

## The Old Testament

# Lesson 32 - Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

### Aims

- \* To know the key points of the story
- \* to know that God answers prayers

### Materials

- \* Bible Story - 1 Kings 17-19
- \* Visual aids - a picture from the story
- \* Worksheets
- \* Miracle Bingo - game patterns, scissors, glue, colored pencils, orange tissue paper

### Key words

idol - a man-made object that is treated like god  
worship—treating something or someone as if it is God.  
sacrifice—something that is given to God.

### Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Story - Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
3. Questions about the Story
4. God answers prayers
5. Activities - worksheets, act out the story, games
6. Review the aims
7. Prayer

.....

### 1) Introduction

Today's story is about the prophet Elijah, who lived many years after King Solomon. Here are some important words we need to know.

idol - a man-made object that is treated like god  
worship—treating something or someone as if it is God.  
sacrifice—something that is given to God.

### 2) Story - Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

When King Ahab of Israel ruled, he worshipped a false god called Baal. God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab and told him there would be no rain until he obeyed God's laws. For three years no rain fell. After this time, Elijah spoke to the king again. He called a contest to prove who the true God was. On Mount Carmel the prophets of Baal and Elijah met. They had to sacrifice an animal on an

altar and ask their god to bring fire. The prophets prayed, but nothing happened. When Elijah prayed his offering burst into flame. Then everyone knew who the true God was.

### 3) Questions about the story

1. Why was God not happy with King Ahab? - *He worshipped the false god, Baal*
2. What did Elijah tell King Ahab? - *There will be no rain until God says*
3. For how long was there no rain? - *three years*
4. What did Elijah say to King Ahab after 3 years? - *Let us have a contest to decide who is the real god*
5. What was the contest? - *to make a sacrifice to each god and to call on their god to make a fire. Whoever makes fire is the real god*
6. How many prophets of Baal offered sacrifices? - *450*
7. What did they do? - *They prayed and cried out, but nothing happened*
8. What did Elijah do to the altar before he prayed? *He soaked the offering with water*
9. What happened when Elijah prayed? - *Fire burned up everything, including the water*
10. What did Elijah pray for next? - *for rain to come and it did rain*
11. What happened when Elijah was an old man? - *God chose Elisha as the next prophet. God lifted Elijah up to Heaven in a chariot of fire*

### 4) God answers prayers

\* God talked to Elijah and He can talk to us also. How does God talk to us?

- Some people hear a voice.
- God can talk to us through our thoughts. God gave us a conscience, which is like a voice in our heads.
- Through the words people say
- Through nature.

\* We cannot see God, but He is real. When Elijah prayed God showed He was real by answering his prayers to bring fire and rain. When we pray, God hears us and He answers us. If we listen carefully we can hear His answer.

\* God likes it when we talk to Him. We can talk to Him every day. What would you like to say to God? We can ask God questions or ask for help. What do you want to ask God? What would you like God to help you with?

### 5) Activities

\* Worksheets

- a) God Takes Care of Elijah - Help the birds find their way to Elijah to give him food.
- b) God Sends Fire - Colour the picture
- c) Elijah and the Prophets of Baal - Colour the pictures. Cut them out. Paste them to match the text. Add fire to Elijah's sacrifice. Use coloured pencils or orange tissue paper
- d) God sends Rain - Colour each raindrop blue, that has one of the letters: R A I N. Then colour the picture

\* Act out the story of the contest between Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

\* Games

a) Miracle Bingo

Teacher calls out the description of different pictures. Each player checks their bingo sheet carefully. If you find the picture on your sheet, cover it with a plastic lid. If your sheet does not have that picture, wait until the teacher calls out the next one. The first person to cover all four pictures on the bingo sheet wins the game

b) Which Direction

Children stand up in a line. They must go in whatever direction you tell them. Call out left, right, right, left, left right, etc going faster and faster until they can't keep up. Then sit and discuss: Can you walk in two directions at the same time? No! When I said left, you went one way. When I said right you went another. Elijah compared worshipping idols as trying to go two directions at the same time. He told the people they would have to decide what direction (or path) they would take. Going toward God meant going away from Baal. They couldn't have it both ways.

