

The Case of the Fight with Fire

1 Kings 18



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard figures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Fight with Fire. Here is your listening assignment.” Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. What was the fight about?**
- 2. Who won the fight? How did He use fire to show He had won?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Psalm 86:8,10:

“There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours...For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.”

I need to know:

- 1. What wondrous thing did the LORD do with fire?**
- 2. Who had to agree that there is no god like the LORD?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a bull; a god named Baal; a bush; dancing men; a pan; and, fire.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. Who praised the Lord for being the one, true God?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

The Case of the Fight with Fire *1 Kings 18*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics) Numbers correspond to storyboard pictures and placement upon the storyboard. Always feel free to use less pictures, if it's best for your kids. Simply black out the numbers next to pictures you do not plan to use. All pictures are found in the Visual Aids book. Put BG (background) pictures on storyboard ahead of time. SB pictures (listed below in story text) are added to board as you tell the story. These numbers are also found on the back of each picture.

Tip: Stack pictures in numerical before telling story for easy use. Use sticky-back velcro to attach pictures to storyboard felt. Use sticky-tac putty to stick a picture on top of another picture.

(SB1) The LORD and the (SB2) people of Israel made big promises to each other.

The LORD (SB3) promised that He would always love them and take care of them. He would keep them safe and give them everything they needed to be happy. Best of all, He would give them Himself to know and enjoy forever.

The people of Israel promised the LORD something in return, too. Can you guess what that might be?

Can you guess?

They promised to (SB4) love the LORD.

Now, that might sound very simple at first. But the love the LORD wanted His people to have for Him was not a little, tiny love—like a love that wakes up in the morning and says “Good morning, LORD! I love you,” but then forgets Him the rest of the day.

No, the kind of love the LORD wanted was a love that loved Him with their whole lives, through the whole day, in everything they did and said and even thought. It meant obeying (SB5) all of His good laws and worshipping Him as the One, True God. It meant obeying His good laws about loving others, too. So you see, this was a very BIG love that the LORD asked the people to promise Him... and they happily promised Him they would.

But it is one thing to make a promise and another thing to keep it, especially big promises like the LORD and the people of Israel made to each other. And while the LORD kept His promises to the people of Israel, the people did NOT.

They forgot Him as they lived each day. They (SB6) broke His good laws. They stopped worshipping Him as the One, True God and (SB7) turned to worship other, fake gods instead....especially the fake god that (SB8) their neighbors worshipped: a (SB9) fake god named Baal. And (SB10) their king--King Ahab--led the way.

Baal was supposed to be the god who gave people rain, good crops, and big families. Those were the three, big things that the people especially cared about then. Can you guess what the three things might be?

Can you guess?

There were (SB11) rain and big families and good food!

Now you might think of three OTHER things you especially care about, but back in those days there were no grocery stores or hospitals. You needed rain to grow your food and keep you and your animals alive. And since there weren't really doctors back then, getting sick was very scary. Rain, big families, and good crops meant LIFE to these people! Rain, big families and good food meant LIFE to these people! Who could want to worship Baal if he could give them that!

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

But what about the people of Israel? Didn't they need rain, big families, and good food to live, too? Yes, they did! But they didn't need to turn to Baal for these. Who SHOULD they have turned to instead?

Can you tell me?

They SHOULD have turned to the LORD. He had already made big promises to always love them and take care of them. Hadn't He always provided them with rain, big families, and good food in the past? Wouldn't He keep on giving these good gifts to them? Of course, He would! The LORD never breaks His promises!

But, the people of Israel chose to forget all of this. They chose to worship the fake god, Baal, instead. Their king,

This was sad news! This was BAD news! The people of Israel had turned away from the LORD. They had broken their promises to Him. What would the LORD do? Would He turn away from them and stop caring for them, as they deserved?

What do you think the LORD did?

The LORD COULD have done that, but He did not. He chose to go on loving them. He would bring them back to Him. He would show them in a mighty way that Baal was just a fake, and that He, the LORD, was the one, true God. And He would do it by stopping the very thing that Baal was supposed to be in charge of: the rain.

The LORD sent (SB12) His special messenger, Elijah, to tell King Ahab and the people what He was going to do.

"The LORD says: 'You have broken your promise to love Me,'" Elijah told them. "'You have chosen to worship Baal as giver of rain, big families, and good food, but he isn't. He is just a fake god. He is not the One True God. I am, as I am going to show you!'" the LORD told the people.

"I am going to take away all the rain. I am going to take away all the good food from you...the food you need so you can have big families. And no matter how much anyone prays to Baal, there will be no more rain or good food until I say so. Then you will see that I, not Baal, am the One True God," the LORD warned the people through Elijah.

Those were big words. Could the LORD really do this? Could He really stop Baal's power? Everyone waited and watched.

What do you think happened?

Sure enough, day after day after day went by and there was no rain.

The (SB13) water in the streams dried up. The good food that should have grown in the fields, died. The big families and their animals grew hungry and thirsty. They took their worship gifts to Baal and prayed, "Oh, Baal, send us the rain we need to grow good food and feed our big families."

But for one, two, THREE whole years, no matter how much anyone prayed to Baal, there was no rain or good food. Oh, how sad the neighbors were! Oh, how sad the people of Israel were!

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

At last, the LORD knew the people had learned enough from their suffering. They were ready for the great showdown. The big fight with fire that would make it clear to them and their neighbors who really was the one, true God.

(SB14) Elijah went back to King Ahab with a new message: “The LORD says: ‘For three years I’ve taken away your rain and good food. It has been hard to feed your big families. I did this because the people and you chose to stop worshipping Me and obeying My good laws. I wanted you to see that I am the one, true God, not Baal,’” the LORD said.

