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An introduction to the *Salvation* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Salvation introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Elijah and the prophets of Baal

Bible reference...	1 Kings 18:1, 16-39
Lesson aim...	To tell the children about Elijah and the prophets of Baal making a sacrifice each, and how only the living and true God could make fire. The Israelites turned back to God.
Main message...	God sent fire down, and it burnt up everything and dried up the water. When the people saw this, they said, 'The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!'
Memory verse...	Jeremiah 10, verse 10, 'But you, LORD, are the true God, you are the living God'. See actions on page 57 and a copy of the verse on page 58.
Vocabulary...	prophets of Baal—people who believed in and worked for the made-up god Baal. worship—treating something or someone as if it is God. We usually speak of worshipping God. altar—a flat place where a sacrifice was put. sacrifice—something that is given to God. A simplified generalisation is that sacrifices in the Old Testament were animals or birds, and part or all of them were burnt. So in today's story, bulls (animals) were the sacrifice and they were meant to be burnt on the altar.
Story preparation...	You will need a copy of the Good News Bible, and some sticks for the <i>Introduction</i> . To make the 3D visual aid for the story you will need to follow the guidelines on page 61. Print page 59 if you want a copy of the words of the action rhyme.

Introduction...

Bring in some small sticks. Put the sticks in a pile as if you were going to make a small fire. Talk about how you could light the fire. "Would I pour water on it? No!!! That's how you put out a fire, not how you start one!"

You may also want to do this recap of people and terms. If you don't think it necessary for your class, then go straight to the Story.

“Before we hear the story, let me quickly remind you of some people and things we have heard about:

“King Ahab: he disobeyed God and he treated a made-up god called Baal, as if it was the real God.

“Baal: a made-up god. People thought that the made-up god Baal made the rain fall and the plants grow.

“Elijah: He loved the true and living God. He was a prophet, which means that he obeyed God and he told people what God wanted him to say.

“drought: when there is no rain. Remember we heard that God stopped the rain.”

Story...

Please note: there are some other tricky words in this story including prophets of Baal, worship, altar and sacrifice. You may need to give a fuller explanation of these terms than I have included in the text. See ‘Vocabulary’.

“One day, when it was the third year of no rain, Elijah went to King Ahab because God wanted him to. God promised Elijah that he would make rain come. When King Ahab saw Elijah, he called him a troublemaker, thinking it was Eljah’s fault that it hadn’t rained for so long.

“Elijah told King Ahab that it was him, the King, who was the troublemaker because he and his father had disobeyed God and worshipped Baal. Elijah sent for all the prophets of Baal, that is the people who believed in and worked for the made-up god Baal—there were lots and lots of them, in fact, hundreds and hundreds of them. They came to a mountain with God’s people, the Israelites, and saw Elijah there.

“I’m now going to read what Elijah did:

Read 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah went up to the people and said, ‘How much longer will it take you to make up your minds? If the LORD is God, worship him; but if Baal is God, worship him!’

“Elijah told them to get two bulls ready for a sacrifice. They were going to sacrifice, or give, the animals—the prophets of Baal to their god, and Elijah to the one, true God. I’ll now read what Elijah said from the Bible:

Read 1 Kings 18:24, ‘Then let the prophets of Baal pray to their god, and I will pray to the LORD, and the one who answers by sending fire—he is God.’

“Elijah told the prophets of Baal to get their sacrifice ready. They built an altar, which is something like this [*show the first altar and sacrifice*] and put on the sacrifice that they were giving to their made-up god, Baal. Elijah told them to pray to Baal. They prayed and they danced for hours and hours—that is, for a long time—and nothing happened.

“Then Elijah got his altar ready [*show Elijah’s altar*]. He put twelve rocks down and dug a hole around it and put sticks on the top and then the sacrifice. And then he poured water over it ... lots and lots of water! Then Elijah prayed to God. He prayed that the people would know that God is God.

