

October 18th *Unit 13*Session 2* Elementary

Elijah at Mount Carmel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 18–19

STORY POINT: God showed that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Opening Activity: This or That?

Explain that you will call out some options. Your kids must choose which option they prefer. Have two sides of the room for each option to show your kids where to gather.

Sample options:

1. Chocolate or Vanilla
2. Puppies or Kittens
3. Apples or Oranges
4. Outside or Inside

Say: In today's Bible story, Elijah told God's people to make up their minds. They needed to choose whom they would worship. Do you think the people chose to follow God or something else? Let's find out.

THE BIBLE STORY

No rain fell in the land of Israel for three years. God was punishing the people for turning away from Him to worship false gods. Without rain, the lakes and rivers dried up. People could not grow crops in the fields. Finally, God was ready to send rain. God told Elijah to go to Ahab, the king of Israel. So Elijah obeyed God. Elijah told the king, "Meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring the people of Israel and the prophets who worship false gods." King Ahab and the people met Elijah at the mountain. Elijah said, "Make up your minds! If you believe the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal (BAY uhl), then follow him." Elijah set up a challenge to show who is the one true God. The prophets of the false god Baal set up an altar first and put a bull on it. Elijah

said, "Call to Baal and ask him to send fire to your altar. I will call on the Lord. The God who answers by sending fire is the one true God."

The prophets of Baal danced and cried out for hours. "Answer us!" they said. But no one answered. "Shout loudly!" Elijah taunted them. "Maybe he is sleeping!" Still, no answer. Then the people gathered around Elijah. He set up an altar, dug a trench around it, and put a bull on it. Elijah told the people to pour water on the altar so everything was wet. Then Elijah prayed: "Lord, answer me so that these people will know that You, Lord, are God." God sent fire from the sky. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust! It dried up the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" Elijah had all the prophets who worshiped Baal killed. The sky grew dark with clouds, and God sent a great rain. King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done. Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah, so Elijah fled into the wilderness. He walked to Mount Horeb. At the mountain, God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him to not give up.

Christ Connection: The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal. But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him.

Key passage activity

Lead in reading aloud Isaiah 42:8. Remember that Elijah teased the prophets of Baal to shout louder because Baal might be sleeping. Explain that everyone will read the key passage together, but we will control our volume. When your hands are low, it will be said quietly. When your hands go up, it will be said louder. As your kids say the key passage, change the volume level several times.

Say: No matter how loud or how quiet the world around us may be, God's truth never changes. He is the only One who deserves our praise.

Discussion & Bible skills

Ask the following questions:

1. The prophets of Baal tried to prove their love so that their god would hear them. How is the one true God different than false gods like Baal?

Recognize how God showed His love to us by sending His Son. Salvation from God is a gift; we don't earn it by doing good things or loving God in a certain way. We obey God and love Him in response to who He is and what He has done for us.

2. Why is idolatry so offensive to God? Idolatry is worshiping anything besides the one true God. Emphasize that God alone is our Creator and Lord. Worshiping anything other than Him denies who God truly is. Only He deserves our worship.

3. Why do you think we sometimes doubt that God is able to do something? Point out that Elijah's challenge seemed to make victory for God impossible. How could an altar catch fire when it was soaked with water? But God answered Elijah and sent fire from heaven. Encourage your kids to live with complete faith that God can have victory over any situation.

Craft: Rock-On Reminders

Choose one of the verses below to write or paint on your rock. Use markers or paint to decorate your rock.

Romans 1:23-24; Psalm 135:15-17; 1 Kings 18:39; Isaiah 42:8;
Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 44:6

Say: Elijah and the prophets of Baal used rocks to build altars as part of the challenge to prove who is the one true God. Use your rock as a reminder that God is

Reflection and prayer

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

- Whom can I tell about this story?

End by praying together