

Upper Elementary Elijah and Ahab

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ candle
- ☐ coffee stir stick
- ☐ lighter
- ☐ water
- ☐ bowl
- ☐ pepper
- ☐ toothpick
- ☐ dish soap

[illegible]

Topic:	Elijah vs. Baal
Intro:	20 Questions Truth and Lies: Ask children if they are familiar with the game 20 Questions. Play a practice round with them to make sure they know how it works: a child will write a word on the board (a person, place or thing) and the teacher faces away and asks up to 20 yes or no questions, ("Is it a place?" "Yes" "Is it in the USA" "Yes" "Is it in New York?" "No," etc). Official round: Secretly assign half the children to only give lies for answers (say "yes" when the answer is "no") and the other half to tell the truth. The child facing away from the board and guessing will have to try and figure out which children are lying and which ones are telling the truth. (This may make the game impossible to play, depending on how the guesser reacts to this.) What is a prophet? (someone who tells God's message) So then what is a false prophet? (someone who tells a message that is not from God) There were many false prophets in Israel at the same time as Elijah. They were telling people a false message. How could they know who was telling the truth?

[illegible]

1 Kings 18:16-19	So, Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" He answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house, in that you have forsaken Yahweh's commandments and you have followed the Baals. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and four hundred fifty of the prophets of Baal, and four hundred of the prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."
	What things had Ahab done to make him a trouble-maker? (worship Baal, encourage the Israelites to worship Baal, bring in prophets of Baal, kill the prophets of God) What had Elijah done to be called a trouble-maker? (tell Ahab about the wrong things he had done) Do people like to have someone point out their faults? Have you ever heard anyone accused of lying say, "No, you're the liar!" It's important to always discuss our beliefs with gentleness and love. But even when we do, sometimes people will feel judged and might then falsely accuse us as a way of avoiding guilty feelings. The world likes to call bad things, good things; and good things, bad things.



Elijah and Ahab



1



1 Kings 18:16-19

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Who was the troublemaker?

Elijah Ahab

Worshiped Baal

☐ ☐

Encouraged the Israelites to worship Baal

☐ ☐

Brought in prophets of Baal

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Killed God's Prophets

☐ ☐

1 Kings
18:20-
24

So, Ahab sent to all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together to Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you waver between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people didn't say a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left as a prophet of Yahweh; but Baal's prophets are four hundred fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bull, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under it. You call on the name of your god, and I will call on Yahweh's name. The God who answers by fire, let him be God." All the people answered, "What you say is good."

Elijah told the Israelites they could not worship both God and Baal. They had to make a choice. But they didn't want to choose. They were silent. God would have to do something impressive through Elijah to get their attention.

candle
&
lighter

Use the lighter to light one candle.

Were you surprised to see the candle light?
(no) Why not? (that's what lighters do)

Blow the candle out, holding the lit lighter about four inches above it (so that it is touching the smoke from the candle). The fire will travel down the smoke and relight the candle, seeming like magic (practice this ahead of time to get the hang of it).

Were you surprised to see the candle light?
(yes) Why? (it didn't touch the candlestick)
Anyone could say their god was the real God. Elijah wanted to prove that God is real and Baal is fake. A miracle of creating fire from nowhere would do this.

2

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Barbeque

- Who: All Prophets of Baal
- Where: Mount Carmel
- Hosted by: Elijah
- Limit one bull per group.
- B.Y.O. fire!

1 Kings
18:25-29

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves, and dress it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." They took the bull which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, "Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice, and nobody answered. They leaped about the altar which was made. At noon, Elijah mocked them, and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is deep in thought, or he has gone somewhere, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he sleeps and must be awakened." They cried aloud, and cut themselves in their way with knives and lances until the blood gushed out on them. When midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the evening offering; but there was no voice, no answer, and nobody paid attention.

