*

**Elijah:** I need some water to pour over the altar. *(Two of King Ahab's people take the jugs and pretend to pour it on Elijah's altar.)*

**Elijah:** I still need more water. *(The two people go back, pretend to refill their jugs and pretend to pour the water on Elijah's altar.)*

**Narrator:** The altar was soaked and the trench around it was filled with water. Then Elijah stood in front of the altar and prayed.

**Elijah:** Oh Lord, answer me so these people will know that You are the One, true God.

**Narrator:** Then the fire of the Lord came down and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil around the altar. When the prophets saw this, they fell down on the ground and cried. *(The Baal prophets fall to their knees.)*

**Baal Prophets:** The Lord, He is the true God! The Lord, He is the true God!

## Puzzle: Elijah on Mount Carmel

Look at the symbol and number then find the letter match in the table. Write the letter in the box to discover the hidden message.

	1	2	3	4	5
!	W	S	O	L	J
%	A	T	R	I	K
&	N	E	H	U	P
*	D	V	C	G	B

!1 &2      !2 &3 !3 &4 !4 \*1      &3 %1 \*2 &2

               

%2 &3 &2      \*3 !3 &4 %3 %1 \*4 &2      !2 !3

                

%1 \*3 %5 &1 !3 !1 !4 &2 \*1 \*4 &2      \*4 !3 \*1

    

\*1 &2 !2 &5 %4 %2 &2      !1 &3 %1 %2

    

!3 %2 &3 &2 %3 !2      \*5 &2 !4 %4 &2 \*2 &2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Elijah is Taken to Heaven



“But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit.”  
--1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIRV)



## Take Home Page: F6. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

### Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God wants to be first** in our lives. The children reviewed the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. They also talked about what it means to put God first in our lives.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*"No one can serve two masters at the same time." --Matthew 6:24*

### Ask me...

1. What was happening with the people in today's story?
2. How did Elijah show them who the one true God is?
3. Why do you think it is important to put God first in our lives?

### Live Your Faith...

*Make a list together of all the things your child and you have to do in one day. When your list is complete, take a look again. Did you make any time for God? Does your list reflect a life that is putting Him first? Talk about that together, and then make some adjustments to your list in a way that would reflect putting God first in your life and in your day.*

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