

Fire on the Mountain

1 Kings 18:1-39; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 137-154

Jack and Mary were spending a week at camp. They missed home so much. If only they could speak to Mom and Dad, they were sure they would feel better. They called home from the camp office. When Mom answered the phone, they were very happy.

And that's how Elijah felt when God heard his prayer.

Obadiah ran down the path. His robe flapped behind him. "Elijah is here!" he shouted to King Ahab.

King Ahab's face turned red with anger. Elijah was just the man he was looking for! It hadn't rained in Israel for three years. There was almost no food to eat. And it was Elijah's fault. The king hurried to meet Elijah. "There you are—Israel's troublemaker!" he shouted.

Elijah stood tall and unafraid.

"I have not made trouble for Israel," he replied.

"You are the troublemaker. You and your family worship Baal's idols instead of the Lord.

"Bring all the people of Israel and all the prophets of Baal to Mt. Carmel," Elijah went on. "There we will see which is the true God—Baal or the Lord."

So King Ahab called all the people and all the prophets of Baal to Mt. Carmel.



The Message

God listens and answers when I pray.

Memory Verse

"The Lord will hear when I call to him"

(Psalm 4:3, NIV).

Elijah stood before them. "The prophets of Baal will sacrifice a bull," he said. "They will put it on top of the wood on their altar but not set fire to it. I will sacrifice a bull, too, and put it on top of the wood on my altar. I will not set fire to it either. Baal's prophets will call on the name of their god. I will call on the name of the Lord. The one who answers by setting the wood on fire is the true God."

All the people agreed that this was a fair test.

Elijah looked at the 450 prophets. "You may go first," he said.

The prophets sacrificed their bull and laid it on their altar. Then they began to pray. They called and shouted to Baal all morning, but there was no answer. They began to dance wildly. They even cut themselves with knives to get Baal's attention. But still there was no answer.

In the evening, Elijah said, "Now it's my turn." First he repaired the altar and dug a ditch around it. Then he sacrificed his bull and laid it on top of the wood. "Fill four large jars with water and pour them over the offering and the wood," he directed.

People rushed to do as he asked.

"Do the same thing again," Elijah said.

More water was poured over the altar.

"Do it a third time!" Elijah ordered.

This time water ran all over the altar and overflowed the ditch.

Then Elijah bowed his head and prayed. "Oh, Lord, prove today that You are the God of Israel!"

Instantly, fire flashed down from heaven. It burned up the bull. It burned up the wood.

It even burned up the stones of the altar and the water in the ditch!

The people of Israel fell down on their faces and shouted, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"





S A B B A T H

DO Go with your family to the top of a hill or mountain and read your Bible lesson. Imagine the scene with the two altars and the crowd. Try to build an altar like Elijah's. (See 1 Kings 18:31.)

DO Read Psalm 4:3 together. Teach the verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

DO During worship today ask your family: How do we usually pray? ("Help me?" "Give me"?) Talk about other parts of prayer:

1. Praise (Saying what God is like—merciful, loving).
2. Confession (Saying that you are sorry for doing wrong.)
3. Thanks (Thanking God for something.)
4. Requests (Asking God to help with something.)

DO Make a prayer booklet. Draw a picture or cut out pictures from magazines to illustrate the four parts. Write the words to Jeremiah 33:3 on the cover. Pray a prayer using all four parts. Say your memory verse to God to end your prayer. Thank God for hearing you.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship read 1 Kings 18:1-39. Ask family members to read Elijah's, Ahab's, and the crowd's words. Have someone read the part that tells what's happening.

DO If possible, build a bonfire. As you watch the flames, imagine what it was like when God sent fire from heaven.

DO Figure out how many months it hadn't rained. How many days.

SING Make up a tune and sing your memory verse.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:36, 37. What was Elijah's request? Say or sing your memory verse. Then pray together, praising God, confessing your mistakes, thanking God, and finally, presenting your requests.

DO Write or draw a picture of a prayer request you have. Decorate a "prayer box" and put your requests and your thanks there each day.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family read 1 Kings 18:38. God has three types of answers to our prayers: 1. Yes 2. No 3. Wait. How did God answer Elijah's prayer?

DO With your family discuss a time God said "Yes" to a prayer request. When God said "No." When He said "Wait." Ask God to help you understand when He is saying yes, no, or wait.

SING Sing "A Little Talk With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 98).



T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. When do you usually pray? When are good times to pray? In what places have you prayed? List three places here:

DO With a marker, draw a prayer symbol on each other's hands, such as a cross or the face of a clock. Let this symbol help you remember that you can talk to God any time and any place. Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (Sing for Joy, No. 96).

DO Sing or say your memory verse together.

F R I D A Y

DO Role play Elijah on Mount Carmel for family worship. God answered Elijah's prayers in two different ways. Read 1 Kings 18:38, 45. First, He sent _____ from heaven, and then He sent _____ from heaven.

DO Say your memory verse. Then set an empty chair in your family circle. Pretend that Jesus is there. Open the prayer box that you made on Tuesday. Each family member can take a request and tell it to Jesus. Talk to Him like a friend.

PRAY Close with Jesus' special prayer. Say or read the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

PUZZLE

Directions: Find out why Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Color the picture. Then write the letters that have a dot on the lines.



Maybe Elijah got water from springs on Mount Carmel that never dry up even in a drought. Maybe he sent for water from the nearby sea.

