

Elijah Knows The True God

UPPER 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:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

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

Do This:

1. Give each child two heart shapes and ask them to write 'The Lord' on one heart and something else they think people might wrongly put their trust in (like 'money', 'fame', or 'power') on the other heart.
2. Have them decorate each heart with markers, crayons, and optional stickers or glitter, expressing their thoughts and feelings about the choices.

3. Discuss as a group why choosing to follow the Lord is the best choice, using the memory verse as a guide. Encourage the children to share their hearts, explaining their choice and what the verse means to them.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bible or printed story of 1 Kings 18:16-40
- Small jars or cups (one for each child)
- Water
- Small stones or pebbles
- A large bowl
- Red, yellow, and orange tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Aluminum foil
- A small prize for each child (e.g., stickers or bookmarks)

Get Ready:

- Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes beforehand.
- Cover the large bowl with aluminum foil to represent the altar.
- Place the small jars or cups, water, stones, and large bowl on a table accessible to the children.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction and Storytelling****: Start by reading the story from 1 Kings 18:16-40, focusing on the challenge between Elijah and the prophets of Baal, the preparation of

the altars, and the fire from God that consumed Elijah's offering. Emphasize the theme "There is only one true God."

2. **Build the Altars Activity**: Give each child a small jar or cup. Have them fill their jars with water, representing the water Elijah poured on the altar. Then, they will take turns placing their stones inside the large bowl to build the "altar." This symbolizes the community coming together in faith.

3. **Fire from Heaven Craft**: After the altars are built, children will use the pre-cut tissue paper flames and glue sticks to attach flames to the aluminum foil around the bowl, representing the fire from heaven that consumed Elijah's sacrifice. Discuss how the fire proved God's power and presence.

4. **Reflection and Application**: Ask the children to think about what it means to have faith in the one true God and how they can show their faith in daily life. Each child can write or draw a way they will show their faith on a piece of the tissue paper flame and attach it to the outside of their jar or cup.

5. **Prayer and Reward**: Conclude with a prayer, thanking God for His power and asking for faith to trust Him as the one true God. Hand out the small prizes as a reminder of the lesson learned today.

Snack Activity: Prophets of Baal vs. Elijah Fire Snack

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- White frosting
- Pretzel sticks

- Yellow and red fruit roll-ups
- Mini marshmallows
- Blue food coloring
- Small bowls and spoons for mixing
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Mix a few drops of blue food coloring into the white frosting to create a 'water' effect. Unroll and cut the fruit roll-ups into flame shapes ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Spread the blue frosting on a graham cracker to represent the water poured over Elijah's altar. Discuss how Elijah had water poured over the altar to show that God's power is greater than any challenge.
2. Add pretzel sticks on top of the frosted graham cracker to build the 'wood' for the altar. Place mini marshmallows around as the 'stones' that made up the altar. Talk about how Elijah built the altar with twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel.
3. Finally, add the red and yellow fruit roll-up flames on top to represent the fire that God sent down to consume the offering, proving that He is the one true God. Reflect on the power of God and how He revealed Himself to the people, turning their hearts back to Him.

Game Activity: Prophets of Baal Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space (preferably outdoors)
- Cones or markers to define boundaries

- Name tags for each child with either 'Elijah', 'Prophet of Baal', or 'Israelite' written on them

Get Ready: Before the game, set up a large play area with clear boundaries using cones or markers. Prepare name tags in advance, making sure there are many more 'Prophet of Baal' tags than 'Elijah' or 'Israelite'.

Do this:

1. Each child picks a name tag at random. This determines their role for the first round of the game. There should be only one 'Elijah', a few 'Israelites', and the rest are 'Prophets of Baal'.
2. 'Elijah' and 'Israelites' start at one end of the playing field, and the 'Prophets of Baal' start in the middle. The goal for 'Elijah' and 'Israelites' is to get from one end of the field to the other without being tagged by a 'Prophet of Baal'. If they are tagged, they join the 'Prophets of Baal' in trying to tag others.
3. Once 'Elijah' successfully reaches the other side, or all 'Israelites' are tagged, gather the children and discuss how Elijah stood alone against the prophets of Baal and how God showed His power and proved He is the one true God. Then, switch roles and play again, allowing different children to be 'Elijah'.

Craft Activity: Elijah's Challenge: Fire from Heaven

You'll Need:

- Blue, red, yellow, and orange construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Marker or pen
- A large piece of cardboard or poster board

Get Ready: Read 1 Kings 18:16-40 together as a class. Discuss the power of God shown in the story and how Elijah stood up for his faith in the one true God.

Do this:

1. Cut out a large altar shape from the cardboard or poster board. This will be the base of your craft.
2. Using the blue construction paper, cut out raindrop shapes to symbolize the water poured on the altar. Glue these around the base of your altar.
3. From the red, yellow, and orange construction paper, cut out flame shapes. These will represent the fire that fell from heaven. Discuss how the fire consumed the wet altar, proving the power of the one true God.
4. Glue the flames on top of the altar, overlapping some of the water drops to show how powerful the fire was.
5. On the back of the altar, use the marker or pen to write a prayer or a pledge to always remember there is only one true God and to stand firm in faith, just like Elijah.

Prayer Activity: Prophets of Fire: A Prayer

Challenge

You'll Need:

- A Bible or Bible app
- Small stones or pebbles (one for each child)
- A large bowl of water
- A candle and matches (use only with adult supervision)

Get Ready: Read 1 Kings 18:16-40 to familiarize yourself with the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Gather all materials before the class begins.

Do this:

1. Start by retelling the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, focusing on how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to show that there is only one true God. Emphasize the part where God sends fire from heaven to consume the offering.
2. Discuss with the children how Elijah prayed to God and how God answered his prayer. Highlight the importance of having faith in the one true God.
3. Each child gets a small stone or pebble to represent their faith. Have them hold their stone as they think of one thing they want to pray for, focusing on the idea that God is powerful and listens to our prayers.
4. Place the bowl of water in the center of the room to represent the challenge Elijah set before the prophets of Baal, including the drenching of the altar. Light the candle (carefully and with adult supervision) to symbolize the fire from heaven that God sent in response to Elijah's faith and prayer.
5. Invite each child to come forward and place their stone in the bowl of water as they silently pray to God, asking Him to strengthen their faith and help them in whatever they are praying for.
6. Conclude with a group prayer, thanking God for being the one true God who listens and responds to our prayers, just like He did for Elijah.