



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 33

ELIJAH ON MT CARMEL (1 KINGS 18)

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:16–39

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Orange streamers, popsicle sticks, sand, water, basin, 4 jars, rocks, bull cutout, glue

Ask:

- Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Elijah fed by ravens)
- Does anyone know any other cool stories about Elijah? (Allow for answers)
- Today we're going to talk about probably the most famous story that has to do with Elijah, his sacrifice on Mount Carmel

Summarize

Something important to know about this story is that, during the time, the Israelites were often worshiping idols. The people in the surrounding lands worshiped fake gods and the Israelites began to worship them as well, breaking one of the Ten Commandments. One of these gods was named Baal. He was considered the god of rain and fertility. Remember, that Elijah told King Ahab in our story last week that there would be a drought (that means no rain). God was showing that he is in control of rain, not Baal, and today, we're going to see the climax of this story. Elijah is going to King Ahab, and they're going to have a little contest.

Read: 1 Kings 18:16–24

Ask:

- So what is our contest? (Who the real God is)
- Elijah is outnumbered 450–1. Have you ever had a time in your life when you were outnumbered? Tell me about it.
- Even though Elijah was outnumbered, he still had the true God on his side. Let's first follow the instructions Elijah gave to everyone before we continue our story.

Activity:

Have the kids build two altars out of popsicle sticks
If you have any kids too young, they can color the bulls to place on the altar

Read: 1 Kings 18:25-29

Act it Out:

Select kids to be the prophets of Baal and have them act out the story so far.
Dance, shout, and wail.

Ask:

- How would you feel as a prophet of Baal?
- How would you feel as Elijah?
- What do you think will happen next?
- When we read the next part, I want you to remember that there has been a drought for a really long time in Israel, meaning they don't have much water.

Read: 1 Kings 18:30-39

Act it Out:

Have one child play Elijah and act out the rest of the story. Place the popsicle stick altar in a bin with sand on it. Place 12 stones around it. Have kids fill 4 cups with water and dump it into the container. Do this 3 times total. After Elijah prays, have kids use orange or yellow streamers to make the fire of the sacrifice. If you have the ability to do a bonfire you can do this, too. Show the kids how impossible it would be to light soaking wood on fire, explaining that it was only done by God. Then light another bundle that is dry.

Ask:

- Who do you think won the contest? (Yahweh, the true God)
- Because Elijah was faithful and brave to stand up against the prophets of Baal, many people remembered that there is only one True God.

Apply:

There will be times in your life when you feel like you're the only one standing up for God and doing the right thing. But the truth is that you're never alone. God is with you, and unlike the fake god Baal, he sees, he hears, and he cares. We know he is the true God because of all that he has shown throughout the Bible and since then. Do you know anyone in your life who has seen or had a miracle happen for them? (Allow for answers).

Only God can do that! He is powerful and mighty beyond our greatest imagination. He is God alone. And he is good and faithful. When we walk with him, we are never alone, and we can trust that he always proves to be the true and mighty God.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids color the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: 1 Kings 18:38-39

Close in Prayer



Line up sticks in a row, then glue two sticks across. Finally, add hot glue gun or super glue drops where you want to place the legs (don't worry about them being perfectly equal, they'll be in sand). Turn it over, layer sand and rocks, then the altar with the bull on top.

