

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS
AUGUST 9, 2020

This week our Bible story shows us Elijah's deep faith in God. This month most of our stories happen near the river or involve water. Did you get a chance to play in or near water this past week? Did you have fun? Our Bible story reminds us that God is a real God – and is like no other.

Turn in your Bibles to 1 Kings 18. Last week we learned about how God took care of Elijah when he had to hide from King Ahab. Now Elijah has returned and has challenged the prophets of Baal, who was a fake god King Ahab worshiped, to sort of a duel. Elijah wants to prove to the people that Israel's Lord, not Baal, is the real God.

Read 1 Kings 18:20-24.

What was the challenge? How would they know which God and prophets won?

Read 1 Kings 18:25-27.

What happened when Baal's prophets prayed and made their sacrifice?

Read 1 Kings 18:30-35.

What did Elijah do different from Baal's prophets? Why did he do this?

Read 1 Kings 18:36-39.

What happened when Elijah prayed? How did the people react? Why?

This is one of our most exciting stories and would make a great movie. Can you imagine what the scenes would look like in your movie? Try to draw what you think the scenes would look like. Now, what about a script. What would the characters in your movie be saying in the scenes that you have drawn?

Why do you think that God made this showdown such a big deal?

Elijah build an altar out of rocks, which was very common in the Old Testament. Then he had to trust God to show up and prove to the other prophets that Israel's God is the real God. Let's try to make a one-rock altar to remind us to trust God.

I would like you to find a rock that you can hold in your hand – not a boulder but bigger than a stone you might see on the road. Now with permanent marker I would like you to decorate or paint your rock. Put your rock someplace where you will see it every day – or keep it in your pocket, once the marker is dry. Every time you see the rock, think of it as a tiny place to pray and remember to trust God.

Many of the people in Israel were worshiping both God and Baal. They thought that this was okay – they might as well keep as many gods happy as possible. But Elijah told them they could truly serve only the one God. Let's try an experiment to see what happens when we split our attention between two leaders. For this experiment you will need to have a couple people help you, maybe your parents. First, have one of your parents give you some movement type commands like, "Take two steps forward", or "Take one step to the right", or "Take one step back" or "Turn around". At first the directions should be slow so you can understand them, then they should speed them up. Now have your other parent also start giving movement type commands, but not the same commands. One parent can be giving the commands quickly and the other can give them slow or they can both be giving them quickly.

How long were you able to follow all of the commands you were being given? How did you feel when you got confused? How did you know which parent to listen to?

When it comes right down to it, we can only move in one direction at a time, no matter how many people are giving you commands. In the same way, we can serve only one God at a time . . . and the Lord is the real God.

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel kept trying to make things other than God, God. Whether those things were gods, statues, money, kings, or military power, they kept letting those things take God's place. Elijah's message to the people – and to us – is to remember that God is most important in our life.

I want you to try to think of what some things that might take the place of God, such as sports, money, clothes, fame, or school. I want you to think about our memory verse, using the thing that sometimes take the place of God. Complete this sentence:

***The _____ is the real God! The _____
is the real God!***

Is _____ the real God? No! The Lord is the real God.

Do you have the picture of your Bible Library? Did you notice that there is a small space between the books of Daniel and Hosea? Did you wonder why that is? That space is there because the first five books of the Prophets section are known as the Major Prophets. The Major Prophets aren't more important than the Minor Prophets, the books are just longer.

Let's close this week's lesson with a prayer. Thank you, God, for showing us that you, and only you, are the real God. Help us to remember that you are the real God. Keep us safe and we continue to move through these troubling times. Amen.