

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 4
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29), 30-39

Background

Today we are in the season after Pentecost, also known as “Ordinary Time.” This season runs through Christ the King Sunday, which we celebrate in November. This season of the church year invites us to think about how we live as Christians and how we live out the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our ordinary lives.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

This week’s Scripture passage is a story about the prophet Elijah, as told in 1 Kings. In this story, Elijah encounters the Prophets of Baal, who worship a God other than the God of Elijah. The prophets and Elijah have a contest to see whose god is more powerful. Though they pray and call on their god all morning, the prophets are unsuccessful. Then, Elijah calls on his God, and God burns Elijah’s sacrifice, even drying up the water that is poured over the altar. Through this act, people see the awesome and mighty power of God. Elijah’s prayer was answered!

Theme: God Listens to Us

Before Class: Read the story in 1 Kings 18:20-39 prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. You will need a Bible tell the story. For the activities you will need: For option 1: string or yarn and colored beads. For option 2: old boxes to build and altar. For option 3: raisins, pretzel sticks, blue candies, red and orange candies and a bowl.

Beginning: Teach and sing the song “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying.”

Opening Prayer: Awesome God, you are always with us. Be present with us today as we learn more about how you listen to us. Amen.

The Story: 1 Kings 18:20-39 Read or tell the story by using your favorite story Bible or children’s Bible.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how the prophets felt when they saw the fire come to Elijah’s altar. How would you feel?
- I wonder how Elijah felt when he saw the fire come to his altar. How would you feel?
- How did the prophets respond to Elijah’s altar being set on fire? What did they say and do?
- Do you think that Elijah knew what would happen? Why or why not?
- What are some of the things you pray for? How do you know that your prayers are answered?

Activities

Option 1: Use string or yarn and colored beads to make prayer bracelets. Invite students to string beads on the yarn or string to represent the different things we pray for.

Option 2: Gather a selection of old boxes that could be used to build a structure. (If time is short, just bring a selection of blocks.) Use the boxes to build an altar. Invite students to re-tell the story, using the altar.

Option 3: Make a snack mix as a reminder of the story. Use raisins to represent the stones that made Elijah's altar. Use pretzel sticks to represent the wood. Use blue chocolate candies to represent the water poured on the altar. Use red and orange chocolate candies to represent the fire. Make your snack and then invite students to re-tell the story while you are eating the mix.

Getting Closure: Stand in a circle and hold hands. Invite students to share a "please" and "thank you" prayer. Each student should share one prayer of intercession ("please") and one prayer of thanksgiving ("thank you").

Closing Prayer: Loving God, you listen to us when we pray. Help us remember that you always listen to us. Amen.

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