



ELIJAH AT MOUNT CARMEL: FOLLOW-UP FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 18-19

STORY POINT: God showed that He is the one true God.

Key Passage: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

HOLD CONTESTS

Invite family members to participate in several contests. First, compete to see who can stand/hop on one leg the longest. Next, compete to see who can pat their head and their stomach at the same time the longest. Make up other or additional competitions as your time allows. Invite suggestions from your children.

SAY: Was it fun to compete against each other? Today's Bible story is about a kind of competition. This contest was between people who followed a false god named Baal and Elijah, a prophet and servant of the one true God. Who do you think won the contest? We'll find out in our story today.

THIS OR THAT?

Explain that you will call out some options. Your family must choose which option they prefer and stand with others who prefer the same option. Point to a different area of the room for each option to show your family where to gather. Play several rounds. Sample options: 1. Chocolate or Vanilla 2. Winter or Summer 3. Spring or Fall 3. Apples or Oranges 4. Outside or Inside 5. Wear socks or go barefoot? 6. Vacation in cold weather climate or warm weather climate?

SAY: In today's Bible story, Elijah told God's people to make up their minds. They needed to choose whom they would worship. Do you think the people chose to follow God or something else? Let's find out...

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ROCK REMINDERS

Remind your family that Elijah and the prophets of Baal used rocks to build altars as part of the challenge to prove who is the one true God. Look around outside for a good sized stone for everyone. Write on your rock (use markers or a Sharpie if you have one) the phrase **The Lord, He is God!** Parents may need to write the phrase on the rock and have younger children decorate. You can decorate the rock however you want...some suggestions: Hearts, flowers, rainbows, happy faces, etc.

SAY: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship. God showed His love for us by sending His Son. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him!

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Lead your family in reading aloud Isaiah 42:8. Remind everyone that Elijah teased the prophets of Baal to shout louder because Baal might be sleeping. Explain that they will read the key passage together, but you will control the volume. When your hands are low, they will say it quietly. When your hands go up, they will get louder. As your family says the key passage, change the volume level several times.

Read the verse a few of times at different volumes so your family can get used to the new verse.

SAY: No matter how loud or how quiet the world around us may be, God's truth never changes. He is the only One who deserves our praise.

DISCUSSION & BIBLE SKILLS

Distribute a Bible to everyone in the family or share. Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find 1 Kings 18-19.

Ask the following questions. Lead your family to discuss:

1. **How long had the drought lasted when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal?** (Three years, 1 Kings 18:1)
2. **How long did the prophets of Baal cry out to Baal?** (Morning until noon and all afternoon, 1 Kings 18:26,29)
3. **What did God's fire burn up?** (Everything—the offering, wood, altar, and water; 1 Kings 18:38)
4. **Why is it important to know God is all-powerful?** Guide your family to see that we can trust God because He is all-powerful, good, and loving. He can do what He wishes, which is always for His glory and our good.
5. **Why do we put other things before God?** Guide your family to see that we have sin in our hearts. We naturally desire to do things our own way, and we often doubt God's goodness. When we wonder if God is doing what is best, we often think we know better than He does and choose to put other things before Him.

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6. **How can we help other people see that God is the one true God?** Guide your family to see that Elijah received specific instructions from God. It would not be wise for us to try to “test” God. Instead, we can tell people about Jesus and help them understand the Bible in order to show that God is the one true God.
7. **Why is idolatry so offensive to God?** Remind everyone that idolatry is worshiping anything besides the one true God. Emphasize that God alone is our Creator and Lord. Worshiping anything other than Him denies who God truly is. Only He deserves our worship.
8. **Why do you think we sometimes doubt that God is able to do something?** Point out that Elijah’s challenge seemed to make victory for God impossible. How could an altar catch fire when it was soaked with water? But God answered Elijah and sent fire from heaven. Encourage the children to live with complete faith that God can have victory over any situation.

SAY: God showed that He is the one true God. His power is displayed in all of creation, and His goodness and love are recorded for us in Scripture. We do not need to prove God is real by calling down fire from heaven because we already have the Bible to teach us about God. We can trust that God will hear our prayers and always do what is best.

JOURNAL & PRAYER

Distribute a piece of paper and a pencil. Guide your child(ren) to think about and answer the questions listed below:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Discuss with your children as they write, invite them to share their ideas.

Then pray, thanking God that as He heard Elijah, He always hears us when we pray.