“And God sent fire down [*take away Elijah’s altar and replace with burnt altar*] and it burned everything and dried up all the water. When the people saw this, they said, ‘The LORD is God; the LORD alone (only) is God!’”

Conclusion...

“What an exciting story that was ... let’s see what we can remember.

“Could the made-up god Baal start a fire?” *No*

“Could the real, living God start a fire?” *Yes, even with water poured all over it.*

“Did the people choose to go with Baal or to turn to the real God?” *To God—‘The LORD alone is God’ they said.*

“So God sent fire down, and it burnt up everything and dried up the water. When the people saw this, they said, ‘The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!’.

“I wonder what is going to happen next...will there still be a drought? What will happen to Elijah? We’ll have to wait until next week.”

Action rhyme...

It's your choice how many verses you do.

- There is only one God; *nod head for 'only', show one finger on 'one' then point up for 'God'*
- the true and living God. *with one finger from each hand make an upper case letter 'T' on 'true' and 'L' on 'living', then point up for 'God'*
- There are no other gods but him. *shake head, cross hands horizontally from side to side and then point up for 'him'*
- There is only one God; *nod head for 'only', show one finger on 'one' then point up for 'God'*
- the true and living God. *with one finger from each hand make an upper case letter 'T' on 'true' and 'L' on 'living', then point up for 'God'*
- God wants us to worship only him. *point up for 'God', nod head, bow head for 'worship', point up (emphatically) for 'only' then again (emphatically) for 'him'*
- There is only one God; *nod head for 'only', show one finger on 'one' then point up for 'God'*
- the true and living God. *with one finger from each hand make an upper case letter 'T' on 'true' and 'L' on 'living', then point up for 'God'*
- God made everyone and everything. *point up for 'God', point to self and each other for 'everyone', outstretch arms for 'everything'*
- There is only one God; *nod head for 'only', show one finger on 'one' then point up for 'God'*
- the true and living God. *with one finger from each hand make an upper case letter 'T' on 'true' and 'L' on 'living', then point up for 'God'*
- Nothing is too difficult for him. *cross hands horizontally from side to side for 'nothing', shake head for 'too difficult', and then point up for 'him'*

What about us?...

“Nothing is too difficult for God. God can even make fire with water poured all over the sticks. God made fire, God made water. God is in charge of the whole world.

“Nothing is too difficult for God. This is important to remember when we talk to God. God can do things that no one else can.

“The prophets of Baal wanted people to think that Baal was god. We should never let anyone make us think that there is any god but the one, true and living God. God is the only God.”

Pray...

Thanking the LORD that only he is God. Thanking him that he is in charge of the whole world and that nothing is too difficult for him. Pray that God will help us to always remember that only he is God.

People in the Bible...

Uncover the small picture of the altar on the card for Elijah, and explain the relevance of the picture in the light of today's *Story*.

Activity suggestions...

