

Will the real God please stand up?

Introduction: Please look at video of me doing a science experiment

There used to be a popular TV show called *To Tell the Truth* in which a team of celebrities had to guess which one of three people was the real person behind a story that the host told.



This was a fun game in which the real person and two imposters had to answer questions, with the real person only telling the truth and the other two being free to tell lies. At the end of the game the host would say, "Will the real... please stand up?"

Today's story about Elijah is a bit like that TV show. Israel was supposed to be God's special people and they were supposed to give him the whole of their worship and loyalty. It was God who had miraculously brought their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt and who had given to them the laws of Moses. God promised to bless the people of Israel if they would obey him. But the people were now following another god called Baal under the influence of their king Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel.

So which god was the real god? In order to find out Elijah challenged King Ahab to organise a contest between the God of Israel and the pagan god Baal.

Today's story is on the video link below. The background to this story is that there had been a bad drought in the land for more than three years ever since the day when Elijah had met with Ahab and told him this would happen. During this time God had looked after Elijah in remarkable ways. Can you remember what they were? Here is a video link to the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gLMaoWIV5A>.

Have a go at these worksheets:

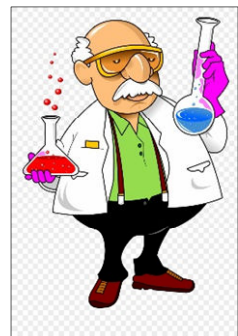
- (1) Questions
- (2) Reflection and Application.

Have a go at these activities:

- (1) Picture to colour (provided for free from Crafting the Word of God): <https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/elijah-and-the-prophets-of-baal-coloring-page2.pdf>

You might like to add bits of coloured paper to make the flames look more dramatic.

- (2) Put the speech bubbles in the right place: See last page.
- (3) If you want to try out the science experiment involving water and fire you will need get some Bicarb Soda and Citric Acid from the cooking section of a supermarket. Just mix a small amount of these powders together in a large glass or a small bowl, add a drop or two of food colouring, and then add water. Light a candle and see if you can put out the flame by pouring the invisible carbon dioxide gas over the flame. By the way, how do water and fire come into today's story about Elijah?



I would love to see the work you have done, so please scan your answers and send me a copy at aprice2904@optusnet.com.au. You could also send a photo of your artwork or a video of you doing the experiment to WhatsApp for NBBC Ampt Kids. If you're not on this yet you need to ask Betty at bboop3g@gmail.com or 0410 488 778.

Andrew Price ☺

Questions

Grab a Bible and look up this story in 1 Kings 18. See if you can answer these questions.

- (1) What did Obadiah do to show he was faithful to God even though the king's wife was trying to kill the prophets of the Lord? (See verses 3-4)

- (2) Why was Obadiah afraid to tell Ahab that he had found Elijah? (See verse 12)

- (3) When Ahab met Elijah what accusation did he make against Elijah? Was this fair? Who was the real trouble maker in Israel? Why? (See verses 17-18)

- (4) What was the test that would decide which god was real? (See verses 23-24). Did the people think this was a fair test?

- (5) The prophets of Baal went first. Did they have much success? (See verses 26-29)

- (6) What did Elijah do to make it even harder for a fire to start? (See verses 33-35)

- (7) When Elijah called on God to respond what happened? (See verses 36-39). How did the crowd react to this?

- (8) What happened to the prophets of Baal (See verse 40)?

- (9) How did the three-year drought end? (See verse 45)

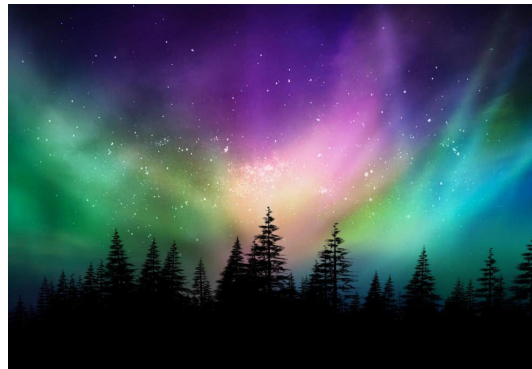


Reflection and Application

- (1) What do you think God is trying to teach us through this story?
- (2) Has this story changed the way you think about God?
- (3) Some people say that God doesn't do powerful things these days. How would you respond to this?

- (4) Look up Romans 1:20 and Psalm 19:1. All around us we see examples of God's power, majesty and wisdom. Use Google to find out about these amazing things in nature and in space:

- (a) The Andromeda Galaxy
- (b) The Orion Nebula
- (c) The Sun
- (d) Aurora Borealis
- (e) The life-cycle of a butterfly



- (5) A false god is anything that takes the rightful place of God in our lives. We live in a world that is always trying to lead us away from following God's way and replacing him with something else. What are some false gods that people need to be careful about in our society?
- (6) Have a think about how you will respond to any false gods in your own life – you don't have to write this down.

Cut out the squares with word bubbles and paste them on the correct pictures below.

Splash!

Can you remember who said what? Cut out the speech bubbles and put them in the right pictures.

He's mad!

The Lord is God!

This is all **your** fault!

Choose!

Answer us, Baal!

Please, God, show your power.