

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 2 • Unit 10 • Week 2

### ANSWERED PRAYER

**OBJECTIVE:**

To show that God answers prayers by using examples from the Old and New Testaments.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Prepare: Make a posterboard sign with the word "HELP" written in large letters in a cartoon bubble (or use sample at end of lesson). You could also add a picture or drawing of a person saying "HELP."

Do: Hold up posterboard with "HELP."

Ask: What is the person saying in the picture that I am showing you?

Say: The person is asking for help!

Ask: Have you ever had to cry "HELP"? Tell us about it.

Say: There are many instances in the Bible where people had to cry for help. They called on God to help them, and God answered their cry.

**BIBLE LESSON:**

Say: We will start in the Old Testament in the book of 1 Kings 18:17-40. Long, long ago, before Jesus was born as a man, there was a bad king who would not follow God. His name was Ahab. He followed false gods. He thought these false gods, through their prophets, could guide him to success and happiness.

Ask: Do you think he got good advice?

Say: We shall see. There were 450 prophets, or messengers, of the false god Baal, and 400 prophets of the false goddess Asherah. These prophets said they could talk with Baal and Asherah. The prophets burned animals on an altar to please their gods and gain their favor. These burned animals were called sacrifices.

There was also a man named Elijah, a prophet who was a messenger of the one true God. Elijah did not want the people to follow the false gods of the bad king. So Elijah had all the people gather together to see proof that there is but one God who can help them. He knew only a miracle could do it. He was sure God would help him.

Here is what Elijah did. He had two altars constructed of stones. On them he had a pile of wood placed for starting a fire. A bull was cut into pieces and was placed on each pile of wood. Then he told the 850 false prophets to call on their false gods to start a fire under the cut-up bull on their altar and to burn up the bull as a sacrifice. They called on the names of their false gods and leaped about the altar, from morning until evening. But their gods did not send a fire to burn the bull. Their gods could do nothing!

Then it was Elijah's turn. The altar he had built was made of 12 stones. He set up the altar in the name of the LORD. Like the altar to Baal, there was wood on it, and Elijah cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. Around the altar to the LORD he also made a large trench. He ordered men to pour four waterpots of water on the bull. Then he asked them to do it again! And do it a third time! There was so much water that it poured off the bull, over the wood and filled the trench.

Ask: Do you think that the water would make it even harder to burn the offering?

Say: Yes, it certainly would!

In the evening, Elijah called on God. He prayed aloud, "LORD, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Ask: What do you think happened then?

Say: God performed a miracle. The fire of God came down and burnt the wood, the bull, the stones, even the dust! It also licked up the water that was in the trench!

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

Ask: What did the people learn from Elijah and the miracle that God performed?

Say: All the people knew who the true God was. They could also see by Elijah's example that the

true God answers the prayers of those who righteously follow Him, and believe that He WILL answer their prayers. He will even answer with a miracle.

Ask: Do you think Jesus believed that prayers to God would be answered?

Say: Yes, He prayed out loud before He raised Lazarus from the grave even after he had been dead for four days. Jesus said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." God the Father answered His prayer (John 11:38-44).

At another time Jesus said, "I say to you, [meaning everyone, even YOU] whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Ask: Do you believe God will answer your prayers?

Say: Yes, He will! Of course, sometimes there are good reasons God does not give us all our desires immediately. Can you think of some reasons why? [Some responses could be: it will be best if He grants it later; we don't ask for the right reason; we will grow in character if we have patience; we don't have the faith we need; it wouldn't be good for us.]

Let's see other examples of answered prayer.

When King Hezekiah was sick, he prayed that he would not die. The Lord heard and allowed him to live 15 more years (Isaiah 38:2-5).

There was a fire in the camp of the Israelites. Moses prayed and it was put out (Numbers 11:1-2).

Zacharias prayed for a son, and God heard his prayer. God gave him a son whose name was John, later called John the Baptist (Luke 1:13).

When the apostle Paul was blinded, he prayed that he would see again. A man named Ananias, who also prayed to God, was told by God to lay hands on Paul. When Ananias did this, Paul was healed and could see again. Their prayers were answered (Acts 9:3-18).

When the apostle Peter was put in jail to be killed, the Church prayed for him. God heard, and Peter was miraculously taken out of prison by an angel (Acts 12:3-12).

So you can see that when we pray, God is listening. When we need help, the first thing we should do is call on God, believing He will hear. We are told to believe that God is willing to listen to us. And even if we do not receive what we ask, know that God is pleased that we looked to Him. If He does not bless us with our request, He will bless us in other ways.

