

Elijah Knows The True God

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: There is only one true God.

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:16-40

Memory Verse: How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him. - 1 Kings 18:21

The Children's Sermon

Once upon a time, there was a man named Elijah who was a servant of the real God. One day, he had a big challenge for the people who were not sure which god was real. He wanted to show them the power of the true God. So, he came up with a plan called Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel.

In this contest, Elijah told the people to choose two bulls. The prophets of the fake god, Baal, would take one bull, and Elijah would take the other. They would each prepare the bull for a sacrifice but not set fire to it. Instead, they would pray to their god to send fire from heaven. This way, everyone could see which god was real.

The prophets of Baal tried first. They prayed and shouted all day, but nothing happened. No fire came. Then it was Elijah's turn. But before he prayed, he did something very interesting. He made his challenge even harder. He poured lots of water on his bull and the wood around it, not just once but three times! The water was so much that it filled a trench he had made around the altar. Now, it seemed impossible for the fire to burn everything.

Then he began to pray to the real God, not yelling, just praying. Do you pray to God? Do we have to yell? Do you think He hears us? Elijah said: "Lord God, let these people know that you are the true God and I am your servant. Let them know so they will serve you again."

SUDDENLY, fire came down from heaven; it burned up the meat, the wood, the stones, and even licked up all the water. When the people saw all this, they dropped to their knees afraid and cried out, "The Lord, He is God, the Lord, He is God."

Elijah was happy that God had answered his prayer quickly and that the people knew who the true GOD really was. Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel was a big win for the true God!

Can anyone think of a time you have prayed and God answered your prayer? Would anyone like to pray for someone or something right now?

Now, let's talk more about Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel. Imagine how the people felt seeing fire come down from the sky! They had been confused about which god was real. But after the contest, they knew for sure. The true God had shown His power in an amazing way.

Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel teaches us a few important things. First, it shows us that the true God listens to us when we pray. We don't need to shout or jump around. We can talk to God like we talk to a friend, and He hears us.

Second, the contest shows that sometimes God does big things to show us He's with us. But remember, God doesn't always use fire from the sky to answer our prayers.

Sometimes His answers are quiet and happen in ways we might not expect. It's like when you lose something, and after asking God for help, you suddenly remember where it is. That's God answering your prayer too!

Also, Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel teaches us about being brave. Elijah was the only one against many prophets of Baal, but he wasn't scared because he knew God was with him. We can be brave like Elijah when we're facing something scary because we know God is with us too.

And, the contest helps us understand that it's important to make good choices. The people had to choose which god to follow. Today, we also make choices every day. Choosing to follow the true God and to be kind, honest, and loving are some of the best choices we can make.

Lastly, Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel is a reminder that sometimes we need to be patient. Elijah waited all day for his turn, but he trusted God's timing. When we pray, we also need to be patient and trust that God knows the best time to answer our prayers.

So, what can we do to be more like Elijah? We can pray, trust God, be brave, make good choices, and be patient. And just like the people who saw the fire come down, we can remember to say, "The Lord, He is God" and thank Him for being with us always.

Would anyone like to share a story about a time you trusted God and He helped you? Or maybe you have a prayer you'd like to say now for yourself or someone else. Let's take a moment to talk to God together, just like Elijah did.

Remember, Elijah's Contest on Mount Carmel wasn't just a one-time event in a storybook. It's a lesson for us about God's power, love, and the importance of choosing to follow Him. Let's keep that lesson in our hearts and live every day knowing that the Lord, He is God.

Bible Memory Verse

How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him. - 1 Kings 18:21

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue
- Stickers or decorations

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into two large heart shapes for each child.
- Write 'The Lord is God' on one heart and 'Baal' on the other for demonstration purposes.

Do This:

1. Give each child two heart shapes and ask them to write 'The Lord is God' on one heart and leave the other blank. Explain that the blank heart represents things that distract us from God, like Baal did for the Israelites.

2. Have the children decorate the 'The Lord is God' heart with markers and stickers to show that this is what they choose to follow. Encourage them to think about what it means to follow God as they decorate.
3. Discuss the importance of choosing to follow God and not being distracted by other 'gods' or things that might take us away from Him. Use the two hearts to visually demonstrate the choice we have to make every day.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small plastic figures or paper cutouts of prophets (450 for Baal, 1 for Elijah)
- Two "altars" made from cardboard boxes or large stones
- Two sets of small wooden sticks or straws (to represent the wood for the fire)
- A spray bottle filled with water (to represent the fire that God sent)
- A large bowl (to represent the trench around Elijah's altar)
- Blue tissue paper or fabric (to represent water)
- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper (to represent fire)
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Set up the two "altars" at different ends of your teaching area.
- Place the wooden sticks or straws on each altar.
- Arrange the 450 Baal prophets figures around one altar and the single Elijah figure around the other.
- Place the bowl around Elijah's altar and fill it with the blue tissue paper or fabric.
- Have the spray bottle and fire-colored tissue paper nearby but hidden from immediate view.

