

## Family Lesson 38

**Principle:** Courage to trust God and have boldness.

**Bible Character(s):** Elijah

**Scripture Reference:** 1 Kings 18

**1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Skit Video** - Watch the short [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

**3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

**What did we learn about Solomon a few weeks ago?** (We learned about how Solomon goes to the Lord when he feels incompetent to lead the Israelites.) **How does God respond to Solomon?** (God is pleased with Solomon and blesses him with wisdom and wealth.) **What does Solomon do with the blessings God gives him?** (Solomon freely shares his blessings with others, including the Queen of Sheba who travels a long way to see what Solomon's wisdom and wealth is all about.)

This week, we are going to continue in 1 Kings and begin our study of Elijah. Elijah is a prophet in Israel. At the time of Elijah's life, there are no Bibles, so God chooses a man who loves him to tell the people what he wants them to do. Elijah's name means "My God is Yahweh." Yahweh is a very personal name for God. Israel has turned from God and they are worshipping the false god Baal. They believe that Baal is the god of rain, thunder, lightning, and dew.

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

### 1 Kings 18:17-21

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

<sup>18</sup> "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. <sup>19</sup> 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."

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> 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 is not following God, so God calls Elijah to stand up against King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Elijah challenges them in front of the people of Israel in order to prove that God is the only true God.**

**Elijah and the prophets of Baal each prepare a bull for sacrifice and lay them on the altars. Then, Elijah tells the prophets to call on Baal to see if he will set fire to the altar. Elijah said that whichever god answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God. So far, King Ahab and the prophets of Baal are having no success. Their god, Baal, is not showing himself to win this challenge.**

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

## I Kings 18:30-34

<sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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.”

<sup>34</sup> 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, <sup>35</sup> and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

on the ground and cried out, “The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!”

**Elijah shows great courage by trusting God to be faithful to him. God gives 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. Just like Newsie Wordsmith in Big Group, we get to be reporters this morning and create the first copy of the Camp Grace Times, telling others about Elijah’s experience with the prophets of Baal.**

## Prayer

Spend some time in prayer with your child. Ask God to help you make him first in your life.

## Activity

### Identifying Idols

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

### Supplies:

Worksheet – heart side (found on the [Kids Resource Page](#))  
crayons/markers

Part One: Have your child 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 drawn heart (not inside the heart). They should write or draw at least three idols. Your child will use this for the next activity, too.

**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

**Have you ever tried to light a campfire when it is raining or with wet wood? It just doesn’t work. Elijah has water poured over the wood, bull, and altar three times. Why do you think he does this?** (Allow responses.)

**Let’s read more of the Bible to find out.**

## I Kings 18:36-39

<sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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.”

<sup>38</sup> 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! <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell face down

idol from your own life with your child. Help your child 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, or 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.**

Part Two: Go over the verse that's above the heart. Have your child 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.

**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 shows 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.**

## **Optional Additional Activity**

### **Elijah Word Search**

**Supplies:**

Worksheet – Elijah word search side (found on the Kids Resource Page)