Ask: Can you tell me of a time when God answered a prayer for you or someone else?

Do: Tell of some incident in your life or an event in the Church where prayer was answered.

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies: Picture of altars (see end of lesson)  
Crayons

Do: Provide activity with the memory verse Mark 11:24, written at the top and a picture of two altars with wood and meat on them (see end of the lesson). Instruct the children to draw a trench of water and to color a fire from heaven on the appropriate altar.

**Music:**

Sing the following to the tune of "Sing, Sing Together." Sing the words three times. It can be sung as a round with three groups: the second group starting after the second line, the third group starting after the second group sings the second line. Each group sings it three times, thus ending separately the third group being last.

Pray, pray together  
Following, following Christ.  
Pray, pray together  
Following, following Christ.  
Pray, pray, pray, pray.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Mark 11:24 "Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

Today we learned through many examples in the Scriptures that God hears the prayers of those who believe Him and that He will answer them.

## **ASK ME...**

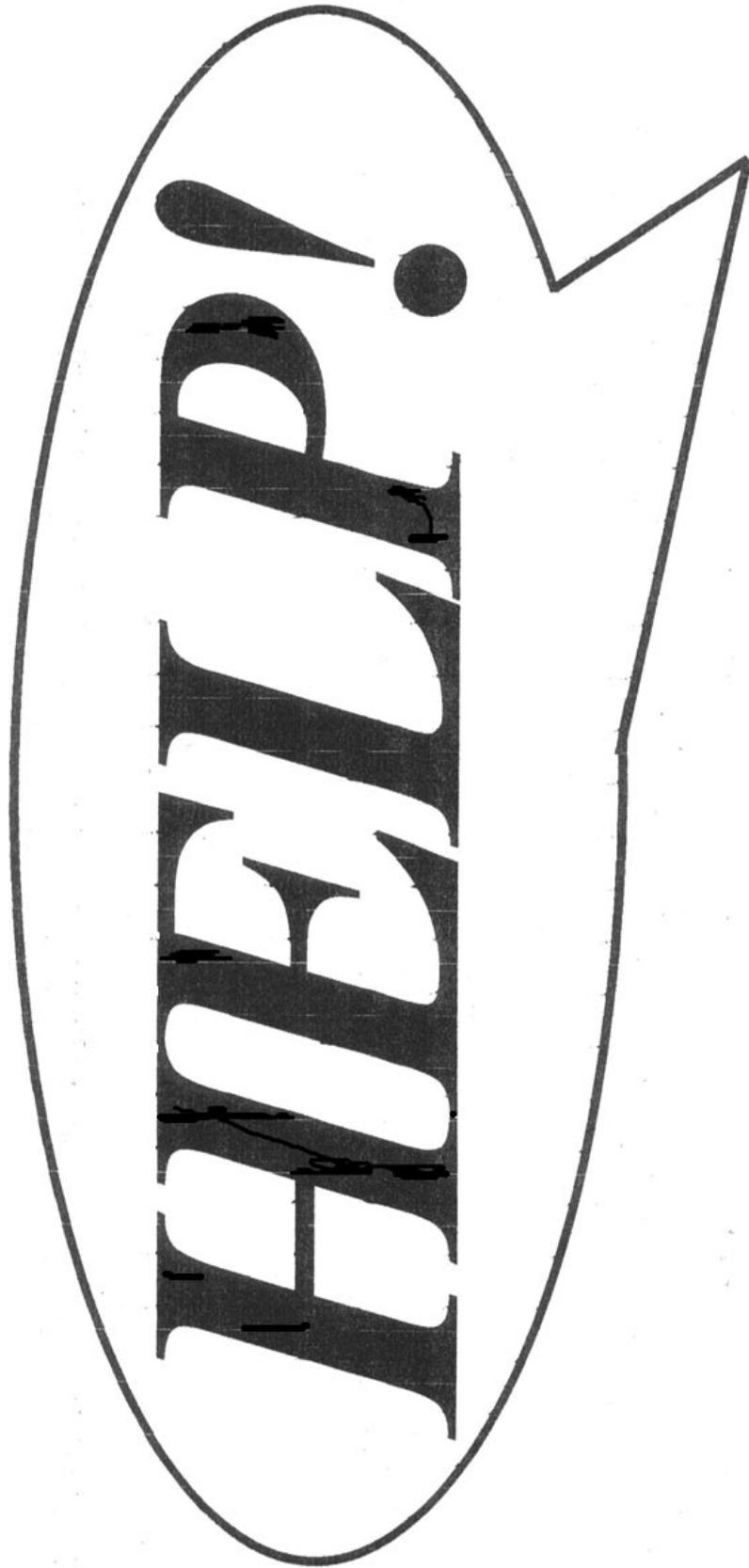
- What did Elijah have poured on the wood and bull before he prayed to God?
- What happened after Elijah prayed?
- Does God answer the prayers of those who follow Him?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

