

Elijah Calls Fire from Heaven

Level A | Lesson 4 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: The Lord is the one true God.

Text: 1 Kings 18:1-2, 18-46

Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Color Picture: Fire from Heaven
3. Memory Verse
4. Make: Fire on the Altar
5. Act It Out: Looking for Rain
6. Color: Elijah Calls Fire from Heaven



1 Kings 18:38-39

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice.... Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”

Talk About It

I Kings 18:1-2, 18-46: Fire from Heaven

1. Today we heard the story about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Elijah was a prophet of the Lord. He listened to the Lord and told people what the Lord said. The prophets of Baal worshiped a false god—a wooden statue. He did not have any power at all.
2. Elijah invited Ahab and the prophets of Baal to come to Mount Carmel and have a contest so that everyone would see who the real God was. The rules of the contest were that Elijah would set up an altar to worship the Lord, and the prophets of Baal would set up an altar to worship their god, Baal. The winner would be the person who could call God from heaven and bring fire to the altar.
3. The prophets of Baal tried first. Could they make fire come? (no)
4. Then Elijah took his turn. He built up the altar of the Lord that was on top of Mount Carmel. Then he put wood on top of it. But then he did something surprising! He did something that might stop the wood from burning. What was it? (He filled four water pots and poured the water on the altar again and again. There was so much water that it filled a trench all around the altar.)
5. Then Elijah called on the Lord. What happened next? (Fire fell from heaven and burned everything up—even the water! This was a miracle.)
6. Remember how there was no water in the land—there was a drought? This was because Ahab did not follow the Lord. When the prophets of Baal saw that the Lord had answered Elijah, they fell on their faces and said:

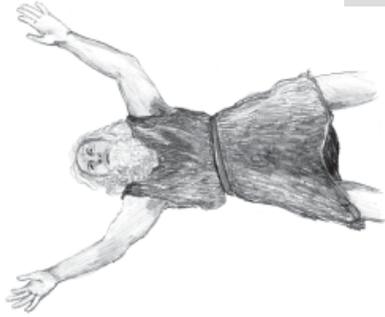
“The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!” (I Kings 19:40)

Let’s all say this together!

7. And then a wonderful thing happened! The drought ended. Elijah sent his servant, who was probably a boy, to look for rain clouds. The boy went and looked and looked—seven times. And then at last, he saw a tiny cloud coming up from the sea. It was like a man’s hand. And then dark rain clouds came and it rained and it rained! Just imagine how happy the people must have been. Now they would have lots to drink, and their crops would grow again.



Elijah Calls for Fire from Heaven



Memory Verse: 1 Kings 18:38
Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Key Message:
The Lord is the one true God.

Elijah Calls for Fire from Heaven

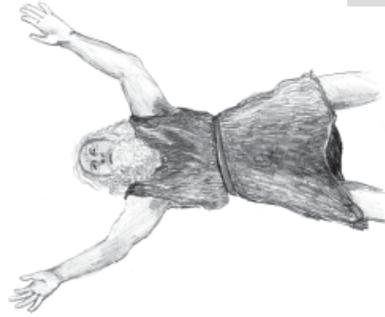


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Cut in quarters and give one to each student to take home.

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Make: Fire on the Altar

I Kings 18:1-2,18-46: Fire from Heaven

Bring the story to life by painting a picture of fire from heaven coming down on Elijah's altar.

Supplies Needed For Each Child

- picture page showing Elijah's altar (see attached sheet)
- paintbrush
- paints (fire colors)
- water for painting
- crayons for coloring the altar