If anyone thinks the Bible isn't funny, they haven't read this part! The prophets of Baal are running around doing ridiculous things: cutting themselves to bleed, dancing around the altar, shouting louder and louder. Elijah couldn't help but make fun of them. What are the ways Elijah is sarcastic here? (Maybe he's day-dreaming or using the toilet or traveling somewhere. Or maybe he's asleep, and you have to wake him up) Do we need to shout at the top of our lungs for God to hear us? Do we need to jump and dance around to get God's attention? Do we need to do things that hurt our bodies to prove to God that we love Him? Jesus told His disciples that our prayers should be modest and simple, not exaggerated to get the attention of others. He said, "When you pray, don't be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the meeting places and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward. When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private, and he will reward you. When you pray, don't talk on and on as people do who don't know God. They think God likes to hear long prayers. Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask."

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Elijah:



I thank you, folks! I'll be here all week.

Israel's first stand up comic

1 Kings
18:30-35

Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me!"; and all the people came near to him. He repaired Yahweh's altar that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yahweh's word came, saying, **"Israel shall be your name."** With the stones he built an altar in Yahweh's name. He made a trench around the altar large enough to contain two seahs of seed. He put the wood in order, and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." He said, "Do it a second time;" and they did it the second time. He said, "Do it a third time;" and they did it the third time. The water ran around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

bowl,
water,
stick &
lighter

Place the stirring stick in the bowl and pour water over it until it is soaked. Try to light it with the lighter.

Why won't it light? (wet wood won't catch fire)
Elijah wanted to make sure the people really understood who was God. Making fire from nowhere would already be impressive enough. But Elijah wanted to give the prophets of Baal the advantage over him. There were 450 of them and only one of him. They had all day to pray to Baal for fire, and he just said a quick prayer. They had dry wood that would have easily caught fire, and he would use wet wood which should be impossible to catch fire. Elijah was making sure they had no excuses to accuse him of cheating or saying it was just a coincidence that lightning came down at that moment. As followers of God, we have to do the same thing in our lives sometimes. We have to go out of our way to be extra honest, extra helpful, and extra hard-working to avoid being accused of false things.



1 Kings 18:30-35

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Circle who had the advantage.	
There were 450 prophets of Baal	God had one prophet: Elijah
Baal's prophets had all day to pray for fire	Elijah prayed at the end of the day
Baal's altar had dry wood	Elijah's altar was soaked with water
Baal is a statue	God created the universe

Put a star next to the advantage that really mattered.

1 Kings 18:36-39	At the time of the evening offering, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Yahweh, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, Yahweh, hear me, that this people may know that you, Yahweh, are God, and that you have turned their heart back again." Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces. They said, "Yahweh, he is God! Yahweh, he is God!"
	Think about the first time you ever saw fireworks. You were so impressed, you probably shouted out with excitement. The people watching were quite impressed with this miracle. They shouted out with excitement, too. People were praising God again after years of worshipping statues. What do you think God will do, now that they are turning their hearts back to him?
	Three ingredients are needed to make fire: fuel (something to burn, like wood), oxygen (from the air), and heat, to ignite the fire.



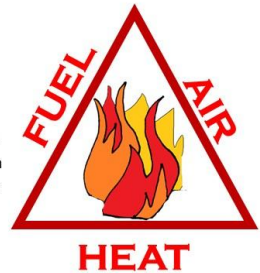
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Fire is made when a fuel, (like wood), heat, and oxygen from the air combine.

When the wood is wet, the water is keeping the oxygen in the air separate from the fuel. Without the fuel and oxygen touching, a fire cannot start.



