

# LESSON 4

## ELIJAH CHALLENGES THE PROPHETS OF BAAL ON MT. CARMEL

### OBJECTIVES

1. To know that the Lord is the one and only true God.
2. To understand that God wants us to make the right choices in our faith.
3. To stand up for God by doing what is right, even if we stand alone.

### MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

(Proverbs 15:29)

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, some days we have challenges. Sometimes, the challenge seems so big, and we don't know how to overcome it. But You said that You will provide for us and care for us in times of need. Please give us the courage to be brave. We know that You are the only true God. Apart from You, there is no other god that can save us. Give us, Lord, a courageous spirit to stand up for what is right. There are many false gods around us, and we need to focus our eyes on You. Please give us the Holy Spirit as we eagerly pray for Your presence to come into our lives.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Elijah, the Prophet
- b. Understanding the Geography
- c. Israel's Worship of Baal
- d. Another Faithful Servant of God
- e. The Challenge for the True God

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application

- a. Truly Knowing God!
- b. Taking a Stand for God

#### 4. Activity—Mt. Carmel Diorama



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### Israel and Baal

Baal is a Semitic god mentioned earliest in the Bible as Baal of Peor (Num 25:3, Deut 4:3). The Hebrew word ba'al literally means “lord” or “owner.” This generic name may be the reason for the multiple iterations of Baal throughout the Israelites' journey to and residence in Canaan, as they faced the spiritual influences of the people around them. The Baal of the Canaanites was a supreme deity associated with the weather, agriculture, and animal fertility. In Judges 8:33, after Gideon passed, the phrase “Baal-Berith” connotes that Baal, like the Lord, was a god of a covenant.

The Sidonian princess Queen Jezebel introduced the Baal during Elijah's period to the Israelites as the national religious deity. This Phoenician-Sidonian Baal is the equivalent of the Babylonian-Assyrian god Hadad, the god of the thunderstorms. The worship of Baal was prevalent until the reign of Jehu, who, by the command of God, struck down the house of Ahab and Jezebel and tore down the idols of Baal (2 Kgs 10:26-28). Prophet Jeremiah called these idols dull-hearted and foolish, being only wood, and emphasized that there is none like the Lord, King of the nations (Jer 10:5-10).

#### The Standoff

The false prophets at the time of Elijah were different from those “disguised as sheep,” as warned by Jesus in Matthew 7:15. The prophets that faced off against Elijah on Mount Carmel were prophets of a different religion altogether and did not suppose themselves to be of the Lord.

They did not hide their nature or their worship of Baal. This was the spiritual adultery committed by the people of Israel: while they were cleaved to the Lord, they did not practice fidelity in their faith, but worshipped Baal and Asherah—the national religion. For this reason, all the more was courage required by Elijah to stand up against them. As Elijah proclaimed a physical drought, the Israelite people were in the midst of a spiritual drought.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

### Courage

What does courage mean to our students today? Does it mean to be daring or to take risks others wouldn't take? These are outcomes of having courage, but do not define courage itself. In school, students will face a myriad of scenarios where they have to decide whether or not they will do what is morally, ethically, and spiritually correct, or side with the popular trend. It is not easy for our young students to be different from their peers, to "say no," or more importantly, to be a witness for the gospel. This lesson focuses around Elijah's actions that were courageous, but students should be reminded that Elijah's courage only stemmed from his intimate relationship with God. Review Elijah's faithfulness with the students, guiding them to see that it was a direct factor in building up Elijah's confidence to complete this work.

### Prayer to God

Your students have been taught to turn to God when they have a need, but this act of reliance can become an empty, habitual action if our conduct is not like that of a faithful Christian and if we don't worship God alone, wholeheartedly. Elijah possessed two important traits outlined in James 5:15-18. Elijah was a righteous man who prayed fervently, thus allowing his prayer to be effective. The work of prayer is important, but remind your students that not only do they have to pray fervently, but once they say "Amen," they must also act, speak, and walk in a way that pleases God. If their conduct after prayer is unbecoming of a Christian, then the words they speak in prayer are likened to empty promises being made to God. If possible, conclude this lesson with a longer prayer than normal to remind the students of the importance of an effective prayer.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

Raise your hand if you have a favorite toy. Favorite video game? Favorite TV show? Favorite actor? Favorite singer? Favorite comic book? Favorite super hero?

All of us have favorites. We like these things because they mean something to us, because we want to be like them, because they excite us, or for many other reasons.

However, do we sometimes make these things more important than God in our lives? Do we choose to have fun instead of worshipping the one true God? Do we play a game, read a book, or watch a show, even when we know that it is against the Bible and even when we know that God and our parents wouldn't want us to watch it? Instead of reading the Bible and praying, do we choose to have fun? When we do this, we are putting these things as more important than God. When we do this, these things become idols in our lives. They take our focus away from God, and we must recognize how important it is to put away these idols.

Today, we will learn how Elijah challenged the entire Israelite nation to follow God and only God.



