

Family Worship Guide – Week 25

READ

- Read 1 Kings 18:16-24
As Elijah confronted Ahab he commanded him to gather all of Israel at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah. Upon arrival Elijah, challenged the people to make a decision about whom they would serve. He urged them to serve the One true God. If Baal was god, then the people should follow him. However, if the LORD (“Yahweh”) was God, then they should follow Him. Apparently, the people of Israel sought to worship both Yahweh and Baal, because Elijah’s initial challenge was answered with silence. The people refused to commit themselves to one God or the other. Elijah then proposed a contest between the God of Israel and Baal. He purposely arranged the contest in such a way that the odds were completely against him. Not only was Mount Carmel regarded by the people as the sacred dwelling place of Baal, but Elijah was outnumbered 450 to 1. From the perspective of the people of Israel, it would have been impossible to lose this contest! The rules were laid down. Each side was to prepare an altar and a sacrifice, without lighting the fire under it. Each side would call on its God (god) to consume the sacrifice with fire. The side whose God (god) answered by igniting the sacrifice would be determined to be the one true God.
- Read 1 Kings 18:25-29
All morning Baal’s prophets called on their god and danced around his altar to arouse him to action. At noon Elijah began to taunt them and sarcastically suggest that Baal was thinking about other things, or away on a trip, or even sleeping. When it was time for the evening sacrifice there was still no response.
- Read 1 Kings 18:36-38
At the time of the Israelites’ evening sacrifice, Elijah stepped forward and prayed. He didn’t cry out with a loud voice or leap on the altar as the prophets of Baal did earlier, instead he addressed God with a simple prayer. He prayed that God would hear his prayer so that the people would know that Yahweh alone was God, and so that His people would worship Him alone. He prayed that the people would see that he had done all these things at the Lord’s command. He prayed that they would know that it was God who had turned their hearts toward Him. Almost immediately God responded by sending fire from heaven that consumed the bull and the wood, and the stones, the dust, and the water. The fire consumed absolutely everything.
- Read 1 Kings 18:39
Yahweh won the contest hands down. He demonstrated that He alone is the one true God. As the people recognized this reality they responded accordingly by falling on their faces and crying out “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God.”

The Bottom Line: Yahweh is the one true God and should be worshipped exclusively.

Questions:

The people of Israel were seeking to follow both Baal and Yahweh. What current day idols are you worshipping?

What characteristics of God are demonstrated throughout the passage?

This story contains one occasion in which God demonstrates that He is the one true God. In what other ways has God revealed and demonstrated that He alone is God?

PRAY

- Read *Window on the World*, pg. 116-117 *Minangkabau* (Indonesia and Sumatra)
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of “By Faith”
- This week our family worship song is “By Faith.” Lyrically, this song is such a beautiful declaration that we live our lives, grounded not in what we have accomplished, but in what God has done throughout redemptive history and ultimately what God has accomplished for us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ.
God’s Word is rich with promises of His faithfulness and goodness. The Bible bids us to trust in God and to put our faith in Him. It is only by God’s grace that God has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him, and it is only through faith in Jesus that we are redeemed.

MEMORIZE

- 1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the “Read” section on Page 1. Remember that these suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with

their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Talk to your preschooler about his/her name and why you chose their name. Then say, "How many names do you go by?" Talk about their first name, middle name, last name, nicknames and terms of endearment you use for your child. Also, talk to your child about your own name and the many different names you go by. Say, "I go by Susan, Mom, Daughter, Sister, Teacher, Mrs. Smith, etc. Does this mean that I am more than one person? Of course not!"
- Do you know that God has many names too? He is called Father, God, Abba, Creator, Jehovah and Yahweh, etc. However, there is only One, True God. He has many different names, but there is just one God and He wants us to serve and worship Him only.
- Use a finger play: Show one finger, shake head yes and say, "Just one God." (Shake head no and say, "Not two, not three, not four, not five." Just one God (show one finger again.)

Children (Grades 1-5)

- Look at an atlas with your child. Find your city and another city that he or she would like to visit. Map out several routes that you could travel to get to your destination. Point out that there are several different ways to reach this city. Now go outside and look up at the moon. Ask your child, "How can we get to the moon? How many different ways are there to travel to the moon?" Explain that there is only one way that man has been able to travel to the moon, a rocket.
- During the days of Elijah, the people were choosing different gods to worship rather than the one true God. They believed that there were many ways to find God, just like we found different routes on our map. But Elijah came to show them that there is only one true God and He deserves all of our worship – Yahweh, the God of Israel.
- Elijah told the people they could not continue to worship more than one god. They had to make a choice. Either choose Baal or Yahweh to worship and serve. Why wasn't it ok to worship both?
- Have you ever been on a sports team? Could you play for more than one soccer team at a time? Why not? (Because you could not be in both places at the same time.) To play for one team, you would have to play against the other team. This is the same with God. If you are on God's team, you can't be loyal to another team. God wants us to choose a side, His side. What things might keep you from choosing God and worshipping Him only? (Friends, hobbies, etc.) Do you believe that God is worthy of all of your worship?

Students (Grades 6-12)

- Have you ever felt like you were all alone standing up against the world? Are there any specific instances you can recall? Discuss one of these times as a family. Elijah felt like he was the only one in the world following Yahweh. Read 1 Kings 18:22. Just a few verses later in 19:18 the Lord was quick to show Elijah he was wrong. He wasn't the only person struggling to follow after the LORD in a culture where it was unpopular to do so.
- Do you think it was easy for Elijah to stand up to the King and the false prophets? Why? Is it sometimes difficult for us to worship the Lord exclusively? Maybe we don't bow down to a statue of Baal, but by choosing our way over God's way or following the idols of our culture, we can find ourselves worshipping something other than the one true God.
- Is it sometimes difficult for us as Christians to have enough confidence in God to go and do the right things? Why or why not?
- Our faith in the Lord grows as we see Him prove Himself faithful to us. Discuss ways you can allow God opportunities to prove Himself faithful in your family's lives.

Prayer

Week 25

Thanksgiving

When we pray a prayer of thanksgiving, we are expressing our gratitude to God. Prayers of thanksgiving can be lifted up in response to who God is, what He has done for us through Christ and for the blessings He continually bestows upon us.

Biblical Basis for Thanksgiving:

Psalm 69:30, Psalm 100:4, Philippians 4:6, Revelation 7:12

Take some time for each of those gathered with you to express their thanks to the Lord.

Nations: Minangkabau (Indonesia-Sumatra)

- Very few of the over 5 million Minangkabau are believers. Pray that God would soften the hearts of this people and send laborers into this region.
- Minangkabau culture is strongly tied to Islam. Pray for those who come to faith in Christ that they would have the grace from God to endure persecution and ostracism from their family and community.
- Ask God to give wisdom and courage to our Minangkabau brothers and sisters that they may share the gospel of Christ boldly with love.
- It is very difficult for foreigners to live in the areas where the Minangkabau due to the dangers and government restrictions. Pray for the missionaries who God has led to take the gospel to the Minangkabau that they would be faithful to opportunities God gives them.
- Pray for God to redeem many from the Minangkabau people.

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Scripture Memory

Week 25

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

By Faith

By Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
'Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

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