

Elijah Confronted Ahab

1 Kings 18-19

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

"" ...So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other."

1 Kings 8:60

Story Point:

God proved He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Elijah Confronted Ahab
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Review Game - Connect 4



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Group Demonstration: God vs. Baal
- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Game - Would You Rather

SHEPHERD GUIDE

People love a good competition. We watch sports and cheer on our favorite teams. Usually players or teams are evenly matched, otherwise the sport would be at best, boring, and at worst, painful to watch. This week, we will explore the story of the competition between God and Baal. In this case, the players were certainly not an even match. Baal, the false god the Israelites turned to again and again, could not possibly match the power of the one true God. God would prove He is the one true God in a dramatic display of His might. Read the full story and consider the following main points as you prepare to share this amazing narrative with the kids you teach.

False gods have no power. The prophets of Baal danced, shouted, and even cut themselves to get the attention of their false god. But there was no answer. They prayed to something that had no power to answer. We often bow down to the false gods of power, money, and prestige, but like Baal, these idols have no power to save us or satisfy our desire for meaning.

Only God has true power over creation. God rained down fire from heaven in a stunning display of His power. But He also met Elijah through a small voice. God is mighty in both the spectacular and the simple. He meets our needs in just the right ways. On Mount Carmel, the people needed to see a dramatic outpouring of His glory. Later, Elijah needed God to meet him in an intimate moment of vulnerability. God reminded Elijah of His presence in a way that was just as powerful as fire from heaven.

One day all people will bow before the Lord. Upon witnessing God's power, the people bowed before Him, recognizing that He truly is God. Many years later, Jesus would tell His disciples that people who believe Him without seeing are blessed. It's true that one day every knee will bow before the Lord, but those who believe in Him now will have life with Him forever. This is an exciting story to share with kids, and it presents an opportunity to show them many aspects of God: His dramatic power and quiet presence with us. Help kids see that, like the people of Israel, we all have a choice to make in answering the question Who is God? He has demonstrated His power to us many times and in many ways. The challenge for us now is, how will we respond?

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God is the one true God. There is no other!
- *LISTEN for God and his gentle whisper to them.
- *TALK to God about everything. He sees, hears, knows and responds to their prayers.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Have you ever watched a strength competition?

It's intense and involves incredibly strong people competing against one another. They lift and throw giant rocks. They even pull monster trucks! At the end, one of them is crowned the victor. In these competitions, the athletes are pretty evenly matched. Imagine if there was a scrawny person trying to compete. He would lose almost instantly.

While there aren't competitions quite like this in the Bible, today we are going to hear about an amazing contest: a contest between two gods. In this contest, however, the one true God was up against a false, make-believe god. Who do you think won?

Starter Activity

Welcome and
Question of the
Day



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Take children to LG2 for combined Pre-K -4th grade worship time.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Elijah Confronted Ahab

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18-19 . You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

False gods have no power (1 Kings 18:20-29): No matter what the prophets of Baal did, their false god did not respond.

Only God has true power over creation (1 Kings 18:36-39): God brought fire and completely consumed the burnt offering, wood, stone, and even the altar, even when it was completely soaked with water.

One day all people will bow before the Lord (1 Kings 18:38-39): When the people saw that the altar and offering were consumed by fire, they fell facedown and acknowledged that the Lord is God.

After King Baasha, Israel had many wicked kings. One of those evil kings was Ahab. He killed the prophets of God and led the people to worship a false god named Baal. The word of the Lord came to the prophet Elijah and said, “Go and present yourself to Ahab.”

The prophet Elijah came to Ahab and said, “You have ruined Israel because you have abandoned the Lord’s commands and followed Baal instead. Gather the entire nation, and bring the prophets of Baal, too.”

Once everyone had gathered, Elijah said, “How long will you go between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him. Bring two bulls—one for me, and one for the prophets of Baal. We will each prepare them on an altar as a burnt sacrifice. Prophets of Baal, you will call on your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers with fire is the one true God.”

The prophets of Baal cried out to their false god from morning until noon, but nothing happened. Elijah made fun of them, saying, “Maybe your god is taking a walk, or maybe he is sleeping!” They danced and shouted all day, but there was no sound; no one answered; no one paid attention.