**6) Review the lesson aims**

\* To know the key points of the story

\* to know that God answers prayers

**7) Prayer**

# Elijah and the Prophets of Baal



During Elijah's life King Ahab ruled Israel. He had an evil wife called Jezebel. She killed many of the followers of God and forced people to worship the idols of Baal. One day, Elijah brought a message to King Ahab. "There will be no rain until God says so. He is angry because you have disobeyed Him and you worship false gods." The God sent a great famine upon the land of Israel

God, however, cared for Elijah. He told him to go to a place on the other side of the River Jordan, where he would be safe. For three years, Elijah stayed away and God watched over him, sending ravens to bring him food, and telling Elijah where to find people who would look after him. And in all that time, it did not rain once.

After three years God told Elijah to return to Ahab. The king was very angry with Elijah, "You are a trouble-maker. You caused the rain to go away. It is your fault that we have had a drought."

"No, King Ahab," said Elijah. "You caused the drought. It was because you stopped worshipping the Lord. The Lord knows that you and your wife, Jezebel, worship false gods. You make idols and bow down before them. But you are wrong! There is only one God. He is the Lord God of Israel! He is the only real God. All of the others are just made up. Gather all of the people and all of the prophets of Baal together at Mount Carmel. We will have a contest to see whose god is real!"

King Ahab did as Elijah said. People from all over Israel came to watch the contest. It didn't really seem like a fair contest. Elijah was the only prophet of God there. There were 450 prophets of the false god, Baal.

Elijah spoke to all of the people, "Everyone needs to make a decision today. If Baal is real then you need to worship him. If the Lord God is real, then you need to worship Him!"

Elijah said that each group sacrifice a bull on an altar to their god. The prophets would pray to their god. The god who would send fire down to burn up the sacrifice would be the true God. So the prophets of Baal went first. They made their altar and then they prayed and cried out to Baal. But nothing happened to the sacrifice on the altar. They cried even louder and harder. But still there was no answer.

"Maybe Baal is asleep or maybe he is busy," said Elijah. Elijah knew that Baal would never cause fire to come down because Baal was not real. Baal was just a god that someone made up.

Next, it was Elijah's turn. He built an altar to God. He used twelve stones to make it and then he placed the sacrifice on the altar. Then, Elijah did something very unusual! He dug a ditch around the altar he made. He asked for four large jars of water and had them poured over the altar. Then he did it again. And then again. There was so much water that it soaked the sacrifice and all of the wood on



the altar. It even ran into the ditch around the altar. How would something soaked in water ever burn? This seemed impossible!

Then Elijah prayed to God. “I pray to you, Lord, because you are the only God. Please show all of these people here today that you are real. Please send down fire and burn this sacrifice.”

Then an amazing thing happened. Fire came down out of the sky and burned the sacrifice. But the amazing things did not stop there. The fire was so powerful that it burned the wood on the altar, the stones, the dirt, and even dried up all of the water in the ditch around the altar. There was nothing left.

Now everyone knew that the Lord was the only God. They bowed down and kept saying, “The Lord – he is God! The Lord – he is God!”