“I’m not done yet. There’s more thing I want to do. Gather all of the people and all of the messengers of Baal on top of Mount Carmel. There, you will see who really is the One, True God,” the LORD promised.

King Ahab obeyed. Up, up, up to the top of dry Mount Carmel went (SB15) Elijah, with King Ahab, the people of Israel, and (SB16) the messengers of Baal. It was time for the big showdown.

Elijah gathered them all together and said, “The time has come to see who is the One, True God. If it is Baal, follow him. If it is the LORD, follow Him.”

“I am the only messenger of the LORD here, but Baal has (SB17) many messengers,” Elijah told them. “We will each give a worship gift of a bull to our god. Baal’s messengers will give Baal their worship gift; and I will give my worship gift to the LORD,” Elijah explained.

“But we’re going to make this a fight with fire between the LORD and Baal,” Elijah said. “We won’t light the wood under the worship gifts, like we usually do. We will leave that to the One, True God. We will ask Him to send down fire from heaven to burn up the worship offering,” Elijah told them.

“This shouldn’t be hard for Baal. He’s the rain god. He can throw down one of his lightning bolts and set the worship gift on fire,” Elijah said. “I will even let the messengers of Baal go first.”

Everyone agreed. The messengers of Baal (SB18) took a bull and set it on top of some stones and firewood. Their worship offering was ready. They (SB19) began shouting their prayers to Baal: “O great Baal, show that you are the One, True God! Accept our worship gift! Send fire to burn it up!” they prayed.

What do you think happened?

Nothing happened at all. But Baal’s messengers didn’t give up. Next, they tried (SB20) shouting louder and dancing a worship dance to Baal. But still, nothing happened. On and on, all day, Baal’s messengers tried many things; but still no fire came down.

At last they gave up. it was Elijah’s turn. With (SB21) twelve, big stones, Elijah rebuilt the altar to the LORD. He put lots of wood. on it, and the bull on top of the wood. He had (SB22, SB23) men pour lots and lots of water on the everything to make it even harder to burn up.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Then (SB24) Elijah prayed to the LORD: **“O LORD, let it be known today that You are the God of Israel and I am Your servant. Answer me that the people may know that You, O LORD, are the One, True God, and that You have turned their hearts back to loving and obeying You.”**

What do you think happened? Would the LORD send down fire?

What do you think?

Yes, He would! (SB25) Suddenly, a huge, hot, blaze of fire down from heaven. WHOOSH! It burned up the bull, the wood, the water, the stones, and even the soil. Can you imagine! Fire so hot that it could burn up stones!

When all the people saw this, they (SB26) fell down on their faces and said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is the One True God!”

Then they turned on the messengers of Baal and got rid of them all. At last, the people of Israel had turned back to obeying and worship the LORD! And at last, it was time for rain.

(SB27) Elijah bowed down low to the ground, with his face between his knees, and prayed to the LORD. The skies soon grew (SB28A,B) black with clouds and a great rain began to fall. All the people rejoiced in the rain and the good food that would grow again now. And which God did they thank?

Can you tell me?

They thanked the LORD! For now it was very, very clear: Baal was only a fake god; and the LORD was the One, True God. There was no other God, and there never will be.

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. What was the fight about?** Who was the real One, True God.
- 2. Who won the fight?** How did He use fire to show He had won? The LORD won. He sent down fire from heaven and burned up the worship gifts.

For You and Me:

The LORD was the one, true God long ago when this story took place. He is STILL the one, true God today! He wants us to know Him and obey Him, just like He wanted the people of Israel to, long ago. How can we do this? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer these prayers!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 86:8,10:**

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours...For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."

I need to know:

- 1. What wondrous thing did the LORD do with fire?** He sent down fire from heaven and burned up the worship gifts.
- 2. Who had to agree that there is no god like the LORD?** Everyone!

For You and Me:

Everyone was amazed when the LORD sent fire down to burn up the worship gifts and even the rocks around the altar! The people had to agree that there was no god like the LORD. He was the one, true God, then and He is still, today! And the LORD is still doing amazing deeds. The most amazing of all is His offer to be our Savior. Yes! Even though we have all disobeyed Him and deserve His punishment, He offers us His forgiveness and to make us His people. How? When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a bull; a god named Baal; a bush; dancing men; a pan; and, fire.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?** The bull, the god named Baal, the dancing men and the fire belong. The bush and the pan do not.
- 2. Who praised the LORD for being the one, true God?** Elijah and all the people of Israel.

For You and Me:

The people of Israel turned away from worshipping Baal and returned to praise the LORD after they saw Him sent fire down from heaven. He was the one, true God. There was no other god they should ever worship besides Him! There is no god we should worship other than the LORD, too. We can start to worship Him by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer these prayers!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

**Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else...
He Is the One, True God!**

The people of Israel are not the only people who disobey the LORD and choose to worship other things. We have all chosen to disobey Him. We have all chosen to worship other things besides Him. How we deserve His punishment!

But how kind is the LORD! He offers us forgiveness through His Son, Jesus! Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the perfect payment for our sins. He rose from the dead on the third day, showing He had really beaten sin and death for us. How can Jesus be OUR Savior? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. If we do, we become God's people. We will know special closeness with Him in our hearts now. And one day, we will go to live with Him forever. God loves to help us trust in Jesus! Ask Him!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, LORD, that You are the great and awesome God. There is no god like You!
- C** LORD, we should love and worship You alone, but many times we choose to worship other gods. We don't live for You. We don't honor You as best and most important. We don't depend on You to take care of us. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, LORD, making us to know and worship You. Thank You for making the way for us to be forgiven of our sins through Jesus. Thank You that now we can know and worship You because of Him.
- S** Work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from other things we are tempted to worship. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship only You!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.