## Vocabulary

**Asherah:** a foreign idol from the region of Sidon, tied with fertility

**Baal:** a foreign idol from the region of Sidon, associated with thunder

**drought:** a period of time during which rain does not fall

**altar:** a place where people offer sacrifices to God, usually made of stone, wood, or bronze

**religious adultery:** the act of worshipping more than one god at the same time; the act of abandoning the true God to worship a false god



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### Elijah, the Prophet

Today, we will continue to learn about the faithful prophet for whom God cared and provided, Elijah the Tishbite.

Discuss with the student next to you two ways God provided for Elijah and two ways Elijah was faithful to God. (God provided water and bread brought by ravens at the Brook Cherith; God provided oil and flour for Elijah, the widow of Zarephath, and her son. Elijah spoke as God had commanded regarding the drought; Elijah went where God commanded him: to the Brook Cherith and to Zarephath.)

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery map to the students now. It indicates the important locations in Elijah's travels and will be referenced in the lesson.

### Understanding the Geography

Before we dive into the story, we will check our maps and find the place we are studying about today. Can anyone find Mount Carmel? [Locate points 6 and 7 on the map.] Let's draw a muscular arm here! Today, we will be learning about a standoff between Elijah and the prophets of two false gods the Israelites were worshipping at the time: Baal, the god whom they believed brought them rain to nourish their crops, and Asherah, the goddess of fertility whom they believed could give them and their animals more babies. Who do you think introduced these gods to the Israelites for them to worship? (King Ahab's wife, Queen Jezebel.)

### Israel's Worship of Baal

Queen Jezebel wanted Israel to worship Baal and Asherah, the gods she had brought from her home country of Sidon. Along with the idols, she also brought many prophets to help her worship these false gods. But these prophets were false prophets. Can you guess how many there were? Let us read 1 Kings 18:19; there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 hundred prophets of Asherah! And to make sure her religion was the national religion,

Jezebel also killed many of the prophets of the Lord. This was a grave sin and made God very angry.

When God wants to deliver a message to His people, how does He do so? Through His prophets. Usually, the message the prophets delivered was not a kind message, but a message of warning, to turn back and only worship the true God. That is why Elijah proclaimed a natural disaster across the nation of Israel. Does anyone remember what it was? (A drought.) Yes! During a drought, no rain would fall, so the crops would dry out and there would be no water to drink or food to eat. By God's command through Elijah, it did not rain for three and a half years. What happens to your mouth if you don't drink any water for a day? It goes dry. Can you imagine if all the water in the area dries up so that you have no more water to drink? This was how angry the Israelites made God with their worship of Baal and Asherah.

### Another Faithful Servant of God

Now, even though Jezebel had managed to kill many prophets of the Lord, one of her servants, named Obadiah, was still faithful to God and hid 100 prophets of the Lord in two caves, feeding them with bread and water. This was a man who feared God! In the third year of the drought, God told Elijah to show himself to Ahab; God was going to send rain soon. God wanted Elijah to show King Ahab who was the one and only, almighty God. As Elijah was on his way to see King Ahab, he suddenly met Obadiah, who had been sent to search for water. Elijah told Obadiah, "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'" At first, Obadiah was afraid that the Spirit of God would take Elijah away and that King Ahab would think he was lying. But Elijah promised Obadiah that he would not go anywhere because this was God's plan. Elijah wasn't going to hide anymore; it was time for Elijah to make a stand, to show King Ahab who was the one true God.

### The Challenge for the True God

When King Ahab saw Elijah, what did he call Elijah? ("O troubler of Israel.") But Elijah responded that it was not his

that there had not been any rain; he was only the messenger. It was King Ahab and his father's house who had brought the trouble to Israel because they would not listen to the commands of the Lord and chose to follow the Baals. This was religious adultery. The Ten Commandments says that we cannot commit adultery, which means we must remain faithful to one husband or to one wife. Religious adultery is very similar; the people of Israel were only supposed to remain faithful to and worship one God, but they were worshipping many. What's worse, they were unsure of who the true God was and unsure of whom they should worship.

Elijah was going to put an end to this, so he told King Ahab to send for all the prophets of Baal and Asherah and for the Israelites. They all gathered at Mount Carmel. Elijah said to the people, "How long will you keep wavering between Baal and God? If the Lord is your God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not say a single word. So, he put forth a challenge to all the false prophets of Baal and Asherah. Does anyone remember how many there were? (There were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.) Each of the prophets would offer a bull as a sacrifice. The God who answered by fire, He was God. The people agreed that this challenge was a good one.

Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. So all 450 prophets began to shout, "O Baal, hear us!" Nothing happened. Elijah began to laugh at them. "Maybe Baal's taking a nap," Elijah teased. "Maybe he's away on a trip." The prophets cried out and cut themselves. Maybe by shouting and making themselves bleed, they could get Baal's attention. The prophets of Baal tried harder and harder, but no fire came from heaven. Nothing happened at all.