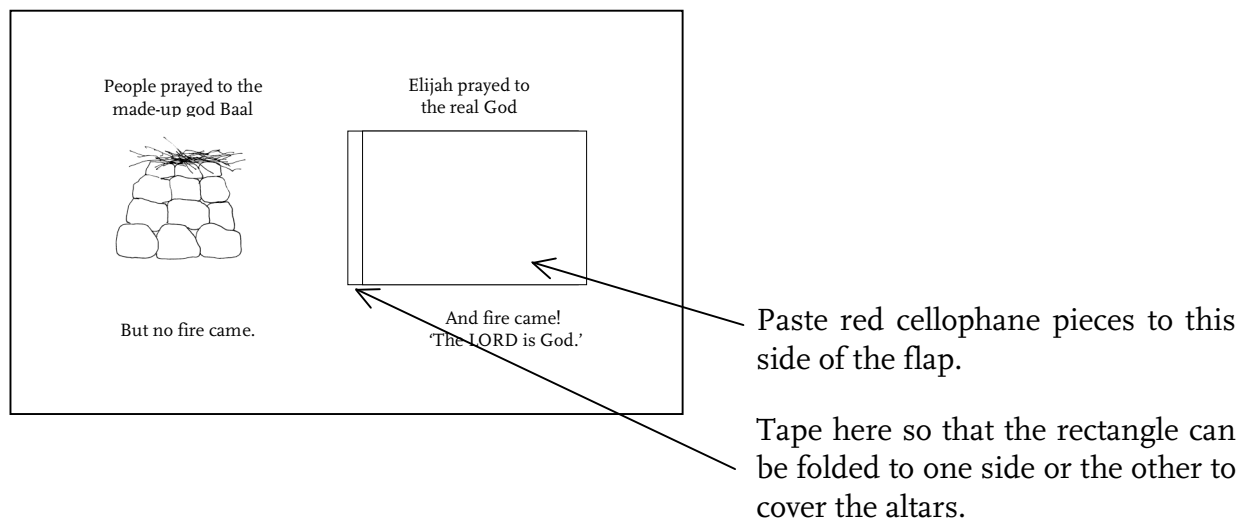
1. The altar on fire

Each child will need a vegetable tray or strawberry punnet with a copy of the caption on page 61. You will also need a strong, child-friendly glue. The children make Elijah's altar like the one used as a visual aid: put some pebbles or pasta as rocks, twigs as sticks, crumpled brown paper as the sacrifice, blue paper as water around the edge and red cellophane as fire (see page 61).

Please make sure that the children are not tempted in any way to try to make a real fire with their altar. Emphasise that the red cellophane is the 'fire'.

2. Fire or no fire?

Print page 62 for each child and also print page 60 and cut out a rectangle for each child. Before the lesson, paste the rectangle in the centre of page 62 as indicated below.



In the lesson, the children colour the pictures of the altars. (They move the rectangle so that it covers Elijah's altar, and they colour the altar to Baal and then they paste red cellophane on the flap to make a fire which covers Elijah's altar). Then they move the rectangle so that it covers the altar to Baal and they colour Elijah's altar, remembering to colour the water around Elijah's altar.

3. Picture page

Print page 63 for each child to fill in as follows:

- (i) they either draw the altar (a pile of rocks and sticks) or they paste brown crumpled paper rocks and brown cardboard sticks.
- (ii) they either draw water poured over the sticks or they paste on brown paper or cardboard sticks and small scraps of blue paper as water.
- (iii) they either draw a fire or they paste on red cellophane as fire

4. Collage

This activity is suitable for younger children. Before the lesson, print page 64, tear up some brown paper into shapes which are like rocks, rip some dark brown or black paper into long thin strips to be sticks and find some red paper (cellophane is ideal) to be the fire. In the lesson, show a completed version of the activity and read the caption. The children paste on brown paper rocks and then the strips as sticks on top. Finally the children paste on red paper. If it's cellophane it's see-through, so the altar and sticks will still be able to be seen in the fire.

An alternative to this activity is for the children to draw a picture on page 64.

Memory verse...

Jeremiah 10, verse 10, 'But you, LORD, are the true God, you are the living God'.

Clapping rhythm to accompany verse:

Each line has two claps. The first clap (which is underlined) is the first syllable of each line and it is a clap with two hands. The second clap is underlined and in italic, made by hands clapping on both knees.

Jeremiah

10, verse 10, But

you, LORD, are the

true *God*,

you are the

living *God*



Jeremiah 10, verse 10,

'But you, LORD, are the
true God, you are the
living God'

There is only one God;
the true and living God.

There are no other gods but him.

There is only one God;
the true and living God.

