

**Summer Children's Church**  
**H2Oh! God Keeps His Promises**  
**Lesson 5**

**Fire and H2Oh! Elijah and the Prophets of Baal – 1 Kings 18:20-46**

**Bible Words:**

What if we wanted to talk to someone, we can call them on the phone. When we call people, do they always answer? They may not be near the phone or they might be busy, or maybe they don't hear it ring.

Did you know that our very best friend always hears us when we call to Him?

He is never too busy to listen. And you don't even have to use a phone. Our best friend is Jesus. How can we talk to Him? Through prayer.

We can talk to Jesus, or pray, anytime or anywhere. God promises to answer our prayers. Today you will hear about a special prayer and how God used water to answer it.

The Bible says, "Call to Me and I will answer you." That's what Elijah did in our Bible story today. God showed that He is the one true God.

He has power to answer our prayers too. God says, "Call to Me and I will answer you."

Say the bible words together. "Call to Me and I will answer you."

(God says) "Call to Me and I will answer you." Jeremiah 33:3

**Faith word:**

Prayer: when we talk to Jesus (God)

Altar: the place in church used as the focus (usually a table) for which the bread and wine are declared during communion

**Key Point:** The one and only God pours out His caring love for us by hearing and answering prayers.

**God Speaks:**

The last lesson we talked about how bad King Ahab wanted to hurt Elijah. But God was with Elijah and took care of him. How? (God sent Elijah to a brook where there was water to drink. God sent ravens with food every day.)

Today we are going to hear another story about Elijah and how God helped him, again.

For 3 years, no rain fell in the land where King Ahab ruled. The people were hungry and thirsty. The animals were hungry and thirsty too. There was hardly any food or water to be found.

Then God told Elijah, "Go to King Ahab. I am going to send rain again." Elijah obeyed God. He went to give Ahab God's message.

When King Ahab saw Elijah, he was angry. "You are the one who caused all this trouble," he told Elijah.

"I didn't cause this trouble," Elijah told him. "You did. You are the one who prayed to the false god Baal. Now let's find out who the true God is. Tell God's people and the prophets of Baal to meet me on Mount Carmel. Have those who worship Baal to come too."

Elijah walked up the mountain. God's people and those who worshiped Baal walked up the mountain. Elijah told them, "You must make up your minds. Will you love God, or will you love Baal? Today we'll find out which god is the true God.

Those who worship Baal will bring a gift to their god. I will bring a gift to the Lord. We will put the gifts on altars and pray for fire. The God who sends fire is the true God."

The people said, "That's a good idea! We will worship the god who sends fire."

Then Elijah told the prophets of Baal to build an altar. They put their gift to Baal on the altar they built. They prayed and prayed for Baal to send fire to burn up their offering. But nothing happened.

Elijah said, "Shout louder! Maybe Baal can't hear you." "or maybe he is sleeping." So, they prayed louder and louder. But no fire came.

Finally, it was Elijah's turn. Elijah set up 12 stones for an altar. He dug a ditch around his altar. Then he poured water over everything – the altar, the wood, and the offering. He poured more water. And even more water. What a lot of water! Everything is soaked. Even the ditch was full of water!

Elijah prayed to God. "O Lord, show these people You are the one true God." What do you think happened? Yes, God answered Elijah's prayers. Right away, God sent fire down from heaven. The fire burned up the gift. It burned the wood. It burned the stones of the altar. It even licked up the water in the ditch! There was nothing left.

When the people saw this, they shouted, "The Lord – He is God! The Lord – He is God!" The people of Israel saw the wonderful way He answered Elijah's prayer. Now they believed God was the one true God.

Then Elijah went to the top of the mountain to pray for rain. He prayed and prayed. Finally, in the distance, a cloud appeared in the sky. Soon the wind blew, and big drops of water began to fall. Ker plunk, Ker plunk, Ker plunk. The one true God answered Elijah's prayer. He showed He was God by sending fire. Now, He was sending rain.

God heard Elijah's prayers and answered them. God hears our prayers too. We can ask God for what we need. We can thank Him for all the blessings He gives us, especially for sending Jesus to be our Savior. God promises to hear and answer our prayers. And, God, our heavenly Father, keeps all His promises.

### ***Review the Story:***

What did Elijah tell the king and prophets of Baal?

(He told them to build an altar and put an offering on it for their god, and Elijah would do the same thing.)

What did Elijah do to his altar?

(He poured lots of water on the altar and filled the ditch around the altar with water.)

What did Elijah pray for?

(He asked God to show the people that He is the true God by sending fire to burn up the offering.)

Did God answer Elijah? (Yes)

How did God answer Elijah's prayer?

(God sent fire that burned the sacrifice, the stone of the altar, and even licked up the water in the ditch)

God answered Elijah's prayer, and He promises to answer our prayers too. The Bible tells us that God promises to answer our prayers.

We can pray to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything. God is the one true God and He keeps His promises. He will answer our prayers. Does God always give us what we pray for? No, sometimes He says wait. Sometimes He says no because what we want may not be good for us. But He always answers our prayers in a way that is best for us and others. He does this because He loves us.