Late that afternoon, it was Elijah's turn, but before Elijah prayed, he knew how important it was for the people to understand that God was the true God of the Israelites. So, he took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, and built an altar from them. He prepared the wood for the altar, and then placed the sacrifice on top. Then, he took four large jars and asked men to fill the four jars with water. Remember that there was a drought, so water was rare! But Elijah wanted to make sure God's power was shown clearly. He instructed the four jars to be poured over the sacrifice and on the wood three times. In total, how many jars of water did they pour on the altar? (Twelve.) The water soaked the wood and even filled up the trench that he had dug around the altar. After all this, Elijah waited for the time that God had set for evening sacrifices, and then prayed. Let us read his prayer: 1 Kings 18:36-37. Elijah was praying that God would show to all the people that He was the true God, and that He had turned their hearts away from Baal to return to Him again. Right away, God sent fire from heaven. The fire was

so hot that it consumed everything! It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wet wood. It burned up the stones. It even burned up the water in the trench! It was certainly a miraculous sign from the true God.

When the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said... [Instruct students to read 1 Kings 18:39 together with a loud voice] "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" The people "fell on their faces" at the sight of God's power and acknowledged that God alone was the God of Israel. Elijah commanded all the prophets of Baal to be seized, not one was to escape, and he executed these false prophets who had tried to cause the people to worship a false god. Elijah then turned to King Ahab and told him to eat and drink, for there would no longer be the trouble of the drought. God had shown that He was the true almighty God. Rain was coming.

This was such an amazing event! God's power was displayed for all to see. Fire came down, the false prophets were killed, and God's people turned from their idols to return to worshipping the one true God. "Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain" (1 Kgs 18:45). God's mighty work had been done and the people had returned to the Lord. The drought was over.

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Guide the students to fill in the blanks. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.





## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One true God

In Elijah's time, idols and false gods surrounded the Israelites, who had been led to worship the wrong gods. But in the challenge on Mount Carmel, the Israelites saw firsthand who the true God was. There is only one true God, and that is our God.

Nowadays, idols or false gods may not surround us, but we still might find it hard to focus on worshipping the one true God. We must remember that there is only one God whom we must worship. This God is living and all-powerful. He is our Creator and the only one through whom we can receive salvation. We should not turn to worship idols of this world, and falter between God and them. We must be confident that there is only one true God and stay faithful to Him.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What did God want Elijah to do to end the drought?** He wanted Elijah to show himself to King Ahab.
- 2. How many prophets of the Lord did Obadiah hide?** He hid 100 prophets in two caves.
- 3. How many prophets of Baal and Asherah were there?** There were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.
- 4. Who was at Mount Carmel to see the challenge of the true God?** Elijah, King Ahab, the 850 false prophets, and the people of Israel were at Mount Carmel.
- 5. How many stones did Elijah use to build the altar?** Twelve stones.
- 6. How many jars of water did Elijah have poured on the sacrifice?** Twelve jars of water.
- 7. What happened after Elijah prayed to God?** The fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice, the altar, and all the water around it. Then the people fell on their faces and proclaimed, "The Lord, He is God!"



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. TRULY KNOWING GOD!

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and go over it with the students. Allow the students to read the scenarios on their own, and then ask them how they would have reacted in the same situations. Allow the students to come to their own conclusion about the importance of knowing God and standing up for God.]

#### 1. God wants us to know Him and be aware of the gods of our culture so that we can make decisions in times of confrontation.

How important is it to know God? Our lives depend on it. Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is **eternal life**, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Exodus 20:3 also states, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

#### A. Why would it be foolish to live as if there were no God?

Read Psalm 53:1.

*"The fool has said in his heart,  
'There is no God.'  
They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity;  
There is none who does good."*

### B. In today's age, what gods do people worship? Do we worship idols in this country?

An idol can really be anything that you allow to take first place in your life, instead of the true and living God. Maybe we don't worship idols of wood or stone, but we may worship material idols (toys, possessions), human idols (athletes, celebrities, etc.), or idols of the eyes, of the flesh, and of pride (power, pleasure, etc.). There are also other idols, such as drugs and alcohol, and false religions, such as witchcraft and the occult. These idols are what keep us from knowing God fully and truly desiring Him.

If we desire to know God and love God, we must recognize the idols of this culture and turn away from them. Then, we can begin or renew a relationship with Jesus Christ, and put our trust and faith in Him. He promised us, "He who believes in me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35).

