



LESSON 38

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Courage to trust God, and boldness.

Bible Character: Elijah

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 18



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read 1 Kings 18. In your cabin you will focus on Elijah's boldness in standing alone against the prophets of Baal. It took great courage to trust God and stand up against the prophets. We can learn to have courage and boldness like Elijah. What are some idols in your life that have taken your focus off of God? What are some idols that you think are in your campers' lives? How can you stand up against idols in your life? Spend some time praying for yourself and your campers. Be prepared to talk about an idol in your life with your cabin.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Elijah Word Search

Supplies:

Worksheet – Elijah word search side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a word search to complete. Campers will use the back of this page later in the lesson.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today in small group, we will look at the model Elijah gives us to be bold and have courage to trust God.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? Why was Newsie Wordsmith looking for Penny Pointer? (He received an inspirational letter from her about standing up for what is right, even when no one else does, and he wanted to learn more about Elijah and Baal.) **Who was Baal?** (The false god who the Israelites had started worshiping.) **What did Elijah do?** (Elijah stood up to all of the people and trusted that God would be with him.)

What did we learn about Solomon a few weeks ago? (We learned about how Solomon went to the Lord when he felt incompetent to lead the Israelites.) **How did God respond to Solomon?** (God was pleased with Solomon and blessed him with wisdom and wealth.) **What did Solomon do with the blessings God gave him?** (Solomon freely shared his blessings with others, including the Queen of Sheba who traveled a long way to see what Solomon's wisdom and wealth was all about.)

This week we are going to continue in 1 Kings and begin our study of Elijah. Elijah was a prophet in Israel. In those days, there were no Bibles, so God chose a man who loved Him to tell the people what he wanted them to do. Elijah's name means "My God is Yahweh." Yahweh is a very personal name for God. Israel had turned from God and they were worshiping the false god Baal. They believed that Baal was the god of rain, thunder, lightning and dew.

Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Kings 18 [NLT].

1 Kings 18:17-21

17 When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, "So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?"

18 "I have made no trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.

19 Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who are supported by Jezebel."

20 So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel. 21 Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent.

Israel was not following God, so God called Elijah to stand up against King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal in front of the people of Israel in order to prove that God is the only true God.

Let's continue reading the Bible to find out what happened with the challenge.

I Kings 18:22-27

22 Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only prophet of the LORD who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets. 23 Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it. 24 Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!" And all the people agreed.

25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood."

26 So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made.

27 About noontime Elijah began mocking them. "You'll have to shout louder," he scoffed, "for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!"

So far, King Ahab and the prophets of Baal were having no success. Their god Baal was not showing himself to win this challenge.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Elijah proved God is the only true God.

I Kings 18:30-34

30 Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down. 31 He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, 32 and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. 33 He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood."

34 After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, 35 and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

(Pull out the match, bowl/cup, and bottle of water from your bin. Pour some water into the bowl/cup.)

Is there something funny about what Elijah was having them do to his wood? Do you think wood that is wet would catch fire? Let's see what happens with this match and bowl of water. (Light one match, let it burn for a few seconds, and then drop it into the bowl/cup of water. DO NOT let the campers touch the matches.) We all know that the water puts out the fire. Have you ever tried to light a campfire when it is raining or with wet wood? It just doesn't work. Elijah had water poured over the wood, bull, and altar three times. Why do you think he did this? (Allow responses.)

Let's read more in the Bible to see what happens.

I Kings 18:36-39

36 At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. 37 O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

38 Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"

Elijah showed great courage by trusting God to be faithful to him. God gave him boldness to stand up to more than 850 men by himself. Elijah is a great example of how God wants us to treat idols in our lives. He does not want us to have idols that take our focus off Him. He wants us to stand up with courage against any idols that come into our lives.

What an amazing story! If it happened today, it would be on the front page in the newspaper. How do you think you would have reacted if you were Elijah? Would you stand up in front of all those people? (Allow responses.) Elijah had the courage to do this because he knew how powerful God is. He knew that God would not leave him. We can trust God because He is faithful to us, just as He was faithful to Elijah. We see how powerful God is in this story. That is another reason why we can trust Him and have the courage to stand up for what we know is right.

Identifying Idols



The purpose is to identify the idols in the campers' lives.

Supplies:

Worksheet – heart side (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Have each camper spend some time thinking about the idols in their lives. Ask them to write down or draw pictures of idols in their lives under/around the heart (not inside the heart). They should write or draw at least three idols. Campers will use this for the next activity, too.

Tie It Together



An idol is something that we worship in place of God or anything that becomes more important in our lives than God. (Share an illustration of an idol from your own life with your campers. Help the campers work through the process of identifying the idols in their lives.) **What are some examples of idols in our lives? What makes them an idol?** (Allow responses.) **Video games can be an idol. How can they become an idol?** (When we make the video game more important than how we treat our friends or how we spend our time; when we think we cannot live without the video game or get very upset when we cannot play the video game when we want to play it.)

How do we make ourselves an idol? Do our actions show that what we want is more important than how God wants us to act? For example, there might be a time when you do not share a video game or toy with your brother/sister/friend. Is this the way God would want you to act? Why do you act this way if you know this is not the way God would want you to act? You act this way because what you want (to play the video game) is more important to you than behaving in a way that pleases God.

God wants us to live for Him. When we have an idol in our life, it turns our focus away from God and onto ourselves because the idol becomes more about what we want rather than what God wants for us. When you recognize an idol in your life, you can trust that God will help you turn away from the idol and turn your eyes back to Him and what He wants for your life.

Idols



The purpose is to identify idols in our lives.

Supplies:

Worksheet – heart side (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Go over the verse that's above the heart. Have the campers say it with you a few times. Next, have them cross out each idol they wrote or drew and have them write "GOD" in big letters inside the heart.

Tie It Together



God wants to be first in our hearts. He does not want anything to get in the way of His place in your heart. He is our creator and we have been created to worship Him. He showed us grace by giving us His Son Jesus as the sacrifice for our sin so that we can live with Him always. He deserves our worship. He knows what is best for our lives and He wants us to live for Him. Keep this sheet as a reminder of idols that are in your life. We can stand up and fight against anything that becomes an idol because God is faithful and He will help us through it. Thank God for everything He has done for you and ask Him to help you make Him first in your heart.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you make Him first in your life.



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