#### Lesson 2:

#### Elijah and the Contest on Mt. Carmel

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Kings 18: 1-40

MEMORY WORK:

Bible skills 1-6 Psalms 119:105

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must never allow people or money or things to become more important to me than God.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

What is the name of the prophet we studied last week? How did God take care of him? How does God take care of us today? Who should we love above anyone or anything else? Do you think it would make God happy if we loved someone else more? What if we wanted to miss Bible class or worship service to watch a TV program or play with our friends? God should always be more important than anything else. Today we’re going to talk about God’s people (the Israelites) not putting God first and how Elijah helped them remember God again. Let’s see what happens in the story.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Remind the children that Elijah was a great prophet (messenger for God) in the northern part of the Divided Kingdom (Israel). God had told the prophet Elijah to tell wicked King Ahab of Israel that a **drought** would bring suffering to his people because of his sin (worshipping idols and encouraging his people to worship them).

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|  | **NOTE:** James 5:17 tells us that the **drought** lasted 3½ years. |

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|  | **RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Elijah and the**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1444)[**Drought**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1444)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about an alleged biblical discrepancy regarding the drought of Elijah’s day. |

1. The long drought had caused a severe famine. [Make sure the children know the meanings of “drought” and “famine.”] Food and water were scarce for animals and people alike. Even King Ahab searched the land for water. When God decided that it was time for the drought to end, He sent Elijah to King Ahab with another message: “I will send rain on the face of the Earth” (1 Kings 18:1). Ahab and Elijah met in the countryside, and Ahab angrily blamed Elijah for the drought. Elijah made sure that Ahab knew the person to blame was the king himself (1 Kings 18:17-19).
2. [Remind the children that the practice of idol worship and the use of false priests and prophets began many years earlier with Jeroboam. See the note about Canaanite religion and idols in Lesson 4.] King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel provided food and housing for 850 false prophets (the men who led idol worship). Ahab made a mistake marrying Jezebel, the daughter of the King of Tyre (a Phoenician city). When she moved to Samaria, she brought priests of the idol Baal with her (1 Kings 16:32) and persuaded Ahab to build a temple for the idol. Ahab is remembered as one of the most wicked kings in all of Israel’s history. (Ahab’s father, Omri, was also a very wicked king.)
3. Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and Asherah to a kind of contest on Mount Carmel to prove who was the real God. Elijah also challenged Ahab and the people who gathered on Mount Carmel to watch the contest to choose between the living God and the idols; they could not worship idols and still claim to be God’s people. Elijah told them that they could not “limp/waver/falter between two opinions,” i.e., have it both ways, worshiping God and Baal (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Joshua 24:15).
4. [Describe the preparation of the altar and the different things that the prophets of Baal did to get their god to demonstrate his power to the people. They even cut themselves in their vain efforts (Leviticus 21:5; 19:8).] By late afternoon or early evening (time for evening offerings), Elijah gave orders to repair “the altar of the Lord that was broken down” (1 Kings 18:30) with 12 stones—one stone for each of the once-united 12 tribes. He ordered wood to be arranged on the altar and an ox to be put on top of the wood. He told the people to dig a trench around the altar; it was large enough to hold between five and six gallons of water. Then he ordered huge amounts of water (which remember, was very scarce during the drought) to be poured over everything—not once, but three times!
5. Elijah prayed that God would show His great power to the people who had turned their backs on Him. God answered Elijah’s prayer immediately and sent fire from heaven to completely consume the altar, the wood, the sacrifice—even the dust—and all the water that collected in the trench around the altar. This miracle, like all the others in the Bible that glorify Almighty God, was done to prove that the message spoken through Elijah was from God. When the people of Israel saw this, they fell on their faces in terror and in awe and said, “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God” (1 Kings 18:39). Because Elijah knew that the priests of Baal were false prophets who would try to draw the people back to idol worship, Elijah ordered that all those priests be killed at the Kishon Brook.
6. There are millions of people in the world today that worship men or idols or things in nature instead of the one true God. Even though we do not worship idols, we can still let people, money, and things become more important to us than God. We can’t worship God on Sundays and then make other things more important to us every other day of the week. When we do that, we are just like the Israelites, who were “limping between two opinions”—trying to have it both ways.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

##### Elijah ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)

##### Free Bible Images saved on flash drive. Suggested script is in lesson file.

##### *Elijah and King Ahab* I Can Read! book

##### Bible Study Guide for All Ages (BSGFAA) Lesson 180. These visuals will look like a black and white comic strip on one large piece of cardstock. To use these attach it to the magnetic dry erase board. Use dry erase markers to follow the directions. Let students take turns marking on the page.