#### Scenario

Sitting at the lunch table surrounded by his friends, Jacob looked around. They excitedly shared their tips and tricks for playing the latest video games and talked about how they couldn't believe what had happened in last week's episode of the show they were all watching. Jacob looked down at his sandwich and thought, "They always talk about these things every single day! I don't play the latest games, and I don't watch that show. I feel so left out!" Grudgingly eating his sandwich, Jacob remembered how he had learned about the idols of the world in RE class recently. A light bulb suddenly lit up in his head. "What if... those games and that TV show... are their idols?" Even though Jacob felt left out at times, he knew that it was good that he didn't follow his friends in worshipping those idols. He wanted to be like Elijah and follow the true God. As he walked home that day, instead of being upset, Jacob eagerly thought about learning the word of God so that he could draw closer to Him. Entering the door, Jacob exclaimed, "I'm home, Mom! Are you free to read the Bible with me?" With a smile on her face and a Bible in hand, his mother soon appeared, and together, they read the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. After reading, they prayed together. Feeling refreshed, Jacob thought, "Wow, why didn't I ever think of reading the Bible after school before?" After that day, Jacob was determined to read the Bible as often as he could and to draw close to God.

2. **We need to confront what is right and wrong.** Just because the majority rules, it doesn't mean that what the majority thinks is the truth. Even though many people worship sincerely, if they worship the wrong thing, it can be self-destructive.

#### Scenario

"Come on, Maria, hurry up!" Waiting just off school grounds, Maria's friends motioned to her. All of Maria's friends had decided that it would be fun to go to the nearby convenience store to get a snack for lunch, but it was against school rules to leave during school hours. "No one's going to get hurt, so why does it matter?" Maria's friends reasoned. But Maria still knew that it was wrong. She knew that the rules had been put there to keep them safe. Maria had always been known as the "good girl," and she didn't want her friends to make fun of her again. Still... Maria closed her eyes and said a silent prayer in her heart. Asking God for strength, she determined not to let her friends pressure her into doing the wrong thing. With a firm voice, Maria politely declined. "No, I don't want to go with you guys." Her friends shook their heads and snickered. "We knew you were going to say no... you're never any fun. This is the last time we'll ever ask you to join us for anything!" Watching them leave, frozen by the stinging of her friends' words, Maria felt more alone than ever. But in her heart, Maria knew that she was never alone. She'd rather stand alone on the right side, God's side, than with others on the wrong side. Knowing that she had made the right choice, Maria smiled and quietly recited some verses as she went to get lunch.

## 2A. TAKING A STAND FOR GOD

It is never easy to take a stand against popular opinion, but this is what is asked of us when we are called to be Christians. Ask your students what they think makes a good Christian. What kind of conduct, speech, and thoughts let people know that they are good Christians? Next, ask your students how many of their friends exhibit these qualities. There may be a few, but, by and large, most people we meet outside of church, even those with good qualities, don't follow God's commandments. In elementary school, students will start to face the pressure to be normal and accepted. But for all the people of faith in the Bible, they didn't expect to blend into the crowd of normalcy. Rather, they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb 11:13).

Let's reflect on what kind of peer pressures you may face at school and how you may hide your Christian qualities to avoid being mocked or ridiculed. For example, you may be laughed at for saying grace or for not using rude language, or pressured into making fun of others, cheating on tests, skipping classes, stealing money from your parents to buy lunch at school, playing games on your phones or computer, or gossiping about others. We can encounter any or all of these in school, so we must remember to stand firm and take a stand for God.

Ask the students to brainstorm together different peer pressures they may face and how they can take a stand for God. Refer to 1 Peter 5:9 and 2 Timothy 2:22 to encourage students to work together to resist these peer pressures so that they can all be like Elijah.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Put the students in groups of 2-3 and ask them to read the scenarios and answer the discussion questions. When they have all finished discussing, come together as a class to discuss their answers.]

### Scenarios

A. It was Christmas time and Nicole's friends had planned a Christmas party where they would play "Secret Santa," which required each person to buy a present for another secretly. Nicole knew that Christmas had pagan origins and that the Bible did not tell us to celebrate Christmas, but she didn't want to risk losing her friends or becoming a social outcast!

- **What were the peer pressures Nicole faced?** She felt pressured to join the party and participate in Secret Santa because she didn't want to be considered an outsider.
- **How could Nicole make a stand for God?** She could make a stand by not participating in the party and explaining to her friends why she didn't observe Christmas. She could go even further by sharing what she believed being a Christian means.

B. Matt's friends at school were always making dirty jokes at school to make fun of their teachers or other classmates. He knew that the jokes they were making were not nice and could hurt others, but Matt was afraid that if he didn't laugh along with them and join in, then they would think he was a boring, uptight person.

- **How could Matt make a stand for God?** Matt could make a stand for God by letting his friends know that he is a Christian, and that he does not like it when they use bad language or make fun of others in a hurtful way. He could also make sure that he doesn't do the same!
- **Have you ever experienced the same situation as Matt? If so, how did you respond?** Allow students to share.

