

## STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY

**Week Fifteen - Elijah vs Prophets of Baal****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*Elijah was a prophet who seemed to be the only one listening to God at the time. But more importantly, God was listening to His people and answered Elijah when it counted. Pray that our kids will grow to be people who listen to the Lord, even when it seems no one else does.*

- **Big Idea:** We have a God who answers us!

**Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Telephone Game**

*Play the classic game of 'Telephone', where one person starts a sentence and whispers it to the next, and you see how that sentence transforms by the time it comes back around the circle. Use this to explain that today we will hear about how some people speak to gods who do not listen, but we have a God who hears us clearly and answers.*

**Sing Together**

### Story - from 1 Kings 18

After King David died there were many other kings of Israel. Unfortunately, each king seemed to get worse and worse. They would follow what the other nations did and began to worship their gods instead of the true God.

A long time passed and there was a king named Ahab. He married a woman from another country named Jezebel and worshiped her gods. Together, they led Israel into a lot of sin and rebellion against the true God. But there was a prophet named Elijah who listened to God. He warned them that God was going to stop the rain for 3 years if they did not listen. Elijah tried to set King Ahab straight, but Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah. So, Elijah went into hiding.

At the end of the drought, he came back. He told Ahab to bring all of Jezebel's prophets who worshipped her god, Baal, because he had a challenge for them. There were 450 of them and only one prophet of God! Elijah wanted everyone to see who the real God was. So he had two oxen butchered and placed on two altars.

He said to the people of Israel, *"How long will you keep going back and forth between two gods? Let the prophets of Baal call out to their god for fire to come down and burn their offering. Then I will call to the God of Israel who rescued us out of Egypt to do the same. Whoever answers is the true God!"*

The people agreed. Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. They cried out to their god all day long until the sun went down. They prayed and made sacrifices. But he never answered them. Elijah asked, *"Where is your god? Maybe he's taking a nap! I know - maybe he's in the bathroom! Or maybe he can't hear you. Yell louder!"*

Elijah said all of this to show the difference between the god they worshipped and the true God. The real God does not need to take naps or go to the bathroom or take a break. And He always hears His people. Then Elijah said, *"Enough of that. It's my turn."*

He had people get four buckets filled with water and dump it on his ox. Then again. Then a third time. 12 buckets of water drenched his altar. Elijah prayed, *"Lord, I know you hear, but answer so that these people will know you listen and are the true God."* God sent fire down on Elijah's altar burning up all the water, wood, and the ox.

The people fell down saying, *"The Lord is the true God!"*  
Then God sent them rain.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- What made Elijah's sacrifice work when the 450 prophets could not get fire? What was the difference?
- Do you think God still hears His people today, like He heard Elijah then?
- God not only heard Elijah and answered, but Elijah spent his life listening to God. How can we listen to God today?
- Hundreds of years later there would be another sacrifice on an altar - but this time it would be God Himself coming down not as fire, but as the sacrifice. Jesus was placed on the wood and killed to rescue us like God had once rescued Israel. But this time He rescued His people from death itself because He came back to life, conquering death, our rebellion, and sin!

### Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for hearing us. Help us to listen to you and follow your ways. We need your Spirit, Jesus, to do this. Amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the coloring sheet attached OR you may choose to create a craft similar to this one using paper plates, string, and blue paper:



- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Elijah was able to speak truth to everyone because he listened to God. What truths about God can you share with friends, neighbors, or family this week?



Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18