



Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for November 5, 2006

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"Elijah Triumphs with God"

1 Kings 18:20–24, 30–35, 38, 39

20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

.....

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

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38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

The four lessons in the last unit teach the children how to live as God's covenant people. A two-part covenant continues with God's part and a believer's part. God promises, and the believer obeys.

Elijah demonstrated standing up for God as a covenant person. Josiah showed that reform is possible. Disobedience sends the rebellious into exile. Repentance and restoration reveal God's love for His people in continuing the everlasting covenant.

Encourage your children to obey God even when they are with people who do not.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children that God helps believers stand true to Him.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Elijah challenged the false prophets.
2. We need to live in obedience to God's Word.
3. We must determine to do the right thing when we are with unbelievers.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For **Beginning the Lesson**, you will need the time line.

For **Telling the Lesson**, each child will need his promise box, a pencil, and two 3-by-5-inch cards.

For **Helping to Remember**, each child will need paper, a black crayon, and a red crayon. Draw an altar of stones on the chalkboard.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Were you ever with someone who was disobeying God? He was doing or saying something that you knew was wrong. (Discuss.)

Elijah had a problem like that. Elijah was a prophet. He told people about God. He was with many people who served Baal, a false god.

We can read about Elijah in the book of I Kings in the Bible. (Read the books of the Bible together from the time line. Help the children find 1 Kings 18.)

Find Elijah's name in 1 Kings 18:21. (Allow time for everyone to find the verse.)

Listen carefully as I tell you what Elijah did.

TELLING THE LESSON

Ahab was an evil king. He called the people to Mount Carmel. He called the prophets of the false god Baal. There were 450 false prophets. They did not believe in the true God.

Elijah was the only person there who believed in God. He told the people to decide whom they wanted to follow. Would they follow God, or would they follow Baal, the false god?

The people were silent. They would not decide. They did not know whom to follow. They did not know the true God.

Elijah thought of a way to show them the true God. He told the prophets of Baal to build an altar to Baal. Elijah said he would build an altar to God. They both would pray for fire to come down and burn up the sacrifice.

The people thought this was a good idea. "That is a good idea," they said. The prophets of Baal built an altar. They put wood on the altar. They put an animal sacrifice on the wood. Then they prayed to Baal. They prayed and prayed. They prayed all day. Nothing happened.

It was Elijah's turn. He repaired the broken altar with stones. He made a ditch around the bottom of the altar.

All the people came near to see what Elijah was doing. Elijah put wood on the altar. He laid an animal sacrifice on the wood. He filled four barrels with water. He poured the water on the sacrifice and wood. He did this three times. The water ran down and filled the ditch.

Then Elijah prayed, "Lord God . . . let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel" (1 Kings 18:36).

Fire came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood. It burned up the water in the ditch. It even burned up the dust around the altar.

Everyone, clap your hands. It was a wonderful sight to see! (Clap your hands.) All the people fell down with their faces to the ground. They said, "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God" (v. 39). (Ask the children to repeat it.)

(Distribute the promise boxes and cards. Write "Help" and "Stand" on the chalkboard for the children to copy, one word on each card. Explain that the word "stand" means to serve God even when others do not and that God will help you do this if you ask Him. The children should put their cards in their promise box.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Sometimes believers in God are with unbelievers who are not interested in following God. They do what they want to do. They may be unkind to people or animals. They may do things that are displeasing to God. They may use words that are not pleasing to God.

You must be very careful that you do not do the same thing. Leave if you are tempted to join their bad actions. Leave before someone thinks you are an unbeliever.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Distribute paper and crayons. Point to the altar on the chalkboard. Instruct the class members to draw an altar with the black crayon. With the red crayon they should draw fire around the altar.

Write the words "The Lord, He is God" under the altar on the chalkboard for the children to copy on their paper.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God" (1 Kings 18:39).

The people fell down with their faces (bowed) to the ground. They knew who was the true God.

There are many false gods in the world today. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Jesus can help us stand up for God. He will take us to heaven one day as he promised. Jesus shows us what God is like.

Today many people tell us that it is not right to say there is only one way to heaven. These people do not read the Bible. They do not believe that the words in it are true. They do not know God. They have not yet trusted in Jesus as Saviour.

1 KINGS 18:39

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS (Bible needed for extra credit text questions 1-4):

1. "Now it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, 'Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send (**RAIN, SNOW**) on the earth.'" **1 KINGS 18:1**

2. "Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, 'Is that you, O (**BUBBLER, TROUBLER**) of Israel?' " **1 KINGS 18:17**

3. "He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have (**FORSAKEN, KEPT**) the commandments of the LORD, and you have followed the Baals.'" **1 KINGS 18:18**

TRUE OR FALSE:

4. Elijah said to Ahab, "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." **1 KINGS 18:19**

TRUE OR FALSE

5. But Ahab would not send for all the children of Israel, nor would he gather the prophets together on Mount Carmel. **1 KINGS 18:20**

TRUE OR FALSE

6. "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.'" **1 KINGS 18:21**

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

7. "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put (**A, NO**) fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put (**A, NO**) fire under it." **1 KINGS 18:23**

8. " 'Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by (**RAIN, FIRE**), He is God.' So all the people answered and said, 'It is well spoken.' "**1 KINGS 18:24**

TRUE OR FALSE:

9. "So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us!' But there was no voice; no one answered." **1 KINGS 18:26**

TRUE OR FALSE

10. When it was Elijah's turn, he prayed to the LORD, " 'Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.' Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench." **1 KINGS 18:37-38**

TRUE OR FALSE

11. "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!' **1 KINGS 18:39**

TRUE OR FALSE

Crossword Puzzle (1 KINGS 18:1-40)

R R D F I R E V P F H Z V X P
C E O Z L Y I S R A E L B H L
L R O O D N S F R R Y U W M O
P V R S K E C I F I R C A S P
R D K T L J E Z E B E L Y G D
E T D V P E O I R C G U U Q H
M O E G A R M U E G M A H A B
H J M W G F O R N O X I J W Q
Y Q U A S L E P A W U I K G J
Y L S T A K Z N H C L X Y X J
M P N E U I P I A E T Q H W C
B V O R K Q E A I J T N F D X
P G C A S H E R A H V S U I V
R Y P W S S U H P V E B N O D
Y Q S L L U B I Q L A A B C M

AHAB
ELIJAH
MOUNT CARMEL
ASHERAH
FIRE
PROPHETS
BAAL
ISRAEL
RAIN
BULLS
JEZEBEL
SACRIFICE
CONSUMED
LORD
WATER

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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