## 2B. ELIJAH'S POWERFUL PRAYER

The way to overcome peer pressure together is first and foremost prayer. Prayer is also a simple way for students to experience that the Lord is their God and is real. Read James 5:15-18 together with the class, emphasizing on "righteous." Quiz the students on what it means to be "righteous." Does God hear the wicked? Proverbs 15:29 says that God is "far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous." So, while we work hard to take a stand for God, we must build up our courage and bravery. Read Joshua 1:9 and 2 Timothy 1:7 together with the class. Have the students memorize Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel together; it is a prayer that asks God to hear his cry to show the people that the Lord is the true God. Elijah's prayer was, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me." The repetition expresses the burden on his soul. Elijah's prayer were answered by great works from God because Elijah was:

1. **righteous** – He did what was right in God's eyes and conducted himself as a servant of God (a Christian) would.
2. **effective and fervent** – This was truly a prayer of faith. He trusted God for the outcome so completely that the actual request was not mentioned. He didn't ask for fire, but he did ask for God to be honored. What an effective and fervent prayer!

**Note:** This would be a good opportunity to share with students how you prayed for and received the Holy Spirit. Explain that even after Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, he still prayed seven times for rain to come. Only then did he see the cloud of rain. Students need to pray as often as they can to ensure that they can stand strong with courage for God.

[Continue with Life Application Worksheet #2.]

A. Oscar was fearful every time he went to school. He knew that the moment he stepped into school, Roger would grab him and take his lunch money. Oscar had tried praying about this, but felt as if his prayers had no power... One day, Oscar told his RE teacher about his problem, and his RE teacher told him that it was very serious and that he should tell his parents and schoolteacher. But his RE teacher also told him that they could also pray together for this challenge. And guess what? God came through for Oscar. When they all prayed for this matter, God heard their cry! The following week, the teacher caught Roger in the act of bullying and the school officials disciplined him. Our God is truly a mighty God who knows our fears, and He is there for us.

- **What did Oscar pray about in his prayer?** He prayed for the courage to tell his schoolteacher about Roger, for God's protection so that Roger wouldn't steal his lunch money, and for peace so that even if something bad happened, Oscar would not be discouraged.
- **Do you have a teacher or friends that you can pray together with about important matters? Please list them out and thank God!**

B. Over a year ago, Vicky's dad lost his job. For an entire year, every night, Vicky's parents would bring her and her little brother together to pray at night. They would always pray for God to provide for their family and to help their dad find a job, among other prayer requests. After a year, Vicky's dad finally found a new job! Thank God!! It was one of the happiest days of Vicky's life. God had provided!

- **How do you think Vicky felt when she was praying for the same thing over and over again for a year without any answer?** She probably felt tired, sad that there was no result, discouraged, unsure, or doubtful, but thankful that she could pray together with her family.
- **Have you ever prayed a long time for something? What was it?**

[Discuss the questions as a class, and then ask the students to take out a piece of paper. Instruct them, "In your own words, use Elijah's prayer as an example to ask God for help with one of the peer pressures you brainstormed about earlier." Provide guidance where needed.]





## Activity

### Mt. Carmel Diorama

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To allow students to visualize the magnitude of Elijah's challenge on Mount Carmel.

A visual representation of the sheer number of prophets Elijah challenged alone will be stunning and can help students understand that while it may be difficult to stand up for God, God will always be on our side.

#### Materials

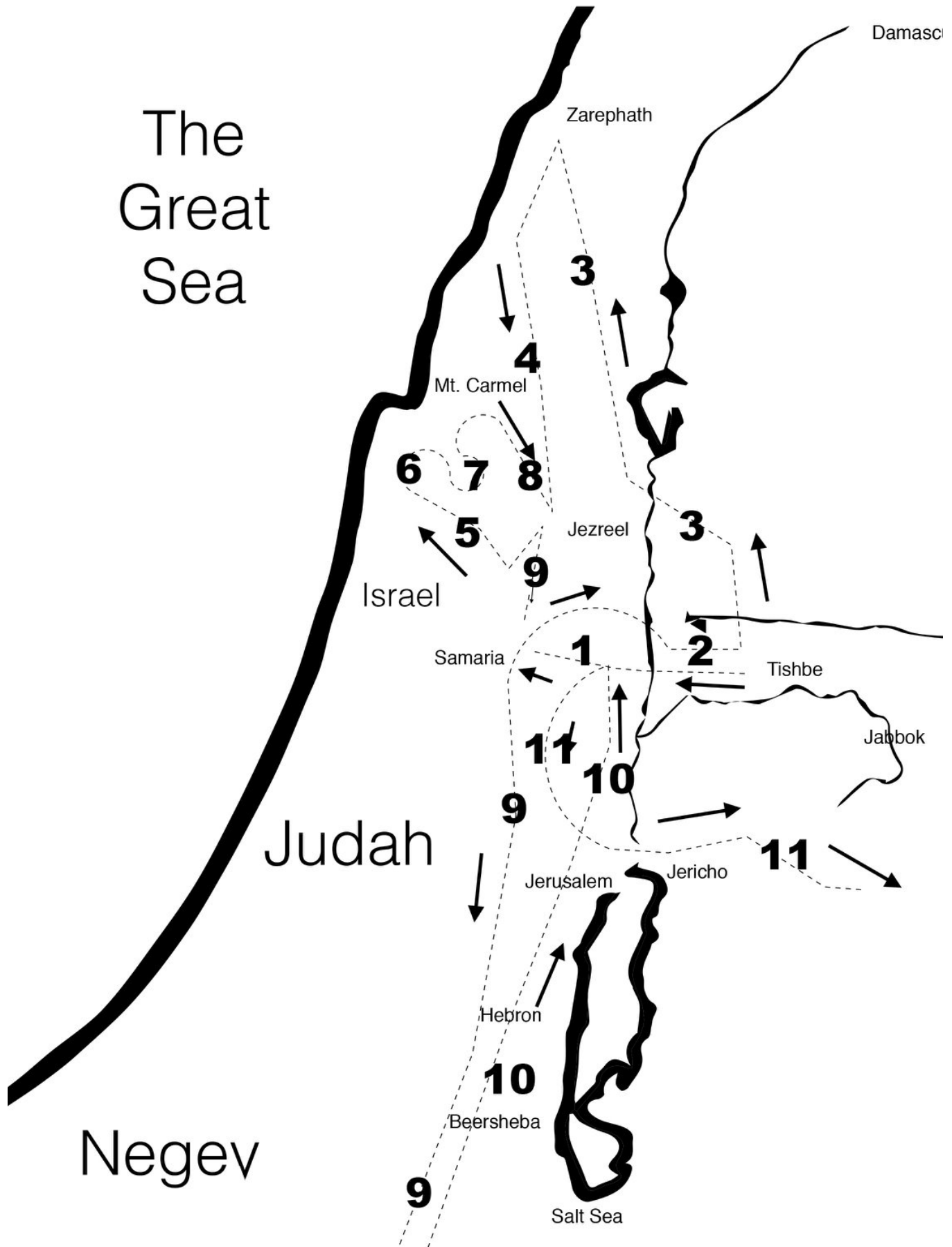
- Large piece of cardboard
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Jelly beans (or like-sized confectionary, e.g., jelly babies, M&Ms, etc.)
- 1 Tic-Tac
- Markers