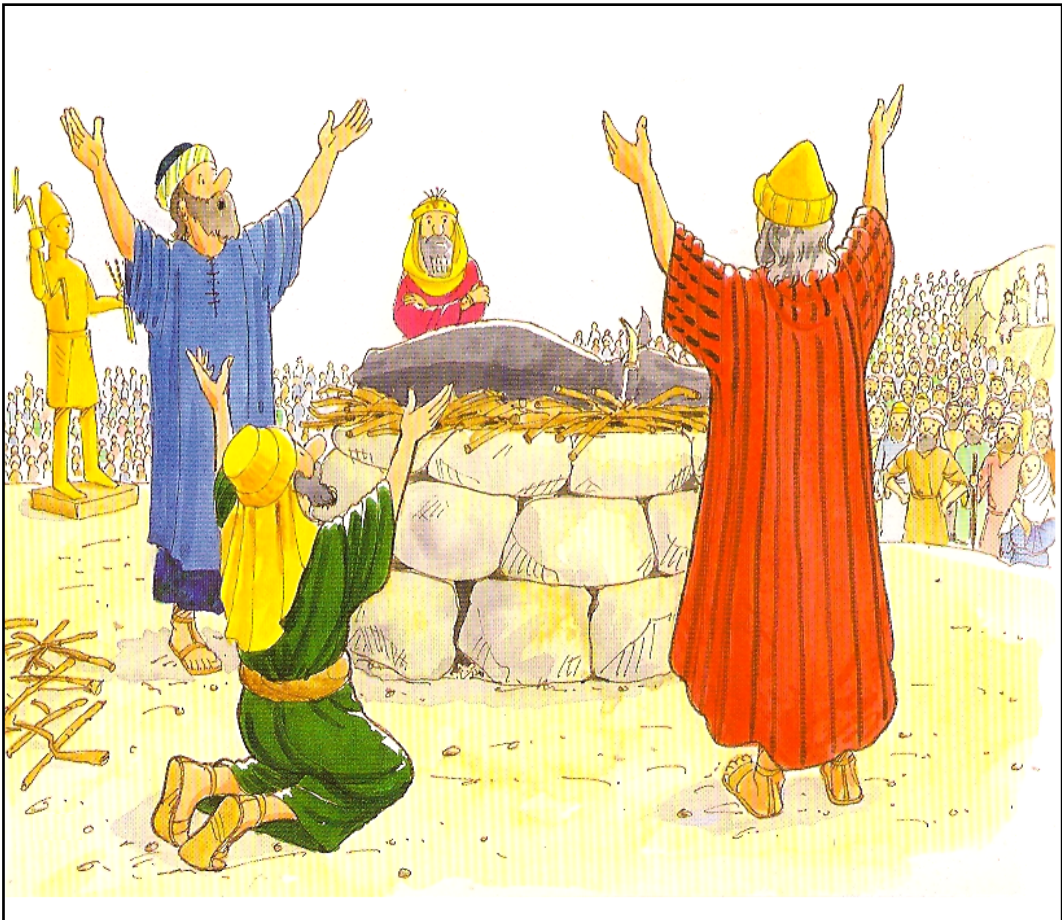
Elijah prayed again. He knew that the Lord would end the drought and that the rain would come. His servant saw a cloud in the sky. The cloud was the size of a man’s hand. Then it got bigger and bigger and the sky became black and the rain came.

.....

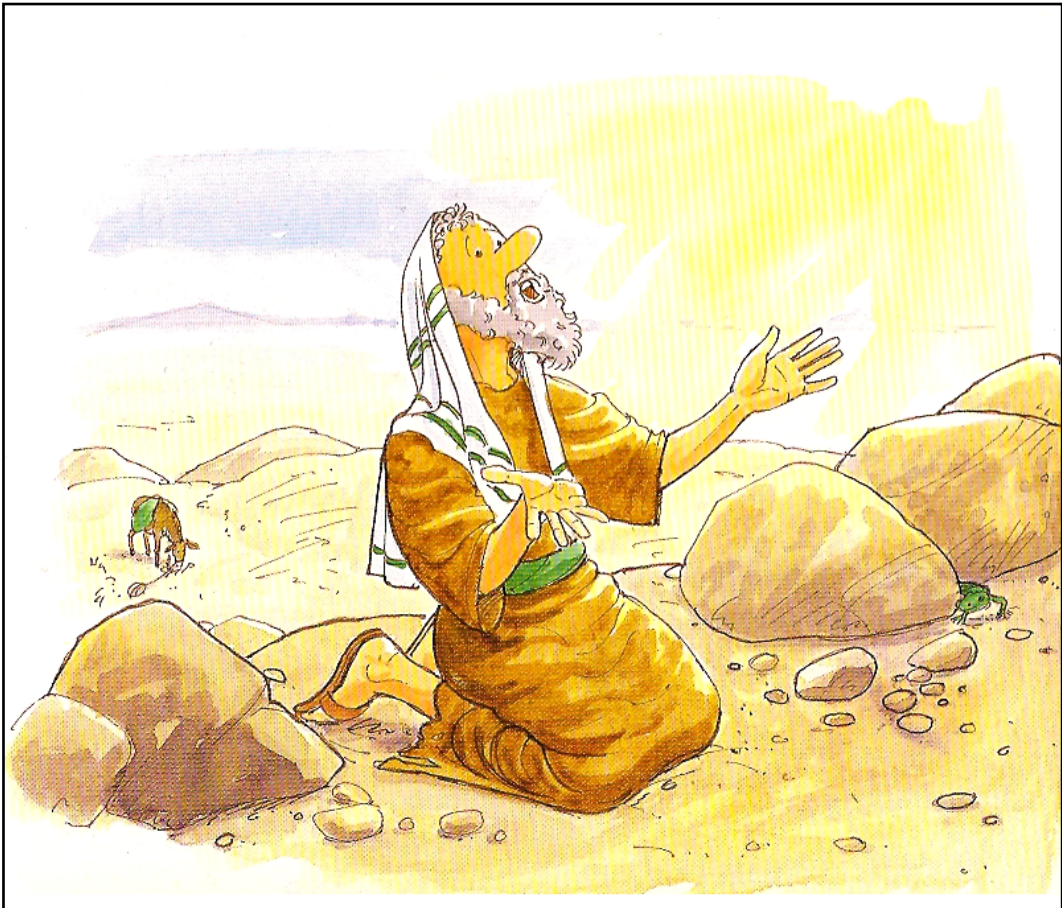
All through his Elijah continued to teach the people to worship the One True God. When he was an old man God chose Elisha to be the next prophet. One day as they walked along together, a chariot of fire rushed between them. God lifted Elijah up to Heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw him no more.