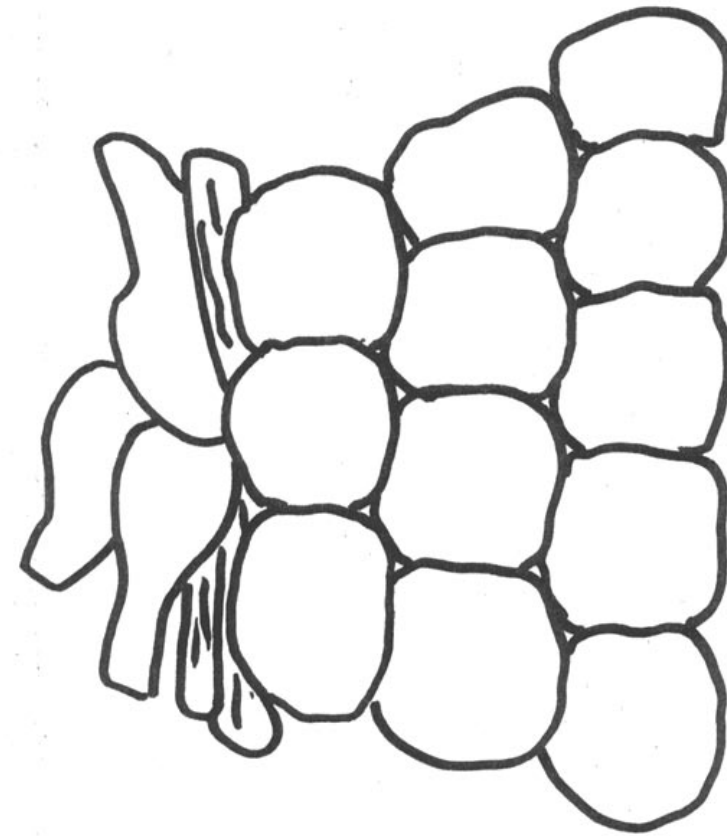
To reinforce the lesson, talk about a time when God answered your prayer. Also, you might read the full account of some of interesting stories that were mentioned in the lesson (1 Kings 18:17-40; Isaiah 38:2-5; Numbers 11:1-2; Luke 1:13; Acts 9:3-18; Acts 12:3-12).

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

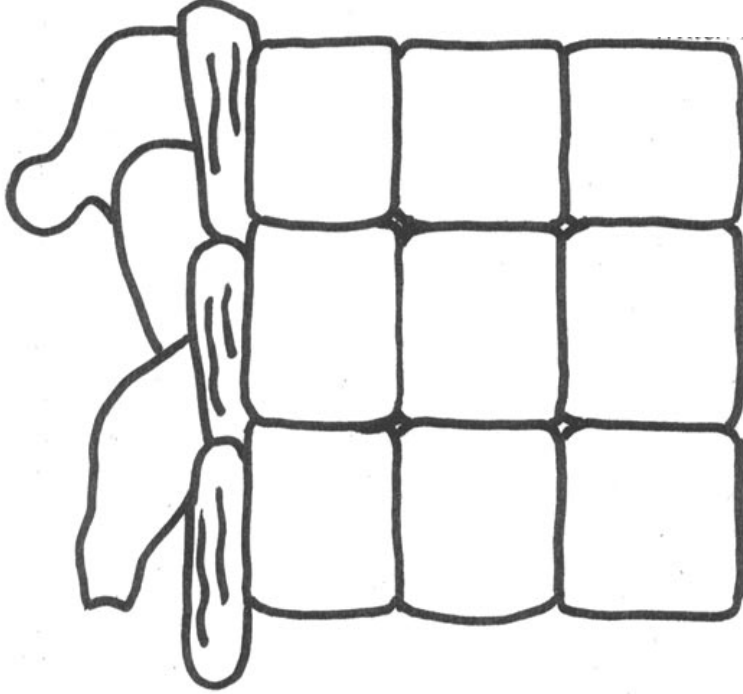
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Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."



The altar of Elijah,  
the prophet of God



The altar of the prophets  
of false gods