

Elijah: God's faithful prophet
(*Elijah means 'God is my boss'*)

Theme: Be a servant to the one who is all-powerful.

Opening Prayer: *Dear God, Help us to worship you, Lord, and serve only you. Amen*
(taken from Matthew 4 v 10)

Games:

Baal Game: Nominate one child as Elijah and another child as a Prophet of Baal. The remaining children are free to run around avoiding being caught. If they are touched by the Prophet of Baal they must crouch down and stay still until they are 'freed' by Elijah. Once freed they must shout out, 'God is all-powerful' and can then continue to run round. Swap nominated children frequently.

Wrestle-mania! Hold an arm-wrestling contest. Start with the children in pairs; make sure each match is fair; the winner of each pair (play for 'best of three' matches) goes into semi-finals; then finals etc. (You may like to hold a separate contest amongst the leaders!)

Memory verse: *"True wisdom and real power belong to God."* Job 12 v 13

Split the children into three or four groups. Give each group a section of the verse to mime. After seeing each mime, repeat them and reveal the sections of the verse each time. Then everyone can copy all the mimes while saying the whole verse.

Introduction: Talk about power. Make a list of forms of power; people who have power over us; what makes us feel powerful.

Story: 1Kings 18 v 17-40. There is a version of the story in the resources. Use children in the group to act out some parts of the story with a leader narrating the events.

Application: Think about the arm-wrestling contest. How did it feel to be more powerful than others? How did it feel knowing someone was more powerful than you? Most of us don't like it when someone has power over us but it can also make us feel secure knowing someone else has the authority and responsibility. Recognising that God is all-powerful and admitting he is more powerful/better than us is one of the more difficult things to do as a Christian. Are you ready to let God be your boss?

Prayer: Just as God answered Elijah's prayer, He also answers our prayers. Ask the leaders to give some examples of how God has answered their prayers (the children may have examples too). Say a prayer thanking God for all our answered prayers.

Resources: Funsheet, craft and story.

Song: 'My God Never Goes To Sleep.' – Spring Harvest: Kids Praise Party 3, 2008

*Choose a child to be Elijah (carrying a staff), King Ahab (crown and cloak), three priests (cloaks), child (with flame head dress). Encourage the children acting the appropriate roles to repeat the words in **bold print**. The words in underlined italics can be acted out.*

King Ahab was the King of Israel. He had done lots of bad things that upset God. So God hadn't sent rain on the land for days and days and weeks and weeks and months and months. In fact, it hadn't rained in Israel for many years. King Ahab and many of his people began to worship Baal and not the God of Israel. So God told Elijah to go back to King Ahab and speak to him again.

"What do you want?", the king asked angrily.

"Meet me on the top of the mountain!", said Elijah. Elijah told the king to send all the prophets and priests of Baal to Mount Carmel.

"And why should I do that?", demanded King Ahab with a stamp of his royal foot. **"I want to prove that my God is really God"**, said Elijah.

Ahab scratched his chin and thought for a moment and then agreed to Elijah's test. So on a hot, dry day, the prophets and priests of Baal went on the long, tiring climb to the top of Mount Carmel. Elijah was waiting for them with his arms crossed when they arrived. He told them to put a sacrifice on the altar to offer their god, Baal.

Elijah said, **"Now ask Baal to send fire from the sky to burn up your sacrifice."** The priests and prophets called out to Baal for many hours, **"Baal, answer us! Send fire!"**but nothing happened.

Elijah told them to shout louder, maybe their god was asleep. So they shouted louder, **"Baal, answer us! Send fire!"** But still nothing happened.

Then it was Elijah's turn. To make it even harder, Elijah soaked the sacrifice in water once, twice...three times! Then he prayed to the one true God to send fire. **"Oh Lord, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant!"**

Even though the table and everything on it was wet through, God immediately answered Elijah's prayer and sent fire from heaven and the sacrifice and the altar burst into flames. **"Elijah's God is the true God!"**, everyone cried. The people knew then they could rely on Elijah's God and they began to worship him again. Then Elijah prayed for rain and for the first time in many years, the clouds became black and rain began to fall again in Israel.