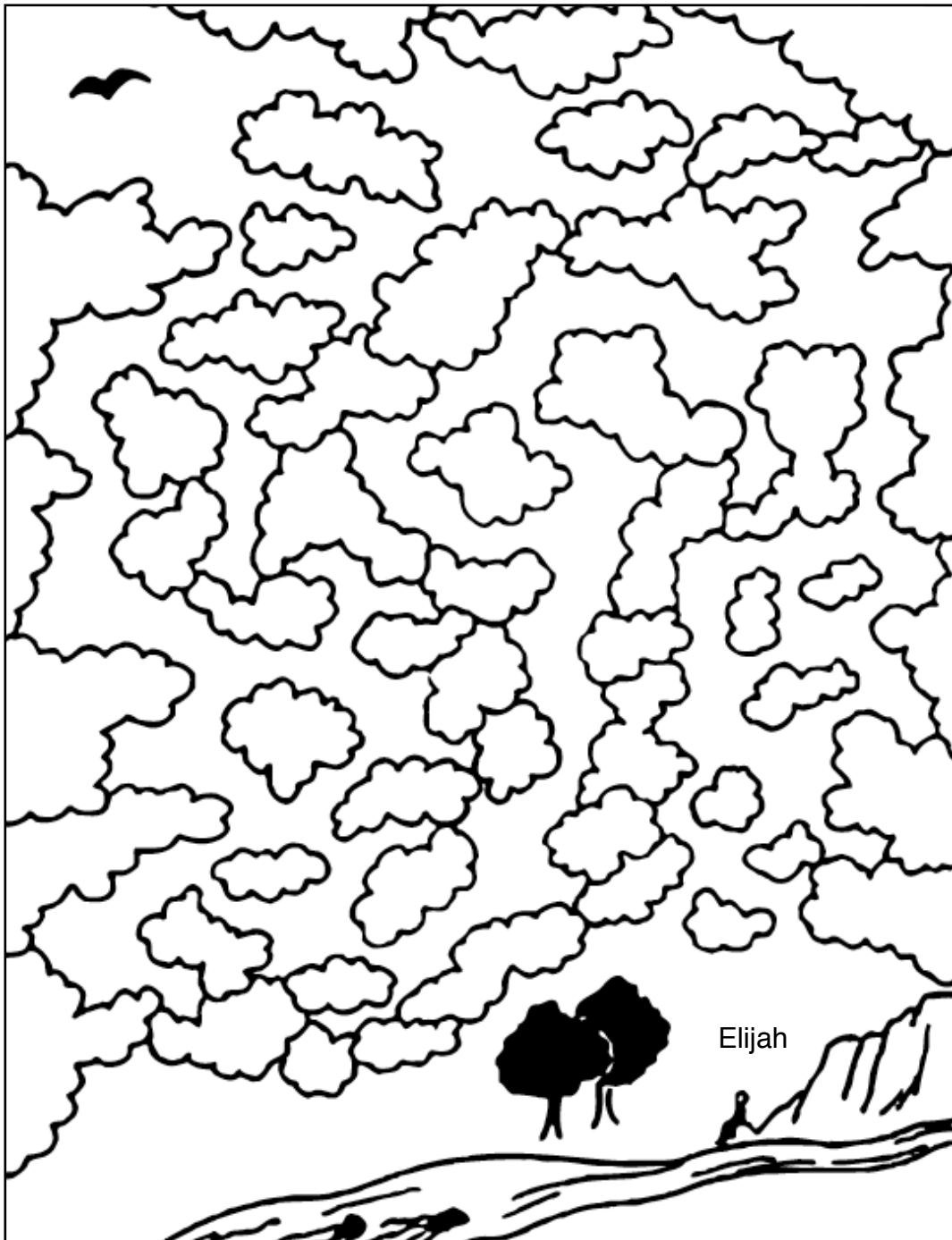






# God Takes Care of Elijah

Help the birds find their way to Elijah to give him food.



# Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

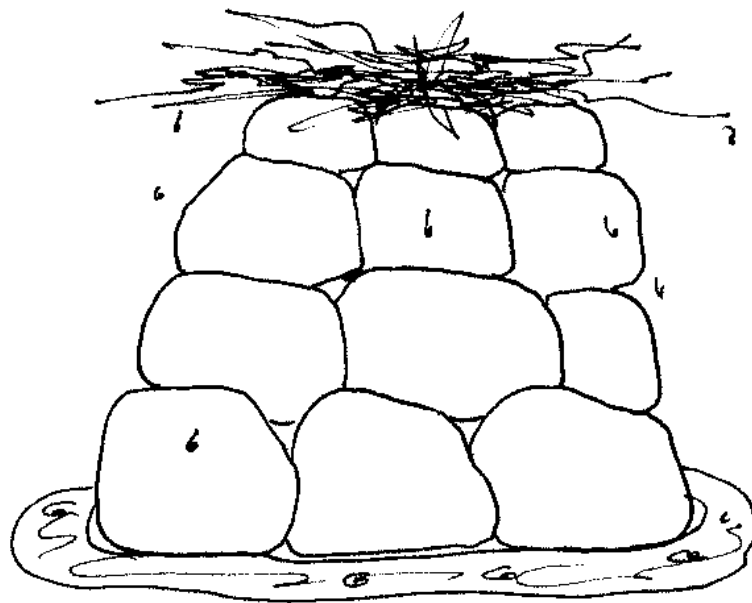
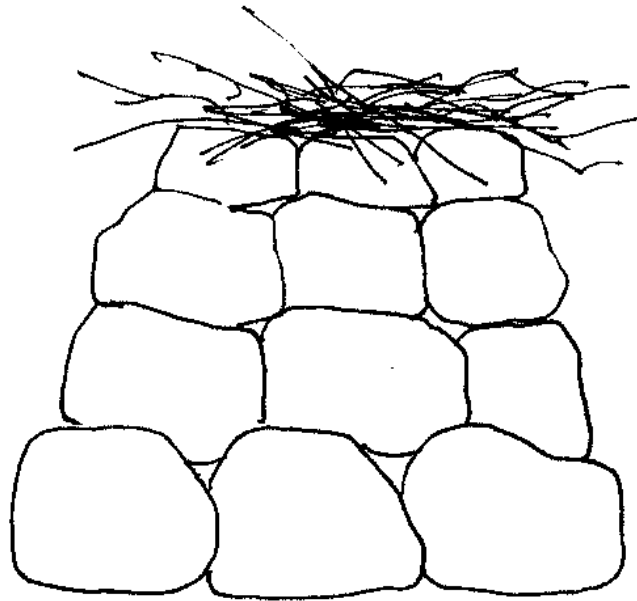
People prayed to the made-up god Baal

Elijah prayed to the real God

But no fire came.

And fire came! 'The LORD is God.'