**Craft:**

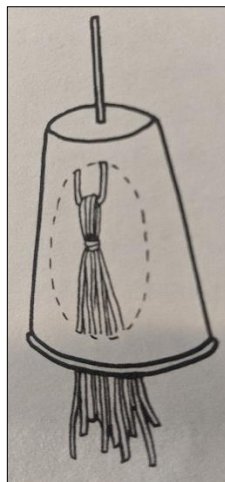
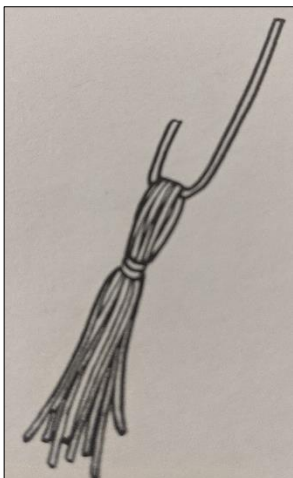
**Prayer Wind Chime:**

Supplies you need: markers, glue, scissors, disposable plastic cups, ribbon in different colors, rubber band, paper clips and small bell (or something that will make a noise when hit together in the wind)

Activity: Cut 12 strands of different colored ribbon for each chime you plan to make. Fold each bunch of ribbon in half and wrap it with a rubber band (or tie string around it if you don't have a rubber band) several times just below the fold loop. Open a paper clip and slide the bottom curve through the ribbon loop. Straighten the top curve of the clip – then set aside. Decorate the cup, include "God Answers Prayers" on the outside. With the ribbon bunches poke the wire through the bottom of the cup from the inside and the so the ribbon is hanging down when the cup is held upside down. Rebend the top wire, forming a hook for the wind chime. With the bells, tie at the end of your ribbon. Hang the Wind Chime wherever you can see it hanging in the wind and use as a reminder to pray and that God does answer our prayers.

God answered Elijah's prayer. He showed He was the one true God when He sent fire to the altar. Later, Elijah prayed for rain, and God answered his prayer and sent rain.

God answers our prayers, too. We can pray to God anywhere at any time, and about anything.



**Prayer:**

Dear God,

thank You for being with us and loving us.

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

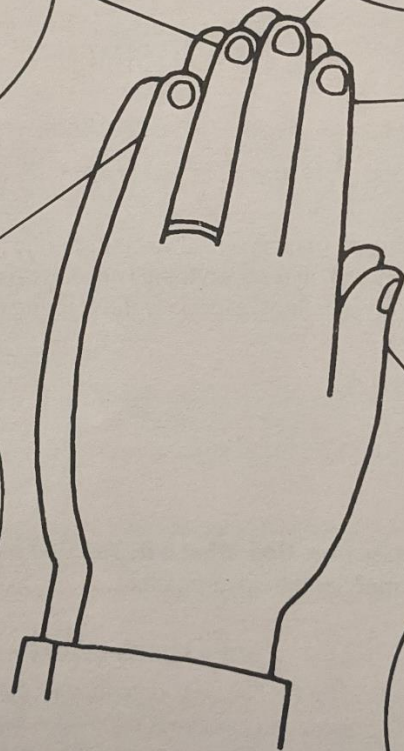
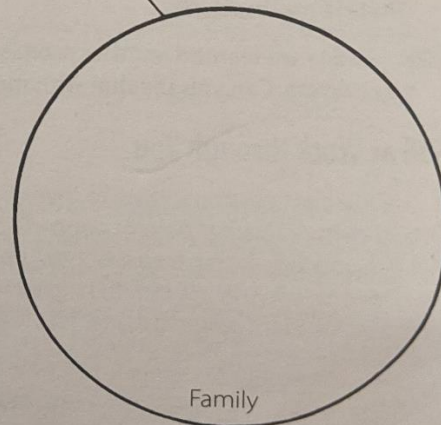
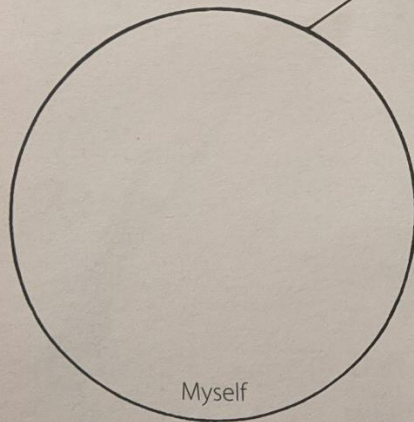
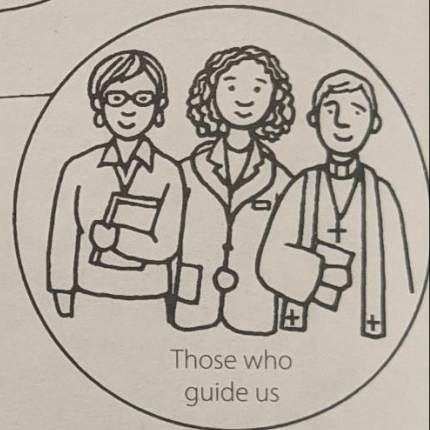
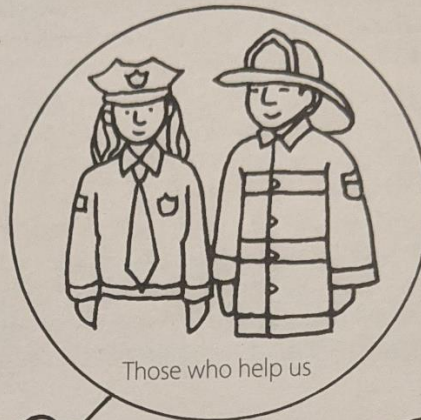
Help us to learn more of Your promises today.

Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake.

Amen

**Five Finger Prayer**

Draw family members in the empty space by the thumbs. Draw yourself in the space by the little fingers. Use the pictures to pray for those who are pictured.



Call to Me and I will answer you. Jeremiah 33:3