Kingdom Divided

“Elijah on Mount Carmel”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* Elijah called the kings and people of Israel back worship of God
* The story of Josiah, one of Judah’s good kings

Series Theme Verse: “Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him.’” – 1 Kings 18:21

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used prophets (Elijah) to speak to the two kingdoms and guide them back to worship of God.

Lesson Passage: 1 Kings 18:19-39

Materials Needed: Bibles, candles, lighter, cup for water, bowl, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 1 Kings 18:19-39

* In talking to King Ahab of the northern Kingdom of Israel, Elijah set up a challenge between him as God’s Prophet and who? (850 prophets of other gods)
* Who did Elijah say should be at the challenge beside just the prophets? (All of Israel)
* Where would the challenge be? (Mount Carmel)
* Under King Ahab, the people of Israel had begun to worship fake gods. When Elijah spoke to the people at Mount Carmel, what did he say to them? (You cannot follow more than one god, so you need to choose who to follow: God or Baal, a fake God)
* How did the people respond to this challenge? (They said nothing)
* The challenge between Elijah and the 850 prophets of fake gods would involve a sacrifice of a bull by each group. When there is a sacrifice, the priests would usually put the sacrifice on a fire, but this sacrifice challenge was special. Who would light the fire for each sacrifice? (The God of the two groups)
* Everyone agreed, so Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. They prepared the bull and the wood and the altar, then they began to pray to their fake gods. How long did they pray and call out to their fake god Baal? (From morning to noon)
* Did Baal send fire to light the sacrifice? (No)
* At noon, Elijah began to tease the prophets of Baal and told them to shout louder because maybe their fake god was on a toilet, or a trip, or sleeping. The prophets began to shout louder, but did Baal light the fire? (No)
* They went on until evening calling out to Baal, but the fire never fell. So it was Elijah’s turn. When he went to prepare the altar, he did something weird to the altar, what did he do? (He had some people pour twelve large jars of water on the wood)
* Does water make the wood burn easier or easier to light? (No, it makes it harder)
* Did Elijah shout out and dance and make a lot of noise when he asked God for fire to light the wet wood? (No, He prayed a short, simple prayer)
* When Elijah finished praying, what happened? (God sent fire to light the wood, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and even the water)
* When the people saw this happen, what did they say? (They fell down in worship of God and said that God is the only God)

The Story Retold:

* A Great Miracle
  + Set up some candles in the room.
  + Light a few of the candles showing how easy they are to light.
  + Save one candle and place in a bowl.
  + Allow students to pour 12 cups of water on the candle, saturating the wick.
  + Try to light the candle and show the students how much more difficult it is to light the candle.
  + Use this to show students what an amazing miracle God performed due to Elijah’s faithfulness.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Show students on the map where Mount Carmel and the challenge happened.
* Explain to students that the story of Elijah reminds us that we should only be faithful to and worship God.
* If you feel comfortable, let students say the Series Theme Verse individually and light a candle after saying it correctly.
* Otherwise, you can let them blow out a candle when they say the verse correctly.