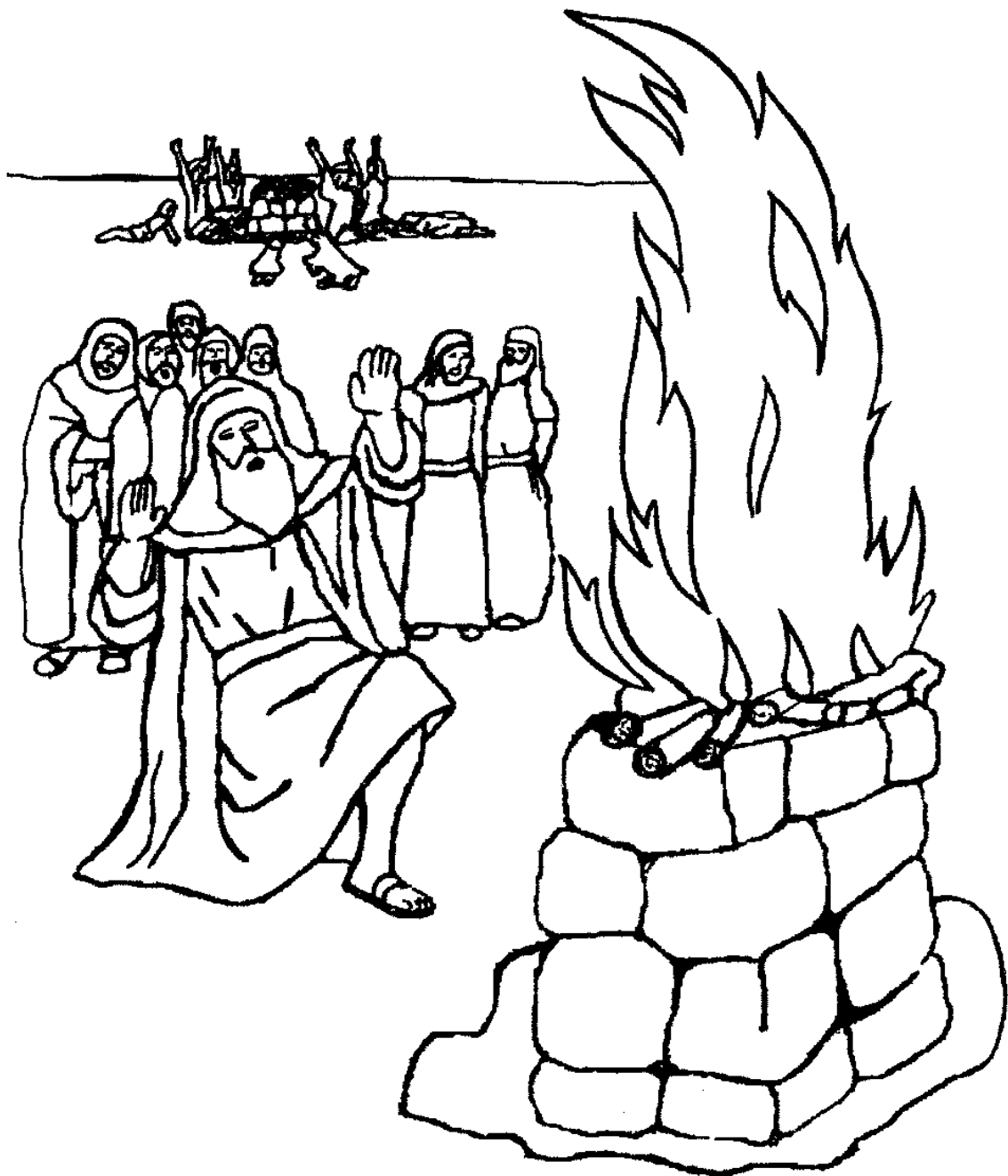
Colour the pictures. Cut them out. Paste them to match the text. Add fire to Elijah's sacrifice. Use coloured pencils or orange tissue paper





# God Sends Fire

Colour the picture



# God Sends Rain

There was no rain for three years in Israel. Then Elijah asked God for rain and his prayers were answered.



Colour each raindrop blue, that has one of the letters: R A I N. Then colour the picture

# Miracle Bingo

## Introduction

Elijah was a prophet of God. During his lifetime, God performed many miracles. These miracles helped the Israelites believe in the holy power of God.

## Preparation

Make copies of the patterns. Cut them into strips. One strip per player. Write each of the following sets of words on separate index cards, one phrase per card:

Elijah: a prophet of God;

Rain: God told Elijah it wouldn't rain for several years;

Raven: The ravens brought food to Elijah during the drought;

Oil: God filled a widow's jars with oil;

Fire: Fire fell from heaven to prove that the Lord is God;

Cloak: Elijah gave his cloak to the next prophet, Elisha;

Chariot: God sent a chariot of fire and carried Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind.

Provide four plastic lids from drink bottles for each player. Shuffle the index cards and randomly read each picture's description.

## Rules of the Game

Teacher calls out the description of different pictures. Each player checks their bingo sheet carefully. If you find the picture on your sheet, cover it with a plastic lid. If your sheet does not have that picture, wait until the teacher calls out the next one. The first person to cover all four pictures on the bingo sheet wins the game.

