

# SABBATH SCHOOL

Level K • Unit 4 • Week 4

## THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

### OBJECTIVE:

To teach the children the First Commandment through the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

### ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Do you know who the President of the United States is? Is he important? Do you know that there is Someone who is much more important than any president or king of this world?

Ask: Who do you think is most important?

Say: We have been learning about the Ten Commandments and that God wrote them on tablets of stone. He gave us His laws so we can live happy lives and please Him.

Ask: Do any of you remember the First Commandment?

Say: We can read about the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.

Do: Read the Ten Commandments and then re-read the First Commandment.

### BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: How many of you have been camping and have seen a campfire? What does it take to make a campfire?

Say: Let's pretend that we are camping and that we have gathered wood and placed it in a fire pit. Then, all of a sudden, rain begins to pour down in buckets, soaking the wood and the ground.

Ask: Can your mother or father start the campfire with everything being wet?

- Say: Today we are going to learn more about the First Commandment by reading about a very special fire, about a man who honored God and people who broke the First Commandment by putting other false gods before our great God. It was almost like a contest to see whose fire would burn.
- Do: Tell in your own words or read from a children's Bible the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-39). Give some background about how some of the kings of Israel did not serve God and often worshiped idols. One idol was called Baal. You should also mention that the land needed rain. Food couldn't grow. Animals were dying. Elijah was a prophet of God who was trying to turn the people away from worshiping Baal back to worshiping God. Worshiping only God is keeping the First Commandment.
- Ask: Do any of you know what an altar is? Do you know what an altar was used for?
- Do: Show a picture of an altar.
- Say: Altars were used to offer sacrifices to God. [Give a brief description of sacrifices.] They were also used by people who didn't believe in God and who worshiped animals, the sun, moon and other things.
- Do: Read verse 18 again.
- Say: The Bible tells us that there were 450 prophets of Baal! Baal was a false god.
- Ask: Were the people breaking the First Commandment by following Baal?
- Say: All of these 450 bad prophets were trying to get their campfire lit in order to burn an animal which was placed on the wood on the altar as a sacrifice. Can you see them dancing around and shouting out to Baal to start the fire?
- Do: Have the children say, "Start the fire Baal."
- Ask: Did the fire start?
- Say: Elijah told them to shout louder.
- Do: Have the children say, "Start the fire Baal" again.
- Say: Elijah told the people that maybe Baal was asleep or out hunting. But Baal did not answer and the people became quiet.
- Say: Elijah then called the people to him. He took 12 large stones to build an altar. One stone for each of the 12 tribes of Israel. He placed wood on the stones, cut his bull into pieces and

laid the pieces on the wood. He then dug a big trench all around the altar.

Ask: If we had to burn a bull on the altar, what would we have to do?

Say: Yes, light the fire. But, just to make sure no one would think a person had lit the fire, Elijah filled four large buckets with water and poured the water all over the meat, wood and ground. He then did it again. And then a third time! Imagine once more, being ready to start a campfire when, all of a sudden, heavy rain pours down and soaks everything.

Ask: Could you light the fire with everything wet? What do you think Elijah did?

Say: Elijah called out to the one true God. He said, "Hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God."

Ask: What did God do?

Say: Yes, God sent fire down and it burned up the offering, the wood, the stones and the dust! The fire even licked up the water in the trench! The people all knew that the Lord is God. God wants people to keep the First Commandment and all of the other Ten Commandments.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies: Photocopies of altar

Crayons

Scissors

Glue

Yellow, orange or red plastic wrap/cellophane cut into six-inch wide strips

Do: Have each child color the pictures of Elijah's altar. Have students wrinkle plastic wrap/cellophane so that it resembles flames of fire, then glue the fire on top of the altar.

Say the memory verse together and briefly go over the main points of the lesson.

### **Music:**

Teach the children the song "God's Law Is Good" sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

God's law is good.

God's law is good.

Hi oh, the derry oh, God's law is good!

God's law is great.

God's law is great.

Hi oh, the derry oh, God's law is great!

God's law is true.

God's law is true.

Hi oh, the derry oh, God's law is true!

God's law is love.

God's law is love.

Hi oh, the derry oh, God's law is love!

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."

Do: Discuss the meaning of the First Commandment. Have children hold up their index finger and signal that God is Number One. It also reminds them of the First Commandment. Have children sit on the floor in a circle. Proceed around the circle and repeat several times until you feel most know it. Bounce or roll a tennis ball around the circle to various children until each child has had a turn repeating the verse alone. Give out stickers.

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

This is the fourth in this current series on the Ten Commandments. The focus this week was the First Commandment. The children learned about the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal and that God is the one true God. The story is found in in 1 Kings 18:16-40.

## **ASK ME...**

What happened to the offering the prophets of Baal made?

How many stones did Elijah use to build the altar? What did they stand for?

After Elijah built his altar to God, what did he do with water?

What is the First Commandment?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Review the Ten Commandments. Talk about why God gives us laws.

Talk about how great God is and let the children discuss His creation.

It may be helpful to continue the story in the Bible and show that God ended the drought. This was another miracle. It demonstrates that our Lord is God.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."



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