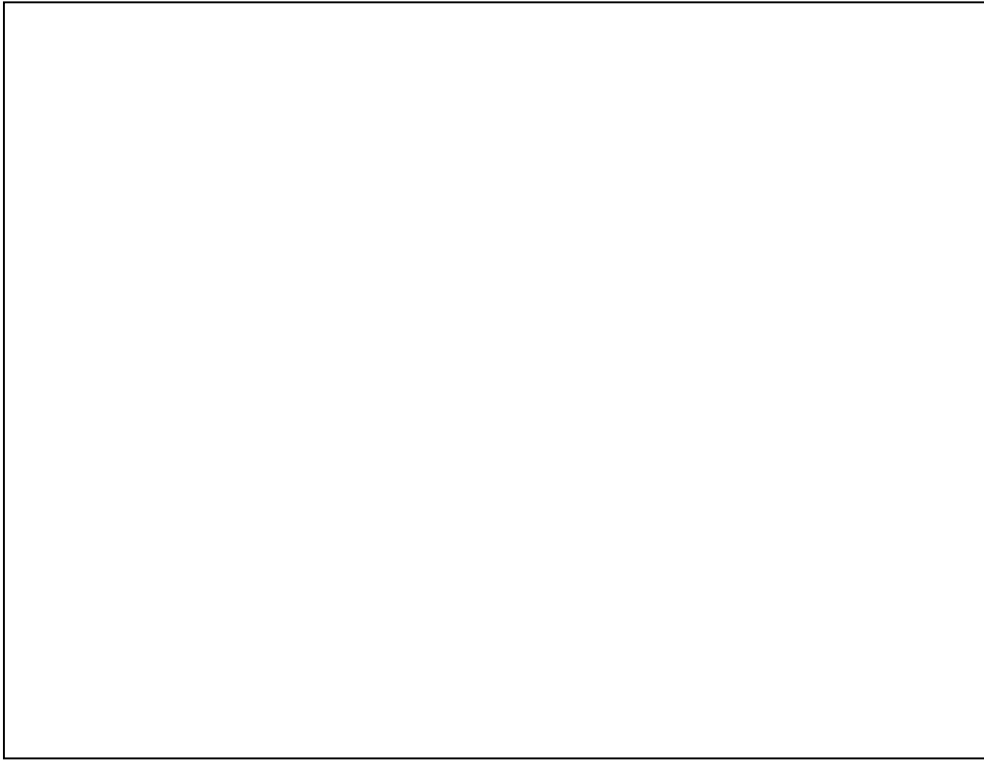
God wants us to worship only him.

There is only one God;
the true and living God.

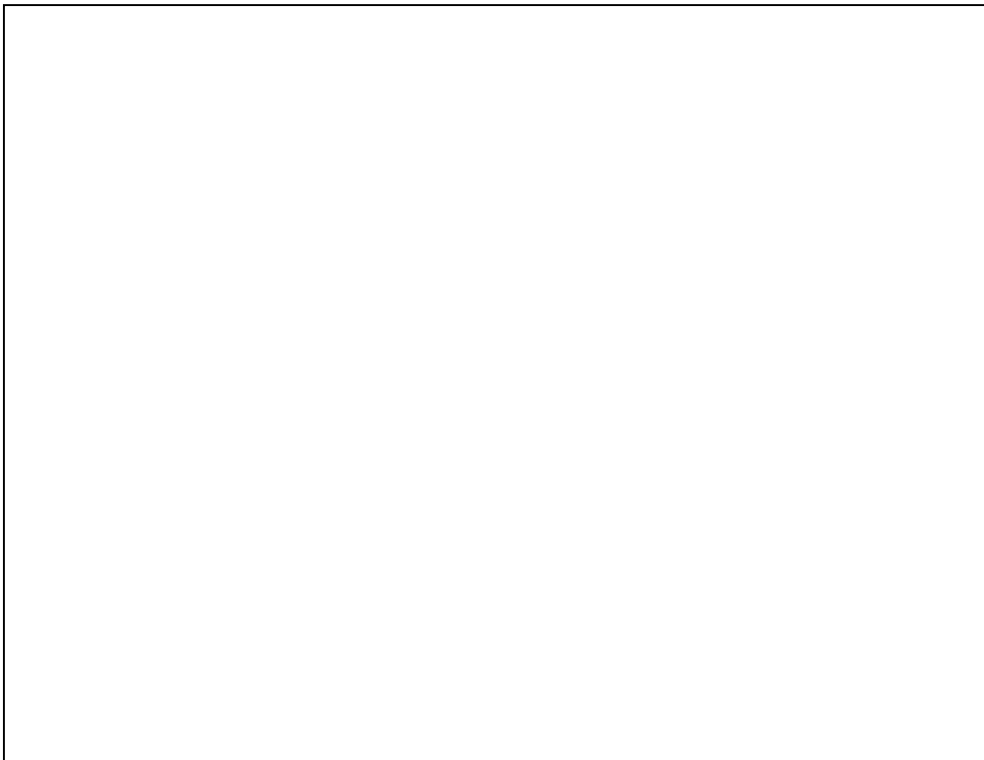
God made everyone and everything.

