

One God - And It's Not Baal

Target: There is only one true and living God and Jesus is God in the flesh.

Text: 1 Kings 18:17-40

Memory Verse: The Lord our God is One Lord. Deuteronomy 6:4

Preface: (for the teacher)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." There is, always has been, and always shall be only one God. Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else."

Time and again, scriptures reiterate this critical fact along with an appeal to mankind that God desires to have a personal relationship with us. Jesus told John in Revelation 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Jesus stresses that He is something more than just a good man or a prophet. He ascribes Himself as being the God which is (present), and which was (past), and which is to come (eternal). In the book of John, the Jews became angry with Jesus and sought to stone Him to death. When He asked why, **The Jews answered him, saying, "for a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (John 10:33).** The Jews did not say that Jesus was conveying Himself as a god. Rather, they were disconcerted that He was claiming to be the one true God! Again in John 10:31, **the Jews picked up stones to destroy Jesus when He stated, "I and my Father are one" (verse 30).**

In refute to the ideology of a trinity, the word "one" in John 10:30 was translated from the Greek word εἷς which means, "numerically speaking – one." Jesus was not claiming to be "like" the Father. He was claiming to be the Father! Philip, one of the disciples of Jesus, asked to see the Father and Jesus responded in John 14:9, "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The child would literally be the everlasting Father and the Mighty God!

To clarify, **Matthew 1:20-25** gives the account of the birth of Jesus Christ stating that the baby was conceived of the Holy Ghost (**verse 20**), His name was to be called Jesus (**verse 21**), and that the birth of Jesus was fulfillment of prophecy in that He would literally be God with us (**verse 23**). **Isaiah 45:21-22**, "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." There is only one God and Savior. Jesus Christ was born to save His people from our sins (**Matthew 1:21**).

There is no other god like God (**2 Chronicles 6:14 & Isaiah 46:9**), none with Him (**Isaiah 44:8**), none beside Him (**Isaiah 45:21**), and none before Him or after Him (**Isaiah 43:10**). Baal was not God. God urged the Israelites to avoid becoming involved in the idol worship of Baal alongside the Canaanites but they would not listen. At an altar, with an indisputable answer by fire, God proved that He alone is God (**1 Kings 18:29**). In **Acts 2:3**, God again showed as a manifestation like fire in a setting where people were praying to Jesus and waiting to receive the promised infilling of the Holy Ghost (**John 14:17 / Luke 24:49 / Acts 1:4 / Joel 2:28**).

Likewise, when an individual comes to an altar and begins to call out to God from a sincere heart, the one true God (Jesus) will always show up!

Activities and Materials:

Cast Your Vote	1 or 100?	Ivory Soap Challenge	Story	Snack	Craft
sign with picture of fire "Who Will Answer with Fire?" ballots ballot boxes (one labeled with "One True God," one "Baal")	toothpicks, rubber bands	microwave oven bar of Ivory soap similar soap	toothpick bundles one popsicle stick rubber band play dough large cookie sheet 2 paper or plastic cows, small twigs 12 small rocks 2 tissues 2 tongs matches or lighter 4 small paper cups, large pitcher of water large clock with movable hands	rice, or macaroni and cheese seasoned with butter), or Fruit Rings cereal, and a cheese stick, red juice	prepared altar scene at Mt. Carmel (rocks piled, wood, sacrifice, trench encircled), red, yellow, orange tissue, glue stick

Teacher script is in bold type.

Power to Make the Right Choice:

Gather children around you to begin with prayer. **The people in our Bible story today had to make an important decision about serving God, and, we are just like the people in the story. We have to make the right choice. Let's pray right now that God will help us choose what is right.** Pray an earnest prayer with students.

Cast Your Vote:

As children enter the classroom, direct their attention to the voting center and tell them that in our Bible story today the people want to prove who is God. Children need to decide who they think will answer by fire, mark their ballots and place them in the box labeled **"One True God,"** or the box labeled **"Baal,"** to indicate their choice.

