

Fire From Heaven

Elijah

1 Kings 16:29-17:1; 18:1, 17-39

Character Trait: Self-Control

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall how Elijah showed the Israelites that God is the one, true God.
- Children will identify that nothing happened when Baal's prophets worshipped the false god, Baal.
- Children will share different ways they can show self-control in the future.

Supplies:

- *Fire from Heaven* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Orange, red, and yellow squares of tissue paper *(cut into small squares, several pieces for each child)*
- Black, brown, and gray squares of tissue paper *(cut into small squares, several pieces for each child, optional)*
- Glue *(poured onto paper plates, if possible)*
- Pencil *(for each child)*
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask them to place one hand on their stomach and begin rubbing it in a circle. Next, ask them to begin patting their head with their other hand at the same time. Allow them to try this for a few moments.

SAY: These two things are not easy to do at the same time! It takes effort and practice. Today, we will learn about a man named Elijah who also did something that was difficult. He was different from everyone else by choosing to not worship a false God, and instead God helped Elijah show that only God is the one, true God!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Samuel was looking at Jesse's seven sons. What did God tell him He cared about?** *(What is in a person's heart, not physical appearance)*
- **What was the giant Philistine's name?** *(Goliath)*
- **Why did David refuse the armor that King Saul offered?** *(He trusted God's faithfulness. God had helped David kill wild beasts, and David knew God would help him against Goliath, too.)*

Who helped David defeat Goliath? *(God)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Fire from Heaven* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- David became a great king.
- Then his son Solomon reigned.
- After Solomon died, God's people had many bad kings.
- King Ahab was one of the worst.
- His wife, Jezebel, worshipped the false god, Baal.
- Jezebel persuaded Ahab and God's people to worship Baal, too.
- Because of their sins, God stopped the rain for several years.
- Then He sent His prophet, Elijah, to King Ahab.
- "You have disobeyed God and worshipped Baal," Elijah said. "Tell everyone, including the prophets of Baal, to meet me on Mount Carmel. I will prove who the true God is!"
- Everyone gathered on the mountain.
- Then Elijah said to the people, "Make up your mind! If the Lord is God, follow Him. However, if Baal proves himself today, follow him."
- "Baal's prophets and I will each kill a bull, place it on an altar, and pray. The god that sends fire to burn up the bull is the true God!"
- Baal's prophets went first.
- They prayed to Baal all morning.
- No fire came.
- "Maybe Baal is sleeping," Elijah laughed. "Shout louder!"
- So Baal's prophets shouted all afternoon.
- Still nothing happened.
- Elijah built an altar.
- He put the bull and the wood on it.
- He dug a ditch around it.
- Then he had water poured over everything until the ditch was full!
- Elijah prayed. Immediately fire fell from heaven!
- It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the water! The people bowed down and cried, "The Lord is God!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why did God stop the rain for several years?** *(God's people, the Israelites, were sinning and worshipping the false god, Baal.)*
- **Who did God send to King Ahab?** *(Elijah)*
- **What did Elijah say that he would do?** *(He said that he would prove who the true God is.)*
- **What happened when Baal's prophets killed a bull, placed it on an altar, and prayed to their false god, Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened after they prayed some more to Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened when Elijah killed a bull, placed it on an altar, dug a ditch around it, filled it with water, and prayed to God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven, and it burned up everything.)*
- **How did this prove that the God that Elijah worshipped is the one, true God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven. That is something only God can do.)*

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God used Elijah to show His people that He is the one true God. Elijah prayed for the miracle of fire from heaven to prove it. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to perform many miracles to show that He is God. This included healing the sick, casting out demons and even bringing people back to life!

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

If the Lord is God *(point both hands up)*,
follow him *(walk fingers across your palm)*!
But if Baal is God, then follow him *(trace a statue shape with two fingers)*!"
But the people *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
were completely silent *(place one finger against your lips)*.

1 Kings 18:21b (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Begin by explaining that you will briefly retell the story. However, ask the children to listen carefully so that they can hear if you make an error. Ask them to stand up as soon as they catch an error. Call on one of the children to politely point out your error and provide the correct information.

SAY: It would have been easy for Elijah to just go along with the crowd, but he did not. Elijah continued to worship only the one, true God. Then he followed God's instructions to prove who the one, true God was.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of paper, glue, small squares of orange, red, and yellow tissue paper, and a pencil. Demonstrate how to place the eraser-end of a pencil inside the middle of a piece of tissue paper and gather the tissue paper up around the pencil. Then, dip the tissue paper into a glue *(while still wrapped around the end of the pencil)*, push the tissue paper onto the paper, and release the pencil. Instruct the children to repeat this process to create a colorful, three-dimensional flame to remind them of the fire God sent down from heaven.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible by allowing younger children to simply scrunch up or roll the tissue paper into "flames" and then glue them onto the paper, or coloring supplies can be used instead to simply draw the fire onto the paper.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by challenging them to wad up pieces of black, brown, and gray tissue paper into small "stones" and then glue them onto the paper to create an altar for their "flames" to rest on.

Character Trait: Self-Control

(10 minutes)

SAY: Self-control is the ability to manage our emotions, choices, and actions. God gives us free will, and God's people chose to worship a false God. But Elijah did not.

We can ask God to help us make good choices and grow in self-control. Self-control is a skill that we can become better at with time, practice, and God's help.

Encourage the children to think more about self-control by asking the following:

- **When have you shown self-control?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Is self-control something that you have, or is it a skill you can get better at?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it is a skill that is developed. Self-control is something that everyone can become better at with time, practice, and God's help.)*
- **Why is self-control important?** *(It helps us to make wise choices. Self-control helps us manage our emotions, choices, and actions, so that they do not manage us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: It would have been easy for Elijah to worship Baal like everyone else around him, but he did not. Instead, he chose to do what was wise: He only worshipped the one, true God.

Tell the children to think about one, specific time that they disagreed with someone else. Ask them to consider how they reacted. Challenge the children to think of different ways they can practice self-control in a similar situation in the future. Then, pair each child up with a partner and ask them to briefly share their ideas with each other.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Self-control is not easy. Sometimes we feel one way when we know we should react in another way. But we can help ourselves gain better self-control by thinking about how we should wisely respond in different, difficult situations. And we can learn more about Jesus and His perfect example of self-control by reading God's Word, the Bible.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Just like Elijah, we know that You are the one, true God worthy of our honor and praise. Thank You for the perfect example of self-control in Your Son, Jesus. Help us as we strive to follow His example.
Amen.

Notes