There is only one God;
the true and living God.

Nothing is too difficult for him.



Rectangle to paste
on to page 62



Caption for activity #1:

God sent fire down, and it burnt up everything and dried up the water. When the people saw this, they said, "The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!".
1 Kings 18:38-39

God sent fire down, and it burnt up everything and dried up the water. When the people saw this, they said, "The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!".
1 Kings 18:38-39

God sent fire down, and it burnt up everything and dried up the water. When the people saw this, they said, "The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!".
1 Kings 18:38-39

Instructions for visual aid:

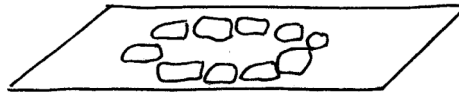
You will need three squares of thick cardboard. Using a strong glue like PVA, you will be making two altars for the sacrifices and one after the sacrifice has burnt.

For the two altars

Make a ring of pebbles or small stones.

For Elijah's altar use 12 stones.

Attach with blu-tack or glue.



In the centre make a pile of 'sticks' using twigs.

Attach with glue.



For the bull sacrifice

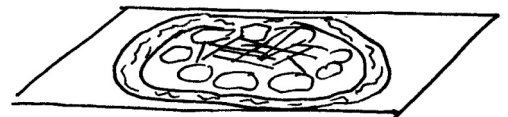
Scrunch up some pieces of brown paper.



For the water

Cut some blue wool into small pieces or cut blue tissue paper into small slivers.

Use small yoghurt pots (or similar) as jugs.



For the scorched earth and dried up trench

Glue ripped pieces of black paper onto the third square of cardboard.