Then it was Elijah’s turn. He repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. He then prepared the bull on the altar and asked that water be poured on top. So much water was poured that it gathered in a trench around the altar. Elijah prayed to God: “Lord, today, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and you have turned their hearts back.”

Then the Lord’s fire fell. It completely consumed the burnt offering, the wood and stones of the altar, and even the water gathered in the trench. The people were amazed, falling facedown and saying, “The Lord, he is God!”

Ahab told his wicked wife, Jezebel, everything that had happened. Jezebel sent word to Elijah saying she was going to kill him. Elijah ran for his life. When he was far enough away, he prayed and said, “Lord, I have had enough. I’m no better than the prophets before me.” The next day, the Lord spoke to Elijah. He told Elijah to go out to a mountain. A great wind passed by. Then an earthquake. Then fire. But the Lord was not in any of these. Then there was a soft whisper. In that whisper, God said, “What are you doing here, Elijah? Go and anoint a new king over Israel. I will preserve for myself people who still worship me and who have not bowed down to Baal. Go and anoint a new king and follow me.” Elijah obeyed God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent fire down from heaven to prove that He alone is Lord. God sent the Holy Spirit like flames of fire on Jesus' disciples to empower them to tell others that Jesus is God's Son who saves people from sin

God proved He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers. **What did God do to do prove He is the one true God?** [Allow responses. Read 1 Kings 18:36-38.] The people of Israel knew that the Lord is the one true God when fire came down from heaven. **Did you notice in Elijah's prayer why he wanted God to prove who He was?** Elijah prayed, 'so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back.' Elijah didn't just want to prove he was right. He wanted the people to know and love the God who created them and loved them. Elijah understood that the best way to live in this world is to follow God. God wants us to be amazed by Him, because our amazement will lead us to want to know God and be close to Him.

This story points us forward to Jesus coming into the world. Hundreds of years later, Jesus did many things that prove He is truly God. The people would know that Jesus is God's Son when the Holy Spirit came down as a dove at Jesus' baptism. [Read Matthew 3:16-17.] **Why do you think it mattered that people knew Jesus was truly God?** Jesus had to be fully God in order to save us from sin. Only God is truly without sin, and only a perfect sacrifice would be enough to pay for our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He fully took away our sin and paid the price all sin deserves: death. The good news is Jesus didn't stay dead. He is alive, and promises to give new life to everyone who follows Him.



Discussion

Discussion
questions listed
here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

How can we know God will hear us when we pray? Tell kids that the Bible teaches us that God hears us when we pray. He is alive and active, so not only does He hear us when we pray, but He also responds and acts. God always answers our prayers, but not always in the way we think or even the way we want. He knows what is best, so He will answer prayers in a way that brings Him glory and is for our good.

Elijah was bold and reminded the people that there is only one true God. How can we tell others about the one true God? Answers will vary. Remind kids that God wants believers to tell others about Him and His Son, Jesus. Discuss how we can share stories from the Bible with others. We can tell people how God has answered our prayers. We can share the gospel. And we can help others understand that God alone is worthy of worship.

Elijah stood up for what was right, and Jezebel wanted to hurt him. How did God encourage Elijah? Discuss how God came near to Elijah and reminded Elijah of His faithfulness. God promised to save those who did not bow down to Baal. When we face rejection from others for following Jesus, we can trust that God will be faithful to us. God will be with us, and through His Spirit and the Bible, we can find encouragement. God also provides us with other believers who can pray for us and encourage us to keep following God no matter what.



Sticky Note Connect 4 Review Game

- List of review questions
- Dry-Erase marker
- 2 different colored sets of sticky notes

Using the white board and dry-erase marker, create a “grid” with seven columns and five rows.

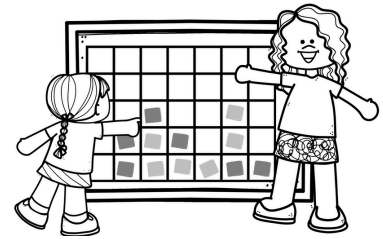
To Play:

Divide the class into two teams and give each team a set of sticky notes. Ask each team a question, alternating between the teams. If they get the answer right, one person from that team can take a sticky note and put it on the box of their choice on the grid.

