

Session 3

Elijah and the prophets of Baal

Children learn that there is only one God, and nothing must be more important than Him

Scripture: 1 Kings 18: 16 – 46

Supplies:

- 24 candles
- 2 containers to let the candles stand in
- Matches
- Clay or stones
- Elijah video (available at: https://youtu.be/qmZnryPUC3Y?list=PLktlXDwXKqcZX-cW3hOZN3tI_NT-4BViA)
- Copies of the “Elijah and the Baal prophets” activity



Welcome

Cut 24 candles in half and make them stand up straight in 2 containers or on a piece of wood with some nails. Make sure the candles are secure. Call up one child and let them choose an opponent. They are going to compete by lighting as many candles as possible with one match. Divide the rest of the group into two teams to cheer on their teammate. To be fair, make sure beforehand that you light all the candles to see that they all burn.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Let the children close their eyes. Ask them to just look/focus on the light and dark patterns in their eyelids. After 10 seconds, say in a calm voice: “God’s light is always shining in the light and dark parts of your life. Ask the Lord to show the dark things in your life to you and help you to take it away.” Wait 2 seconds and then say “Amen”.



Word

Last time we ended with the big drought that prevailed over Israel. After 3 years God gave Elijah the next assignment, to go back to Israel and speak to Ahab again. On his way to the palace, he met Obadiah, the palace caretaker, in the field. King Ahab and Obadiah were looking for Elijah. Elijah asked him to go and call Ahab. He wanted to meet with him that same day. Obadiah was very scared because the king had been looking for Elijah for three years now. What if Elijah disappeared again, what would the king say? Elijah promised that he would wait. King Ahab was very upset with Elijah because he felt that the drought was all Elijah’s fault. Elijah explained that it was not his fault, but the king and his people’s fault. Ahab and his people kept on doing things that God didn’t approve of. Elijah was only God’s messenger.

Elijah then told Ahab: “Tell all the Israelites that I want to meet them at Mount Carmel. The people who pray to the god Baal and the people who work and pray to the goddess Asherah, they must all be there.” So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal to meet at Mount Carmel.

I wonder what will happen there on the mountain.

Do you all remember that you received an invite to today’s session? (*Let everyone stand in a line, one behind the other. Let a leader stand in front.*) You are now going to play “Follow the leader!” (*The leader must lead them through the whole hall, even better if there are steps; pretend you are all climbing Mount Carmel. Remember to wipe the sweat from your foreheads every now and then.*) The group can stop where they are going to watch the video of Elijah (*if you can’t show the video, the story can be role played with lots of action and if possible, props*).

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/qmZnryPUC3Y?list=PLktlXDwXKqcZX-cW3hOZN3tI_NT-4BViA

When the video is finished, end the story with the last paragraph below starting with; “Elijah told Ahab...” If you are going to do role play, here is the story:

God against Baal:

Elijah went up to the people and said: “How much longer will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is God, worship him; but if Baal is God, worship him.” But the people didn’t say a word. “I am the only one here who works for God. There, on the other side, are the people who work for the idols. Today we will see who the true God is. Our competition will work like this: Bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal can pick one, slaughter and cut him up. Then they must take their meat and place it where they want to sacrifice it to their idols. I will also make an altar for my God and ask Him to light it for me. The one whose fire burns first, will have the real God.” The Baal prophets got the first chance to prepare their meat and altar and then pray to their idols: ‘O Baal, please light our fire!’ They prayed and danced the whole morning, but nothing happened.

By twelve the afternoon Elijah started mocking them: ‘You must call louder. Maybe your god is busy with something else, that’s why he is not hearing you.’ The whole afternoon they shouted. They even cut themselves and bled for the idols, all to get the attention of Baal and Asherah, but nothing happened. Then Elijah called the people; they took 12 rocks and built a new altar. Then he dug a trench around it. He first packed the wood on top and then the meat of the bull. But that wasn’t all; he asked them to pour 12 buckets of water over the altar three times. It was so wet that the water filled the trench around the altar. Everyone was very sure that this altar would never burn. By the evening Elijah started to pray: ‘Lord, you are the Lord of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, prove now that You are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. Answer me, Lord; answer me, so that these people will know that you, the Lord are God, and that you are bringing them back to yourself.’ Fire came from God and burned everything, not just the meat and the wood, but the stones and the ground below it. The water in the trench was also dried up by the fire, everything! When the people saw this, they fell to their knees and said: ‘The Lord is God; the Lord alone is God!’ Elijah had all the prophets of Baal killed, because they taught the Israelites wrong things. He knew that there was only one true God and that nothing else should be more important than Him.

Elijah told Ahab: ‘Now, go and eat. I hear the roar of the rain approaching’. Shortly after, the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind came up, and heavy rain began to fall. The big drought that lasted so long was at an end at last!

Children reflect on the story

1. I wonder what you do when someone dares you to do something.
2. I wonder what things in our lives are more important than God.
3. I wonder if the Israelites now know who the one and only God is, and if they will remember.
4. I wonder what you do if you hear someone misuse God’s name or curse his name.



Working and Playing

- Give the children clay or stones to build their own altars and role play the story.
- Worksheet: complete the activity.

Prayer: Let the children name things that are sometimes more important to us than God. For example, why we don't come to church – I have to study for tomorrow's test; I stayed up too late last night; I took part in a sport match, etc. Are these things more important to us than God?

Ask everyone to close their eyes and ask God to forgive them for sometimes putting other things before Him.

OR

Give a few minutes of silence for everyone to pray their own prayer. Close with this prayer: "Lord, please help me not to get disheartened when others are rude to me, bully me or mock me. I know I am very special to You. I also pray for the bullies and people that mock others. May You help them to realize how wrong it is and help them to stop. Help me never to be tempted to bully or mock anyone."

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Circle the letter under the word "TRUE" if the sentence is true.

Circle die letter under die word "FALSE" if the sentence is false.

- | | TRUE | FALSE | |
|----|------|-------|---|
| 1. | N | C | Obadiah looked for food for the animals
(1 Kings 18:5) |
| 2. | P | O | Obadiah wanted to hurt Elijah
(1 Kings 18:7) |
| 3. | O | F | Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to meet him at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:19) |
| 4. | B | T | The competition was to see who could light a fire first (1 Kings 18:24) |
| 5. | U | H | Elijah said the one who answers with rain, is the true God (1 Kings 18:24) |
| 6. | E | H | The prophets of Baal prayed all day, but nothing happened (1 Kings 18:29) |
| 7. | P | G | Elijah built an altar of wood (1 Kings 18:31-32) |
| 8. | A | O | Elijah told the prophets to put oil on his altar (1 Kings 18:33-34) |
| 9. | D | P | God answered by sending fire (1 Kings 18:38) |



Fill in the missing letters by using the letters you circled above

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