Do this:

1. **Tell the Story**: Briefly recount the story from 1 Kings 18:16-40, emphasizing how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to show that there is only one true God. Explain how the prophets of Baal tried to call fire from their god but nothing happened, and how Elijah prayed to God, who sent fire from heaven.
2. **Reenact the Challenge**: Divide the children into two groups. One child from each group will come forward to "pray" for fire to come down on their altar (first the Baal altar with no effect, then Elijah's altar). When it's Elijah's turn, secretly spray the Elijah altar with water from the spray bottle to represent the soaking of the altar in the story. Then, cover Elijah's altar with the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper to represent God sending fire from heaven.
3. **Discussion and Application**: After the reenactment, gather the children and discuss the power of God shown in the story and how this proves there is only one true God. Emphasize that God listens and responds to our prayers, unlike idols or false gods. Encourage the children to think of times they can pray to God in their own lives, knowing He is the only true God who hears and answers.

This activity combines storytelling, visual aids, and hands-on participation to help children understand the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, reinforcing the theme that there is only one true God.

Snack Activity: Mount Carmel Showdown Snack

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Blue frosting

- Mini pretzel sticks
- Yellow fruit leather (or dried mango)
- White mini marshmallows
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Lay out all your materials on a clean table. Each child should have their own plate to work on.

Do this:

1. Each child takes one graham cracker and spreads blue frosting over it to represent the sky. Explain that Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest at Mount Carmel to show who the true God was.
2. Use mini pretzel sticks to create the altar by arranging them in a square shape on top of the graham cracker. This represents the altar that Elijah rebuilt in the name of the Lord.
3. Tear pieces of yellow fruit leather into small flames and place them on top of the pretzel altar. Add white mini marshmallows around the altar to represent the water Elijah poured over his sacrifice, showing that the true God can do anything, even light a wet altar on fire.
4. As they eat their snack, remind the children that just like God showed His power on Mount Carmel, He is the only true God who is powerful and loves us.

Game Activity: Prophets' Challenge

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape for marking the ground
- Small stones or beanbags

- Pictures or symbols representing the prophets of Baal and Elijah (can be simple drawings)

Get Ready: Before the game, use the chalk or tape to create a large grid on the ground with a starting line and an endpoint. Each square of the grid should be big enough for a child to stand in. Place the pictures or symbols of the prophets of Baal randomly in squares throughout the grid, and place the picture of Elijah at the end.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in the story from 1 Kings 18:16-40, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to show that there is only one true God. Today, they will go through a challenge to reach Elijah, avoiding the prophets of Baal.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a stone or beanbag to land in a square. If it lands on a square with a prophet of Baal, they say a simple phrase like 'Only God is true' and skip that square, moving to the next one. If it lands on an empty square, they move forward to that square.
3. The goal is to reach the square with Elijah on it, showing that following the one true God leads us to victory. The game can be played in rounds, allowing each child multiple turns to navigate through the grid.

Craft Activity: Mount Carmel Showdown: Elijah's Fire

You'll Need:

- Blue, green, and brown construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Yellow and red tissue paper

- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the blue paper into a large rectangle for the sky. Cut the green paper to make a hill shape for Mount Carmel. Cut the brown paper into small rectangles for the altar. Tear the yellow and red tissue paper into flames.

Do this:

1. Glue the green hill on the bottom of the blue paper to create a scene of Mount Carmel.
2. On the hill, glue the brown rectangles to build Elijah's altar. Talk about how Elijah was confident in God's power to send fire from heaven.
3. Glue the cotton balls above the altar for clouds, showing that God was watching. Then, add the red and yellow tissue paper flames on top of the altar to represent the fire from God. Explain that this fire proved there is only one true God.
4. Use markers or crayons to add any additional details or to write 'There is only one true God' on the craft.

Prayer Activity: The One True God Prayer Challenge

You'll Need:

- Small stones or pebbles
- Permanent markers
- A large bowl of water

Get Ready: Gather enough small stones or pebbles so that each child has one. Fill a large bowl with water and place it in the center of your activity area.

Do this:

1. Share the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel from 1 Kings 18:16-40, focusing on how Elijah proved that there is only one true God. Explain that just like the fire consumed the wet altar, proving God's power, our faith in God can stand strong against doubts.
2. Give each child a stone and a permanent marker. Ask them to write or draw something that represents their faith in the one true God. It could be a simple cross, a heart, or even just the word 'God'.
3. One by one, have the children say a short prayer out loud or silently about their belief in the one true God as they place their stone in the bowl of water. Explain that the stone sinking in the water represents their faith being strong and not swayed by the 'waters' or challenges of life.
4. Conclude by reminding the children that just like the stones in the water, their faith in God should be firm and unwavering. Pray together, thanking God for being the one true God who is always with us.