However, within a column, you can only fill the grid from the bottom up, stacking squares on top of each other rather than allowing them to “float” with nothing underneath. It is then the next team’s turn. The first team to get four squares in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally) wins!

Review Questions for Elijah and King Ahab

1. True or False - King Ahab was a good king who served the Lord. (False)
2. What little god did Elijah challenge? (Baal)
3. How many stones did Elijah use? (12)
4. Did Baal answer the prayers of his prophets? (No)
5. What did Elijah pour onto the altar? (water)
6. How did God answer Elijah? (By sending fire to consume the altar)
7. How did the people respond to the fire? (Fell facedown and worshiped the Lord)
8. What does this story tell us about God? (He is all-powerful, He is the one true God)
9. Where did Elijah run to afterward? (a mountain)
10. True or False - God spoke to Elijah through an earthquake. (False)
11. True or False - God spoke to Elijah through a mighty wind. (False)
12. True or False - God spoke to Elijah through fire. (False)
13. True or False - God spoke to Elijah through a gentle whisper. (True)
14. What did God tell Elijah to go do? (Anoint a new king, and follow Him)



Group Demonstration: God vs. Baal

- 2 cups labeled “God” and “Baal”
- ¼ cup baking soda
- Vinegar
- Foil tray

At the front of the room, display two cups labeled God and Baal.

In the bottom of the God cup, place ¼ cup of baking soda. Put the cups in a rimmed pan or tray to avoid spills.

Explain that you’ll pour vinegar into both cups. Ask the kids what they think will happen.

First, pour the vinegar into the Baal cup. Nothing will happen. Encourage the kids to shout and jump up and down to get something to happen.

Then pour into the God cup and watch as the baking soda bubbles and spills over the rim.

SAY: There was a chemical reaction between the baking soda and vinegar that made all the foam and bubbles. This experiment can remind us of something that happened on Mount Carmel the day God sent fire from heaven. **When the prophets of Baal cried out their god, what happened? Did he set fire to the altar?** [Allow responses.] No! Listen to this. [Read 1 Kings 18:26, 29b.]

Why didn’t anyone pay attention? [Allow responses.] Baal isn’t real. They were praying to a fake god who has no power because he doesn’t exist.

What happened when Elijah prayed to God? [Allow responses. Read 1 Kings 18:36-38.] Unlike the prophets of Baal, Elijah didn’t need to dance or shout for hours for God to hear him. God heard Elijah’s prayer and demonstrated His power before all the people. When the people saw what had happened, they were amazed. They fell down and worshiped God saying, ‘The LORD—he is God!’



Share and Care Prayer

Prayer Chains

Slips of colored paper, markers, stapler

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Smith Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. As they share, write each request on a slip of paper. After sharing together, have them pick a slip of paper and pray as a group for those topics. Afterward, take the slips of paper and make a paper chain. Add the chain that was started last week at the corner of the white board. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before.

Close in prayer together.



Would You Rather Game

None

Lead the kids to stand in the middle of the room. Give them a variety of Would You Rather questions and have them run to one side of the room or the other for each choice.

Possible questions include: would you rather:

- run five miles on a straight path or walk three miles up a steep hill?
- wear a clown nose for a day or a cowboy hat?
- eat an entire tub of ice cream or a whole cake?
- travel into the past or the future?
- swim in chocolate syrup or swim in jello?
- read an entire book or listen to an entire book?
- walk on your hands or walk on your knees?
- sing all the time or dance all the time?
- wear a winter coat in summer or no coat in winter?

SAY In this game you had lots of choices to make. The people of Israel had to answer the question *Who will I worship?*

You and I have the same choice to make. Will we keep following the ways of this world, and the false gods all around us, such as money, material possessions, and popularity? Or will we turn to the one true God and give our lives fully to Him? That's a decision each of us has to make.

When we allow God to take hold of our hearts and lives, we are able to answer another important question: Who are we? The world gives us lots of message about our identity. Some of those messages are that we should go along with the crowd or follow our heart and live for ourselves. The world may even say we get to choose our own identity. But where do we find what is true about ourselves? (the Bible) What is most true about you is that you are a beloved child of God, made in God's image to glorify Him by enjoying life with Him and showing the world what He is like.