

ELIJAH AND PROPHETS OF BAAL

Scripture:
I Kings 18:1-45

Materials Needed:
Pictures
Picture of an idol

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that when Elijah challenged Ahab and the prophets of Baal to a contest on Mt. Carmel, God demonstrated that He alone is the true and living God by sending down fire from heaven to burn Elijah's sacrifice and after the Israelite confessed He was the true God, He sent rain.

To Realize: Because God has demonstrated that He alone is the ONE, true God, He alone is to be acknowledged and trusted.

To Respond: by placing their confidence in the One, True God of the Bible and acknowledging Him openly.

Setting Up the Story—

Show a picture of an idol. Tell your students that in many places of the world, people bow down in front of an image like this and give it their worship. But where did the wood come from to make the idol? A tree. And who carved it? A person. An idol isn't God at all! But people say—"This is a god to be worshipped." In Israel, there were many idols that the foreign nations worshipped. God had told His people in the Ten Commandments that they were to worship ONLY HIM and not any other gods. He told them they were NOT to make any idols like this. But one of their kings, King Ahab, married a foreign woman who loved idols and she brought them in and started making everyone bow down to her idols. And this idol-god was supposed to send the rain so they could have good crops! So the people thought it was important to keep that god happy. But was that idol the TRUE GOD? No! How would the people know who the true God was? Well, God's prophet, Elijah, was going to have a contest with the prophets of the Baal idol-god.

Telling the Story—

Scripture: I Kings
18:1-19

- I. Elijah Challenges Ahab and Prophets to a Contest
 - A. He Meets Obadiah
 1. Ahab looking for water

As you tell the story—

The god Baal was supposed to provide good weather and good crops. Why were they looking for water? (give background how things

Scripture: I Kings
18:20-24

2. Elijah gives him message
- B. He Talks to Ahab
 1. Ahab has caused trouble
 2. Elijah wants to meet on Mt. Carmel
 - a. with Israelites
 - b. with 450 Baal prophets
 - c. with 400 other false prophets
- C. Ahab Agrees
- D. Elijah Explains Contest
 1. To show true God
 2. Prepare two sacrifices
 3. The one who consumes with fire is true
 4. People agree

Scripture: I Kings
18:25-38

II. God Demonstrates that He ALONE is God

- A. Baal Prophets get no response
 1. They prepare sacrifice
 2. They cry 'til noon
 3. Elijah mocks them
 4. They cut themselves
 5. They cry 'til evening

- A. God Answers with Fire
 1. Elijah prepares sacrifice
 - a. repairs altar
 - b. arranges wood

had come to this point. Baal used to get credit for all the rain God sent, so God stopped sending the rain.)

Ahab saw Elijah. Ahh...there was the man causing the drought! Right? (no, Ahab was)

They were going to prove once and for all who the real God was! Who is the one who sends the rain? Who should they be trusting? Why did they not know the answer to those questions? Look in v. 21. They were mixing the two. So how could they tell who was the right one? It had to be something only the true God could do. What about sending rain? But that might be coincidence. It had to be something that normally wouldn't happen.

It didn't look like Baal was listening! Look what Elijah said in v. 27.

Storytell these details.

(act this out as you tell the story)

Elijah starts doing something.

"What are you doing?"

"Digging trenches."

"What for?!"

"For water."

"Water?! Why do you need water for your sacrifice?"

- c. pours 12 barrels of water
- 1. Elijah prays
 - a. So people will know
 - b. So people will return to God
- 1. Fire consumes everything

“Pour four barrels of water on the sacrifice.”

“What?!”

“Again.” “Again.”

Then Elijah prayed that God would answer. And his prayer was very short. (Read v. 37)

Scripture: I Kings 18:39-46

III. People Confess the LORD is God/God Sends Rain

- A. They fall on faces
- B. They kill Baal prophets
- C. God sends rain

Did they KNOW who the true God was now?! Was there any doubt? What did they do with the false prophets then?

AFTER the people acknowledged who the true God was, then He sent rain.

Concluding the story:

People today say, “All religions are leading to god.” But that’s NOT TRUE. There is only ONE GOD...and who is it? THE LORD, HE IS GOD! He doesn’t have a contest with every false god the way He had a contest with the prophets of Baal that day, but when He showed that HE was the True God, it proved it once for all. What did He want His people to do?

Worship ONLY HIM. He wanted them to stop giving their time and attention to false gods.

Today there are still idols like this (hold up picture of idol from the beginning) but there are also other things that people trust in place of God. They will talk about science as their source of trust. They talk about how smart they are to figure things out. They trust in money to get them out of hard situations.

Does God want His children trusting those things? Who does He want them to trust? HIM!

Let’s ask the Lord to acknowledge ONLY HIM as the One true God in our lives. Close in prayer.

ELIJAH AND PROPHETS OF BAAL HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. What hinders your undivided love to God? (ex: loving things, pursuing advancement, forms of entertainment, besetting sin, etc.)
2. Many people do not mind having a discussion about God, but find it difficult to say Jesus is the only way to God. How does the truth of this lesson apply to this problem?
3. What sins do you need to repent of as a result of realizing God's exclusive authority?
4. What action will you take in light of this truth?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. *Tolerance* is a key word in today's multi-cultural world. Where must your students draw the line on tolerance in their stand for Jesus?
2. What areas of your students' lives might be compromising an undivided love for God?
3. How does this truth help with confusion about "There are so many religions. How do we know which one is 'right'?"

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

Divide your students into different parts of the story. Have them reenact the story scenes, ending with the declaration, "The Lord, HE is God! The Lord, HE is God!" (note: you may choose to use this as the story method instead of using picture cards.)