#### Instructions

1. Cover the cardboard with construction paper to create the "battleground."
2. Glue 850 jelly beans on one half of the battleground.
3. Glue the Tic-Tac on the opposite end of the cardboard. In between, make an altar out of popsicle sticks.
4. Somewhere near the Tic-Tac, write, "The Lord is God, Follow Him – He Will Always Give Us the Victory."
5. Reiterate that we must always take a stand for God and worship Him, even if we're standing alone.
6. Sing the hymn, "God Will Always Give Us the Victory," to conclude.

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Obadiah hid 100 of the Lord's prophets in two caves.
2. False; the prophets of Baal received no answer at all.
3. True
4. He took twelve stones to make the altar, put the wood and sacrifice on top, and then poured twelve jars of water over the top to soak the wood and sacrifice. There was even water left in the trench around the altar.
5. God ended the drought after the people turned back to Him on Mount Carmel.
6. The prophets of Baal and Elijah would both each offer a bull on an altar and call upon their gods/God. The God who answered by fire would be recognized as the real God.
7. Answers may vary. Possible answers: say grace, tell friends not to swear, invite a friend to come to church, etc.
8. Answers may vary. Possible answers: Through receiving the Holy Spirit, through looking at God's Creation, through experiencing miracles in life, through reading the Bible, through hearing testimonies from friends and family, etc.



## A Day of Victory at Mount Carmel with Elijah

*Let's imagine that we are all up on Mt. Carmel right now.*

“So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 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, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word” (1 Kgs 18:20-21).

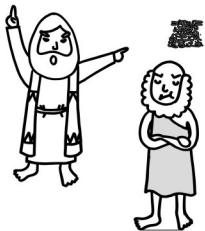
Elijah opened with a powerful question: “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” The Bible tells us, “The people answered him not a word.”

**When Elijah asked the Israelites how long they would keep going back and forth between idols and God, they didn't know how to respond. It is dangerous to be indecisive when choosing whom to worship.**

Let's go through all the steps to see how God showed Himself to be the strongest at the end.

Step  
1

We need to clarify whom we need to worship: God or Baal?



Elijah proposed to prepare a sacrifice. He allowed the prophets of Baal to choose one of two available bulls. Elijah would use the other. The prophets would prepare the animal and place it on the altar. But they were not to put fire under it. This was the key. Fire was needed to make a burnt offering and this was the real test to see who was the true God.

Step  
2



Step  
3

A prayer contest! Elijah told the prophets to call on Baal; he would call on the Lord. So, the challenge began!

Step  
4

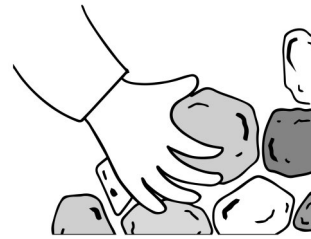
The false prophets' god did not answer. There was no voice.



“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. Then they leaped about the altar that they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.’ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention” (vv. 26-29).

Step  
5

Elijah repaired the broken-down altar of God (vv. 30-31).



Step  
6

Elijah dug a trench around the altar (v. 32).

