LESSON 22

ELIJAH AND THE FIRE FROM HEAVEN



Aim: **To show the children how Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal and demonstrated the power of the living God.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Kings 18:16-46**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121**
Review the whole psalm.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Talk to the class about contests and competitions. These are events in which people take part to find out who is the best at a particular activity. What kind of contests do you enjoy?

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Elijah had a contest with the prophets of Baal. King Ahab ordered the people of Israel and the prophets of Baal to meet Elijah at Mount Carmel. They would have a competition to see who was really the true God. Would it be God or Baal? (18:20-22).
2. Elijah announced the rules of the contest. The prophets or leaders of Baal – all 450 of them – would arrange a sacrifice of two bulls. Elijah, the only prophet of God, would do the same. They would not light the fire underneath the sacrifice; instead, they had to pray for fire to be sent from heaven. The one who answered by fire would be the true God. Everyone agreed to these rules (18:22-24).
3. The Baal worshippers built their altar first. They prayed all day but no fire came. Elijah started making fun of them (28:25-29).
4. In the evening Elijah called everyone to watch him. He repaired the altar to God that had been destroyed and prepared the sacrifice. He even had four large jars of water poured over it to make it harder to burn (28:30-35).
5. Then Elijah prayed to God and asked for fire from heaven to show the people that the Lord is the living God. **Show Picture 22.** God sent fire that burnt up everything, including the stones on which the sacrifice lay. All the people cried out, "The Lord – he is God!" The prophets of Baal, who had told the people lies, were all killed (18:36-40).

Our Response to the Story

Elijah was one person against the king and queen, 450 prophets of Baal, and the unfaithful Israelites. But he served the living God. He knew that he served the only true God and that there are no other gods. Elijah is an example to us of a courageous servant of God who stood against evil, even though he stood alone.

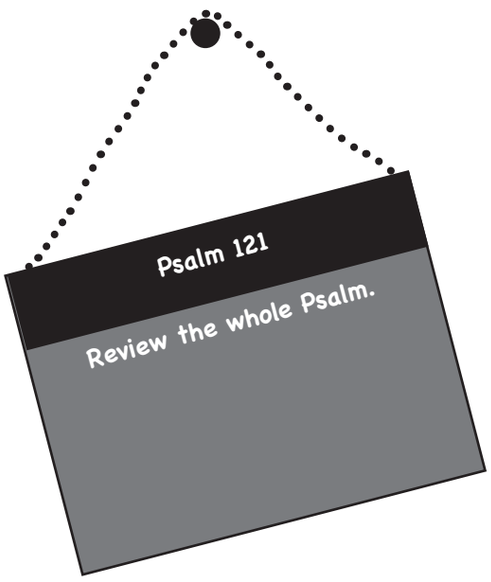
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Some Christians are called and equipped by God to do this today. Let us pray for them and for ourselves, that we will hold on to the truth: that our God is the living God.

Instil the Memory Verse

Elijah experienced the truth of Psalm 121 and Psalm 1 in his life.



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