##### Use Bible character dolls in a “sandbox” to tell the story, small rocks could be the altar, As you tell the story let the children make sound effects. Make bubbling noises for the water. Use paper or foil to make it sound like fire crackling. Bring a squirt bottle to spray when the rain falls, or ask the children to pat their knees to make the sound of a hard rain.

##### Pictures of the results of a drought

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

##### “Elijah, a Prophet of God”

Author: Elbert Richey

(Tune: “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man”)

Elijah was a prophet of God, A prophet of God was he.

He told the prophets of Baal one day,

“Baal’s fire I want to see.”

And he said, “Prophets of Baal, Ask Baal for fire!”

And fire they did not see! And fire they did not see!

Elijah was a prophet of God, A prophet of God was he.

He said, “Come close, come close, I say, The power of God to see.”

And he said, “Dear God,

Please send down fire.” And fire they surely did see!

Yes, fire they surely did see!

##### “Elijah and Baal on Mt. Carmel”

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune “Hail, Hail the Gang’s All Here”)

“Call, call upon your god! Maybe he can’t hear you!

Maybe he’s not near you! Call, call upon your god!

See if he will help you now!”

They called upon their god. Loud and long they called

him! Cut themselves and called him!

He could not help at all— He was just a man-made god!

Elijah prayed to God. Fire burned up the altar—

Licked up all the water! “God is alive and real!

We will worship the true God!”

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES

##### On sheets of cardstock (one for each child), write the words “The Lord, He is God!” Cut small “stones” out of gray construction paper (enough for each child to have 12). Let each child glue his “stones” on his paper to make an altar. Give the children strips/pieces of yellow, orange, and red tissue paper for the children to glue onto the altars to look like fire.

##### Act out the story – Shoe boxes have been covered in duct tape and are stored in the cabinet under the tv. These are stones that can be used to build the altar. Use blue paper around the altar. Put sticks on top and red paper for the meat.

##### Marshmallow Altars – Build altars using marshmallows, pretzels can be the wood, and a few red hots for fire. The teacher can make one then send baggies home with the students.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES

##### Review Game: Have students make rocks by stuffing paper lunch sacks. If short on time, bricks from the work room or large mega blocks can be used. Ask student a review question. If answered correctly a rock can be added to the altar. The altar is complete and the class has won when 12 rocks are stacked. You could also had “wood”, “an animal”, “water,” and “fire” to the altar if the game needs to take more time



### Review Questions

1. What did the long drought cause?
   1. A famine (very little food)
2. What message did God send to King Ahab through the prophet Elijah?
   1. God would send rain
3. When King Ahab met Elijah in the countryside, how did he act?
   1. Angry. He blamed Elijah for the drought.
4. Whose fault was it that there had been no rain?
   1. King Ahab
5. For how many false prophets did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel feed?
   1. 850
6. When Ahab married Jezebel, who did she bring with her?
   1. Priests of the false god, Baal
7. Who was one of the most wicked kings of Israel?
   1. King Ahab
8. Who did Elijah challenge on Mt. Carmel?
   1. The prophets of Baal
9. What was Elijah trying to prove when he challenged the prohpets of Baal?
   1. The God of Israel is the one and only true God
10. How many stones did Elijah use to build the altar to God?
    1. 12
11. What did the stones represent?/ Why did he use 12 stones?
    1. The 12 tribes of Israel
12. What did Elijah order the people to put around the altar?
    1. A trench with a large amount of water
13. What did he order the people to do to the altar next?
    1. Pour water over everything three times.
14. What did God do after Elijah prayed to him?
    1. He sent fire from Heaven. It burned up the altar, wood, the sacrifice, and all the water that was in the trench.

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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