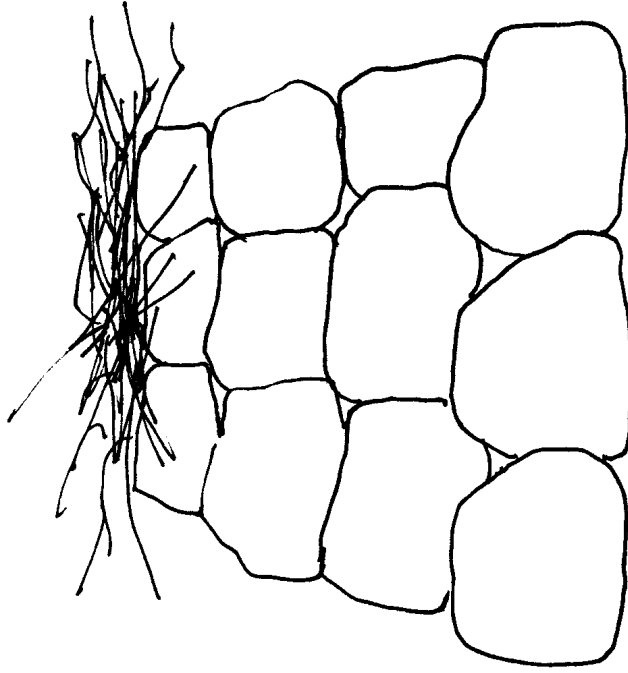
People prayed to
the made-up god

Baal

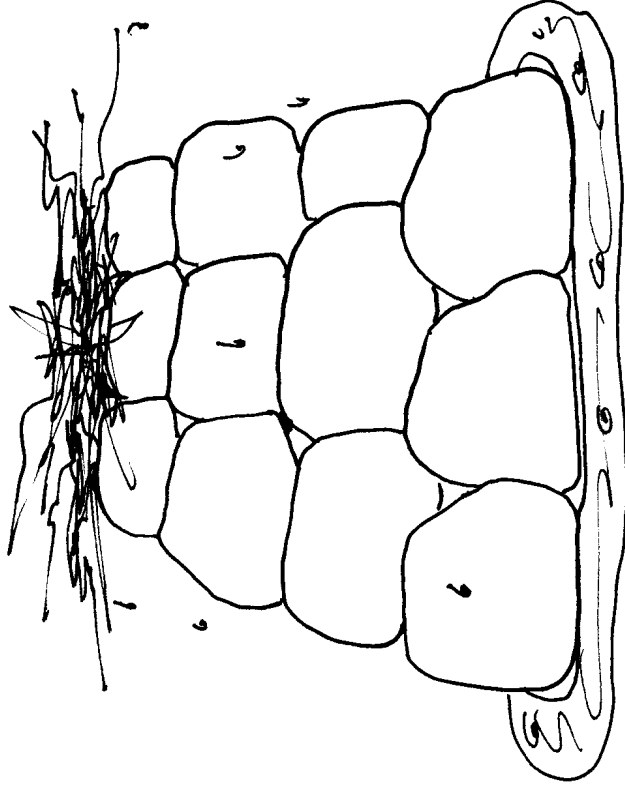


1 Kings 18 verses 16-39

Elijah prayed to
the real God



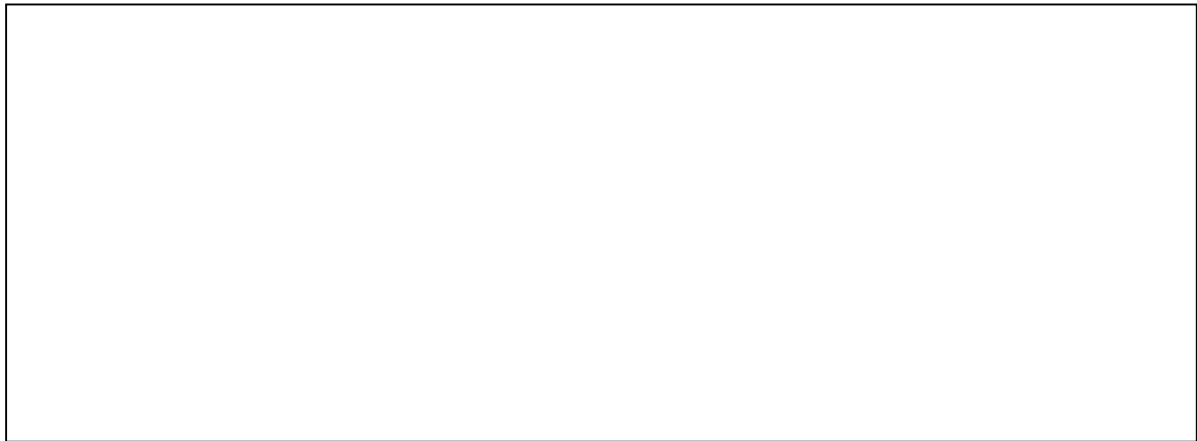
But no fire came.



And fire came!
'The LORD is God.'

When the people prayed to Baal to send fire, this happened...

i



There was no fire. The made-up god, Baal, couldn't send fire.

Elijah did this to his pile of sticks...

ii



He poured water on them. Then Elijah prayed to God and this happened...

iii



There was fire and it burnt up everything and dried up the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they said, "The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!"

This story comes from 1 Kings 18, verses 16-39

In 1 Kings 18, verses 16-39, we can read that people prayed to the made-up god Baal, but no fire came. Elijah prayed to the true and living God and fire came. God is the only God.