Theme Song: Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*

<i>(form Bible with hands)</i>	Verse 1:	<i>The Bible is the way The Bible is the way The way to go to Jesus Oh, the Bible is the way</i>
<i>(walk in place)</i>	Verse 2:	<i>I want to go the way I want to go the way The way to go to Jesus Oh, I want to go the way</i>
<i>(teacher leads one student skipping in circle)</i>	Verse 3:	<i>Show me the way Show me the way The way to go to Jesus Oh, show me the way</i>
<i>(skip in pairs)</i>	Verse 4:	<i>Let's go the way Let's go the way The way to go to Jesus, Oh, let's go the way</i>

Counting Table:

Have eight bundles of 100 toothpicks held with a rubber bands, and one lone toothpick. Show each child one toothpick and then the bundle of 100. Practice this several times identifying one and one hundred. Let children show you that they can choose the correct amount as you call it out. If you have a large class, have them select which hand holds one hundred and which hand holds one. After they have that concept, then count the bundles of one hundred with them a few times to help them grasp how many false prophets Elijah withstood on Mount Carmel. Let children handle the bundles as much as possible as you identify and count.

Ivory Soap Challenge:

Show two bars of soap, one Ivory, one similar. Tell students that we will know which one is the real Ivory bar when we place each one in the microwave and turn it on. The fake Ivory soap will not change, but the real Ivory bar will turn into a soap cloud. Try the fake bar first and then the Ivory. When heating the Ivory bar, stop the microwave once the soap cloud has reached the inside walls. Air out the microwave when finished. **In our story today everyone found out who the one true God was when the prophet Elijah prayed for God to show them.** Students may touch the Ivory soap cloud after it has cooled for at least two minutes.

Jesus Is His Name (Song): *Tune: B - I - N - G - O*

One God and only one
And Jesus is His name, Oh
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S
And Jesus is His name, Oh!

Collect Votes: *Schoolmaster enters to collect votes.*

Schoolmaster: **Are all of the votes in, Bro./Sis. _____?**

Teacher: **Yes, Sir, you may take them for the official count.**

Schoolmaster: *Gathers ballot boxes and turns to leave again.* **Who will win, children?** *Points to each sign on box and reads loudly.*

The One True God or Baal?

Teacher and Class: *Excitedly.* **The One True God!!!!**

Schoolmaster: **Is He your God????**

Teacher and Class: **YES!!!!**

Schoolmaster: **What's His name???**

Teacher and Class: **Jesus!!!!!!!**

Transition: *Sound ring tone or other signal. Children turn chairs around to face the Old Testament scene.*

Story:

You can have this prepared ahead of time or build it as you tell the story. On a large cookie sheet with a "rim" create the altar and prophets of Baal scene. Stick 850 toothpicks in several mounds of play dough to create the prophets of Baal. (The idea is to give a visual of how outnumbered Elijah really was). Build an altar by placing rocks together with play dough. Draw/make two "bullocks" on paper or cut a picture from a magazine. Make Elijah out of a popsicle stick. Draw on a face and rubber band a tissue over his head like a turban.

Listen to the story about a brave prophet of God who lived a long time ago and his name was Elijah. Have you ever been bullied or been outnumbered by people who did not like you, people who don't love God? Maybe you have even been made fun of for going to church? Well, let me tell you what happened to Elijah.

Tell the story in first person, in this case first popsicle stick, while using the props to "act it out":

(Elijah addressing the children) I am Elijah, the prophet of the One and Only True God. I know there is only one God who has all power and He is not happy with some of His people believing in a fake god, named Baal. They were forgetting the One True God just because the King, his wife and a GREAT MANY other people believed in Baal. Some people just wanted to do what EVERYBODY else is doing! They just couldn't make up their minds who they wanted to serve! Some people thought that this fake god, Baal, had the power to make the corn grow, and that it had the power to make it rain. God already stopped the rain from falling, and then He told me to meet with all of the prophets of Baal on a mountain top, called Mount Carmel, to prove that their god was a fake, and had no power, and The One True God has all power. So, today we are going to show once and for all who the One True God is.

Elijah turns toward the toothpick prophets of Baal. In your own words, tell the story. It could go something like this:

All right all you 450 prophets of Baal, let's see whose God is real – yours or mine. We will build an altar for a sacrifice, but don't light a fire. *(Toothpick prophets put one of the cattle on the altar)* Whichever God answers by lighting the fire and burning the sacrifice, wins. You can go first. *(The toothpick prophets gather together, assemble the altar, and start calling on Baal)*

Prophets of Baal: Oh Baal, Baal, Baal. Baal, Baal, Baal. Hear us. Please hear us. Oh Baal, Baal, Baal. Baal Baal Baal.