Step  
7

He had the people drench the altar with water (vv. 33-35).



Step  
8

Elijah's powerful and effective prayer



“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 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” (vv. 36-37).



God's fire fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice.  
It fell down from heaven; the fire didn't come from the altar (v. 38).

Step  
9

Step  
10

The people's hearts turned back and worshipped the one true God (v. 39). In reverence for God and in astonishment at the fire, they “fell on their faces” at the sight of God's power and worshipped Him.



Elijah seized the false prophets and killed them all at the Brook Kishon.

Step  
11

**Conclusion**

God revealed Himself strong and the people returned to the Lord!



## A Day of Victory at Mount Carmel with Elijah

*Let's imagine that we are all up on Mt. Carmel right now.*

“So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 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, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word” (1 Kgs 18:20-21).

Elijah opened with a powerful question: “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” The Bible tells us, “The people answered him not a word.”

**When Elijah asked the Israelites how long they would keep going back and forth between idols and God, they didn't know how to respond. It is dangerous to be indecisive when choosing whom to worship.**

Let's go through all the steps to see how God showed Himself to be the strongest at the end.

Step  
1

We need to clarify whom we need to w\_\_\_\_\_ : God or Baal?



Elijah proposed to prepare a s\_\_\_\_\_. He allowed the prophets of Baal to choose one of two available bulls. Elijah would use the other. The prophets would prepare the animal and place it on the altar. But they were not to put fire under it. This was the key. Fire was needed to make a burnt offering and this was the real test to see who was the true God.

Step  
2



Step  
3

A p\_\_\_\_\_ contest! Elijah told the prophets to call on Baal; he would call on the Lord. So, the challenge began!

Step  
4

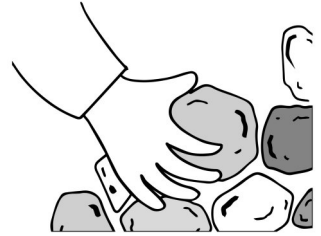


The false prophets' god did not a\_\_\_\_\_. There was no voice.

“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. Then they leaped about the altar that they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.’ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention” (vv. 26-29).

Step  
5

Elijah r\_\_\_\_\_ the broken-down a\_\_\_\_\_ of God (vv. 30-31).



Step  
6

Elijah d\_\_\_\_\_ a trench around the altar (v. 32).

Step  
7

He had the people drench the altar with w\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 33-35).



Step  
8

Elijah's p\_\_\_\_\_ and effective prayer



“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are G\_\_\_\_\_ in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. H\_\_\_\_\_ me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the L\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_, and that You have turned their h\_\_\_\_\_ back to You again” (vv. 36-37).



God's f\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ and consumed the burnt sacrifice. It fell down from heaven; the fire didn't come from the altar (v. 38).

Step  
9

Step  
10

The people's hearts t\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ and worshipped the one t\_\_\_\_\_ God (v. 39). In reverence for God and in astonishment at the fire, they “fell on their faces” at the sight of God's power and worshipped Him.



Elijah s\_\_\_\_\_ the false prophets and k\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ all at the Brook Kishon.

Step  
11

**Conclusion**

God revealed Himself strong and the people returned to the Lord!

## TRULY KNOWING GOD!

### 1. God wants us to know Him and be aware of the gods of our culture so that we can make decisions in times of confrontation.

How important is it to know God? Our lives depend on it. Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Exodus 20:3 also states, "You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_."

A. Why would it be foolish to live as if there were no God?

Read Psalm 53:1.

B. In today's age, what gods do people worship? Do we worship idols in this country?

#### Scenario

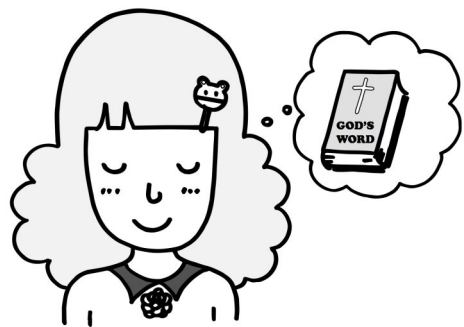
Sitting at the lunch table surrounded by his friends, Jacob looked around. They excitedly shared their tips and tricks for playing the latest video games and talked about how they couldn't believe what had happened in last week's episode of the show they were all watching. Jacob looked down at his sandwich and thought, "They always talk about these things every single day! I don't play the latest games, and I don't watch that show. I feel so left out!" Grudgingly eating his sandwich, Jacob remembered how he had learned about the idols of the world in RE class recently. A light bulb suddenly lit up in his head. "What if... those games and that TV show... are their idols?" Even though Jacob felt left out at times, he knew that it was good that he didn't follow his friends in worshipping those idols. He wanted to be like Elijah and follow the true God. As he walked home that day, instead of being upset, Jacob eagerly thought about learning the word of God so that he could draw closer to Him. Entering the door, Jacob exclaimed, "I'm home, Mom! Are you free to read the Bible with me?" With a smile on her face and a Bible in hand, his mother soon appeared, and together, they read the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. After reading, they prayed together. Feeling refreshed, Jacob thought, "Wow, why didn't I ever think of reading the Bible after school before?" After that day, Jacob was determined to read the Bible as often as he could and to draw close to God.