1 Kings
18:41-46

Elijah said to Ahab, "Get up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So, Ahab went up to eat and to drink. Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down on the earth, and put his face between his knees. He said to his servant, "Go up now and look toward the sea." He went up and looked, then said, "There is nothing." He said, "Go again" seven times. On the seventh time, he said, "Behold, a small cloud, like a man's hand, is rising out of the sea." He said, "Go up, tell Ahab, 'Get ready and go down, so that the rain doesn't stop you.'" In a little while, the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. Yahweh's hand was on Elijah; and he tucked his cloak into his belt and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Do you remember what happened the first time Elijah met Ahab? (he told him God would not send any rain until he said so) God was punishing the Israelites for worshiping Baal and other false gods. He wanted to get their attention. Even when they had no water in the land and were starving, they were still so stubborn. But when they began to pray to God again, He sent them rain. And not just a little rain, but a downpour. It must have been like Israel was getting a shower after being covered with the filth of idol worship. No matter how dirty our hearts get, God always gives us a second chance. He just wants us to realize that our sins made us dirty on the inside and that only Him coming in can clear out the gross stuff. Asking God in isn't complicated. He is ready to wash us off and make us clean again.



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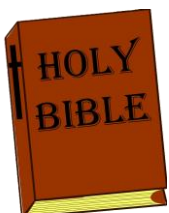


Mount Carmel is a coastal mountain range in northern Israel stretching from the Mediterranean Sea towards the southeast.



Closing:	Show children a bowl of water. Shake lots of pepper into the water. Show them a toothpick.
	Imagine this toothpick is something sinful that is very tempting. Stir the water with it. It's easy for the pepper to come in contact with the temptation.
	Coat the toothpick 1/2 of its length with liquid dish detergent. Put it in the water again. The pepper will run to the edge of the container.
	God commands His children to run from sin. When we see something that is tempting to us, don't look at it, don't touch it, don't daydream about it. Get as far away from it as you can. The Israelites probably thought just one sacrifice to Baal wouldn't be so bad, but before they knew it, they were worshiping a silly statue, and ignoring their Creator. What can we focus on doing to keep us away from sin? (praying, reading our Bibles, listening to Christian music, spending time with friends and mentors who are good influences on us)

Elijah and Ahab



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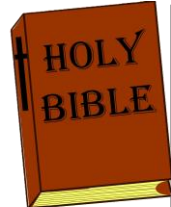
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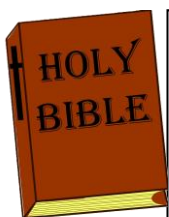
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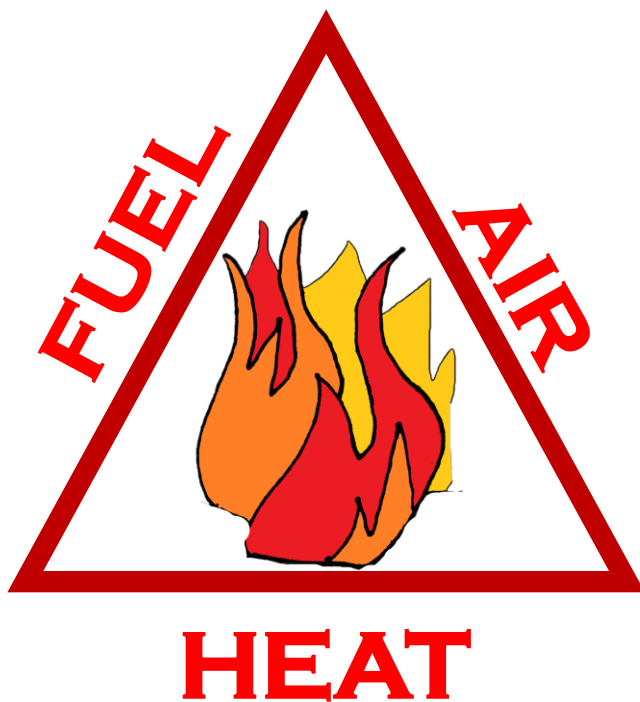
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Elijah and Ahab



Name: _____

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

ELIJAH

AHAB

PROPHETS

OBADIAH

RAIN

FIRE

SACRIFICE

MOUNT CARMEL

BAAL

ASHERAH

PRAYING

SHOUTING