Set the Scene by Reviewing the Story

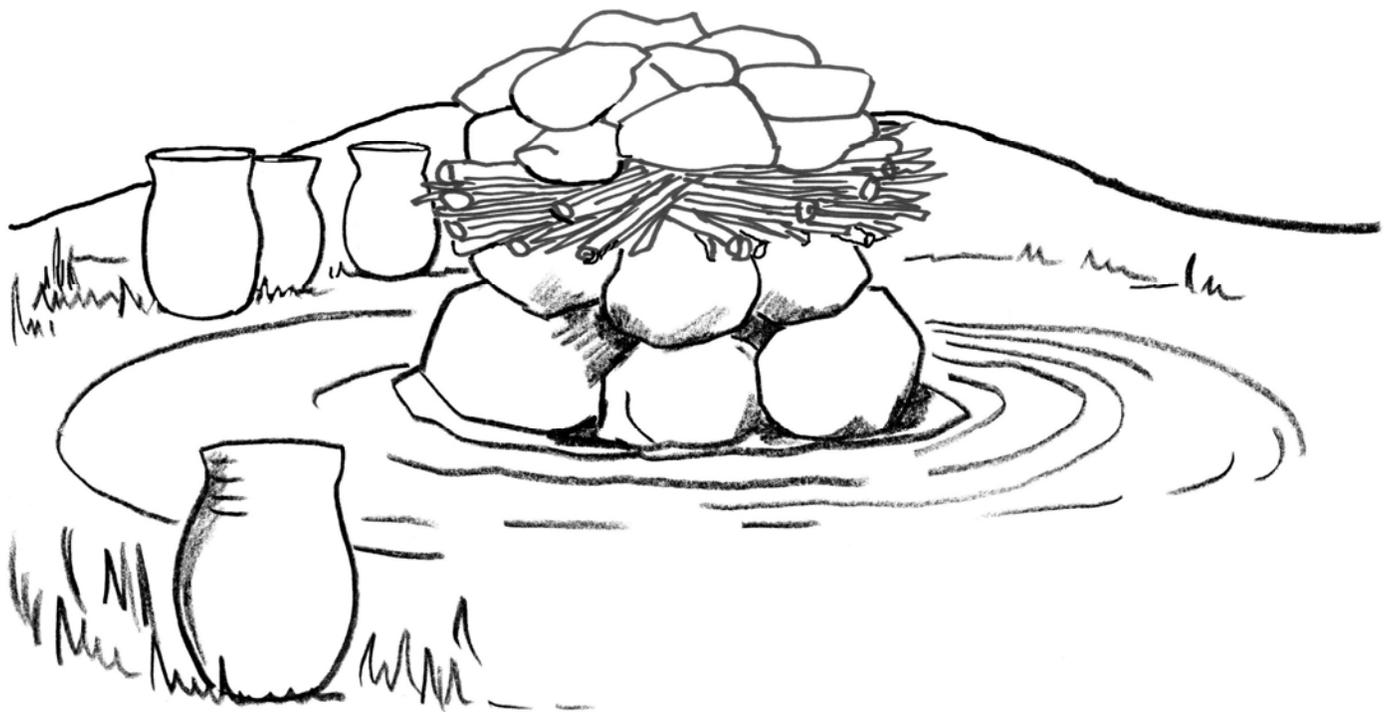
Elijah and the prophets of Baal held a contest to see who could get fire to come down from heaven to set fire to their altars. The prophets called and called all day, but nothing happened. Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, setting the twelve stones back into order.

Then he made a trench around the altar. Elijah put the wood on top of the altar and then cut up the bull that he was sacrificing and placed it on top. He ordered the men to pour water all over the altar three times. There was so much water that it filled the trench. Then Elijah called on the Lord. The Lord sent fire from heaven. It was so powerful that it burned up everything—even the water! The people called out, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"



Project Directions

1. Give each child a page with the picture of Elijah's altar and tell him or her to color the altar and sacrifice with crayons.
2. Ask the children where the fire came from. (From heaven—it came from the Lord.)
3. Take a dry paintbrush and show the children how they can make brush strokes coming from heaven and down to the altar of the Lord.
4. Have the children take their dry paintbrushes and make paint gestures to show the fire coming down from heaven.
5. Now have the children paint the fire coming down from heaven on the altar. While they are painting, help them imagine how hot the fire must have been to lick up the sacrifice, the water and even the stones!



Act It Out: Looking for Rain

I Kings 18:1-2,18-46: Fire from Heaven

This activity is to act out the story that takes place right after Elijah destroys the prophets of Baal. It celebrates the end of the drought that has gone on for three and a half years.

Supplies Needed for this Activity

- cups
- glass pitcher
- *optional*: lemonade or other drink powder
- crackers to eat
- water

Warm-up

As the story begins, the people of Israel are very hungry and thirsty. As you begin the lesson, offer the children dry crackers to eat so that they will begin to experience their own thirst. Show them a glass pitcher with powdered drink mix (lemonade) in the bottom. Ask the children: Can you drink this? Why not? What is missing?

Today we will be finding out what happened after the prophets of Baal were destroyed. Let's climb to the top of Mount Carmel and see what Elijah is doing there. (*Pretend to climb upwards and then sit down in a circle.*) Now Elijah had a servant. He was probably a boy who helped him. Imagine that you are that boy. You are going to do what Elijah asks you to do. Listen to the story, and do what Elijah tells you to do.

Enactment

And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." (*What did Elijah tell him to do? Let's all go and look! Pretend to stand up and go and look down at the sea from the mountain.*)



So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times Elijah said, "Go again." (*How many times did he look? Let's see if we can go and look seven times. Let's all count together as we go and look. One...two...three...*)

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Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.’” (*What did the cloud look like? Let’s listen to more of the story and find out what color the sky became.*)

Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. (I Kings 18:41-46) (*What color was the sky? What happened next? It rained—and the drought ended! Think how happy the children of Israel must have felt. They could drink at last. The streams and rivers would start flowing again. The plants could grow. People would have food.*)

Are you feeling thirsty? Let’s get some water and take a drink. Add water to the pitcher and make the lemonade. Share it with all of the children. Help them appreciate how good it feels to drink when you are thirsty. Imagine how good the children of Israel must have felt to finally have a drink!