### 2. We need to confront what is right and wrong.

#### Scenario

"Come on, Maria, hurry up!" Waiting just off school grounds, Maria's friends motioned to her. All of Maria's friends had decided that it would be fun to go to the nearby convenience store to get a snack for lunch, but it was against school rules to leave during school hours. "No one's going to get hurt, so why does it matter?" Maria's friends reasoned. But Maria still knew that it was wrong. She knew that the rules had been put there to keep them safe. Maria had always been known as the "good girl," and she didn't want her friends to make fun of her again. Still... Maria closed her eyes and said a silent prayer in her heart. Asking God for strength, she determined not to let her friends pressure her into doing the wrong thing. With a firm voice, Maria politely declined. "No, I don't want to go



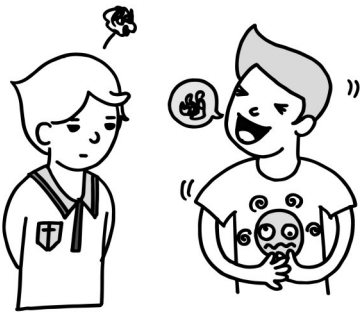
with you guys." Her friends shook their heads and snickered. "We knew you were going to say no... you're never any fun. This is the last time we'll ever ask you to join us for anything!" Watching them leave, frozen by the stinging of her friends' words, Maria felt more alone than ever. But in her heart, Maria knew that she was never alone. She'd rather stand alone on the right side, God's side, than with others on the wrong side. Knowing that she had made the right choice, Maria smiled and quietly recited some verses as she went to get lunch.

## TAKING A STAND FOR GOD

**Scenario A**

It was Christmas time and Nicole's friends had planned a Christmas party where they would play "Secret Santa," which required each person to buy a present for another secretly. Nicole knew that Christmas had pagan origins and that the Bible did not tell us to celebrate Christmas, but she didn't want to risk losing her friends or becoming a social outcast!

- What were the peer pressures Nicole faced?
- How could Nicole make a stand for God?

**Scenario B**

Matt's friends at school were always making dirty jokes at school to make fun of their teachers or other classmates. He knew that the jokes they were making were not nice and could hurt others, but Matt was afraid that if he didn't laugh along with them and join in, then they would think he was a boring, uptight person.

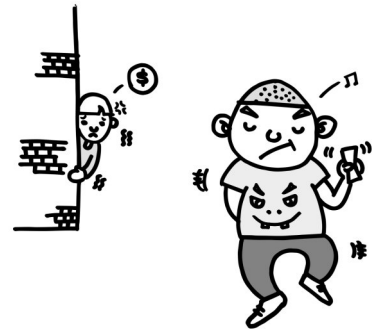
- How could Matt make a stand for God?
- Have you ever experienced the same situation as Matt? If so, how did you respond?

## ELIJAH'S POWERFUL PRAYER

**Scenario A**

Oscar was fearful every time he went to school. He knew that the moment he stepped into school, Roger would grab him and take his lunch money. Oscar had tried praying about this, but felt as if his prayers had no power... One day, Oscar told his RE teacher about his problem, and his RE teacher told him that it was very serious and that he should tell his parents and schoolteacher. But his RE teacher also told him that they could also pray together for this challenge. And guess what? God came through for Oscar. When they all prayed for this matter, God heard their cry! The following week, the teacher caught Roger in the act of bullying and the school officials disciplined him. Our God is truly a mighty God who knows our fears, and He is there for us.

- What did Oscar pray about in his prayer?
- Do you have a teacher or friends that you can pray together with about important matters? Please list them out and thank God!

**Scenario B**

Over a year ago, Vicky's dad lost his job. For an entire year, every night, Vicky's parents would bring her and her little brother together to pray at night. They would always pray for God to provide for their family and to help their dad find a job, among other prayer requests. After a year, Vicky's dad finally found a new job! Thank God!! It was one of the happiest days of Vicky's life. God had provided!

- How do you think Vicky felt when she was praying for the same thing over and over again for a year without any answer?
- Have you ever prayed a long time for something? What was it?



E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 3—Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 15:29**)

\_\_\_\_\_

## True or False

1. Queen Jezebel had killed all of the Lord's prophets and only Elijah was alive. \_\_\_\_\_
2. After the prophets of Baal cut themselves, Baal answered by sending down fire. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The people of Israel turned back to God after witnessing God's great power and realizing that He was the true God. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

4. Before praying to God, what steps did Elijah take to prepare the altar?
5. When did God end the drought?
6. What was Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal to show who was the real god?
7. Write down one way you can stand up for God in school this week.
8. How do we know our God is real today? List out three ways in your life when God has let you know that He is real.