Elijah: **Could someone move the hands on that clock. It's been about 3 hours. It's already lunchtime. *(Assist a child with moving the hands on the clock to make it noon).* You'd better cry a little louder. Maybe Baal is out of town, or maybe he is taking a little nap.**

Toothpicks ramp it up, crying louder. Make the toothpicks "jump around, etc." and cry louder. BAAL, BAAL, BAAL. Where are you BAAL??? *The toothpicks jump on the altar, get carried away, and destroy the altar.*

Elijah: **Could someone please move the hands of that clock again. I missed lunch and now it is almost dinner time. Come on boys, where is your God???** *Pause.* **Enough already!**

Elijah: *Turns to the children.* **Watch this, everybody.**

Stand Elijah in some play dough and rebuild the altar using 12 stones/rocks and play dough. Add pieces of wood and the second bullock. Build a trough/trench around the altar with play dough. Have the children take turns filling paper cups, four at a time, (three sets) and pouring on the altar, filling and overflowing the trench.

Elijah then prays: **Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! Let everyone know that you are the One True God, I am your servant, and I have obeyed you. Hear me Lord, and let these people know that you are God. Turn their hearts toward YOU!**

Surprise the children by using the charcoal lighter to light a tissue and let it fall down over the altar. Let the children see the flame but quickly swoop the entire scene into a fireproof garbage can or bucket of water, while saying, **The fire of GOD came down and ate up the cow, the wood, the rocks, the dirt and ALL the water!!!** Then all the people knew that the God we serve, the God who comes and fills us with His Spirit, the God our pastor preaches about, is the **ONE true God**. And they all fell on their faces.

Worship:

Let's fall on our faces, too and worship the one true God. There is none like our God. Allow a time of worship as all bow down with faces to floor and rise to give God more praise with hands lifted up.

Schoolmaster enters while class is worshipping and enters into worship with them. When appropriate, continue with following dialogue.

Schoolmaster: **So, children, who answered by fire? The One True God, or Baal?**

Class: **The One True God!!!**

Schoolmaster: **You are smart children, because you chose God!!! You knew He would be the winner, didn't you?** To teacher: **These children are so smart, Bro./Sis. _____.** Do you think it is time for some treats? All agree. Schoolmaster exits.

Snack:

For snack, place rice (seasoned with a little butter and salt, or cinnamon and sugar), macaroni (with cheese or seasoned with butter and salt), or Fruit Rings cereal (to represent those crazy prophets of Baal) and a cheese stick, or pretzel stick to represent Elijah and let children retell the story with their snack. Many types of cereal would work to represent the prophets of Baal, even loosely formed Rice Crispy treats. Serve red juice and pretend the red juice is the fire of God that swallowed everything up (when they take a drink).

Real or Fake?:

Have one real cookie, piece of fruit, etc. and one or 2 fake ones. Let the children see them all and try to take a bite out of the fake. Oh, that's not real! Just like there is only one true God. Fake gods can't do anything for us. We serve and trust the One True God, Jesus!

Jesus Is God (Song): Tune: Mary Had A Little Lamb

In our story God answered by fire. Everyone saw fire when God showed up. When God came in person it was Jesus. What person is God? Helper joins children. **Jesus!** Teacher asks: **Who is God?** Children respond. **Jesus!**

Jesus is the one true God,
One True God, One True God
Jesus is the One True God,

Raise your hands and praise Him

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- Stomp your feet and praise Him
- Jump up high and praise Him
- Clap your hands and praise Him
- Run the aisles and praise Him

Craft:

Distribute Mt. Carmel altar scene, red, orange, and yellow tissue pieces, and glue sticks to students. Explain that the tissue is the color of fire and when God answered by fire, it burned up everything, so we will glue the tissue all over the altar, the sacrifice, the dirt, and everything. Make sure students' names are on their work.

Dismissal Prayer:

Get children's attention and pray with them to love God with all their hearts like the Bible says, and never be tricked into believing in a fake god.

Appendix:

Altar Scene for Craft: (enlarge as necessary and copy)

