

LESSON 14

ELIJAH AND THE TEACHERS OF BAAL

1 Kings 18:17-39

Elijah was sent by God to the people of Israel during a time when many people living there did not believe in God. Some of them worshipped Baal - a statue made out of wood and stone, not even alive.

Elijah asked the people whom they wanted to worship, but they wouldn't answer him. So Elijah told the teachers of Baal to kill and cut up a bullock, and lay the pieces on some wood. Elijah would do the same with another bullock. They must then call to Baal, and Elijah would call to God, to see who would send down fire to burn the bullock. Then the people of Israel would know who was the one true God.

The teachers of Baal called and called to their god to send down fire, but nothing happened. Elijah then took twelve stones, put some wood on them, and then the bullock pieces on top. He dug a trench around it, and asked some men to pour twelve barrels of water over everything, until it was all very wet, and the trench was filled with water.

Then Elijah prayed to God, and God sent the fire, which burnt up everything, and even dried up all the water. The people shouted, "The Lord, He is God", and worshipped Elijah's God, the one true God. The teachers of Baal were put to death.

ACTIVITY

Colour or paint the illustration. Paste sandpaper or crumpled balls of brown crepe paper onto the stones. Fill the trench with water by sprinkling on blue glitter or blue coloured coconut. Paste on yellow, orange and red strips of cellophane for the fire from heaven.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Build a model of Elijah's altar in a baking tin. Let children place 12 stones in a pile, add small sticks and a model bull. Take 4 eggcups or thimbles, etc and let children fill with water and pour over the altar three times. Emphasise the sequence of events as Elijah set up his altar.

Find a picture of a fire with black smoke billowing upwards. Explain how the fire from God even licked up the water and burnt the stones!

Fanfold a strip of paper. Draw a man outline with hands raised and extended to either side of the folded paper. Cut out and unfold to reveal prophets of Baal calling to their god. Add faces and robes.

God sent down fire which burnt Abimelech's altar.

