

ELIJAH (2)**1 Kings 18:1-46; James 5:16b-18**

Memory Verse: “*The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God*” (1 Kings 18:39b ESV).

Background Helps:

Read Chapter 3 of *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, particularly noticing what the author has to say about Baal worship. This background information makes the contest on Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal even more dramatic!

Lesson Helps:


Possible aim: My students will learn about Elijah’s contest with the prophets of Baal on Mr. Carmel, so that they will choose the LORD to be their God. (Actually, the contest was between the LORD himself (Yahweh) and Baal, and the false god Baal was no match for the true and living God.)

As Dillard says, this event “is one of the most exciting stories in the whole Old Testament.”¹ The challenge for you teachers is to make it exciting for your students. Consider what methods you might use: (1) storytelling (see last week’s forecast); (2) drama (stage Elijah on one side, everyone else in the class on the other); (3) news reporting (ask class members to write a story for online news or the newspaper); (4) drawing (ask class members to draw a picture of this contest).

For those of you who have been studying the Reformation this fall, recall the example of Martin Luther. Just as Luther stood alone at the Diet of Worms against the political and religious authorities of his day, so Elijah stood alone against these same authorities in his day.

What are the “gods” your students are tempted to serve? Money? Pleasure? Self? At the end of your class, like Elijah, present your students with a choice: “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal then follow him” (1 Kings 18:21 ESV). Challenge them to make a public confession that “the LORD, he is God.” You might urge them to make this confession in terms of allegiance to Jesus Christ, such as we see in Matthew 16:16 or John 20:28 or Romans 10:9 or Philippians 2:11. On their knees (1 Kings 18:39) at the end of class, students could make this confession in a short, audible prayer.

Home Assignment:

 Read Luke 1:26-38, 46-56; 2:1-40.

 Memorize Luke 2:11 ESV.

¹ Raymond B. Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1999), 35.