

## PRAYER

Help me to trust in You and You alone, O LORD, even when I am tempted to turn away. Amen.

### Memory

1. "Do not have any other gods besides Me" (Exodus 20:3).
2. "O LORD, listen to my prayer and hear my plea for mercy. When I'm in trouble, I call You because You answer me" (Psalm 86:6-7).

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Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #03 of 13: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)

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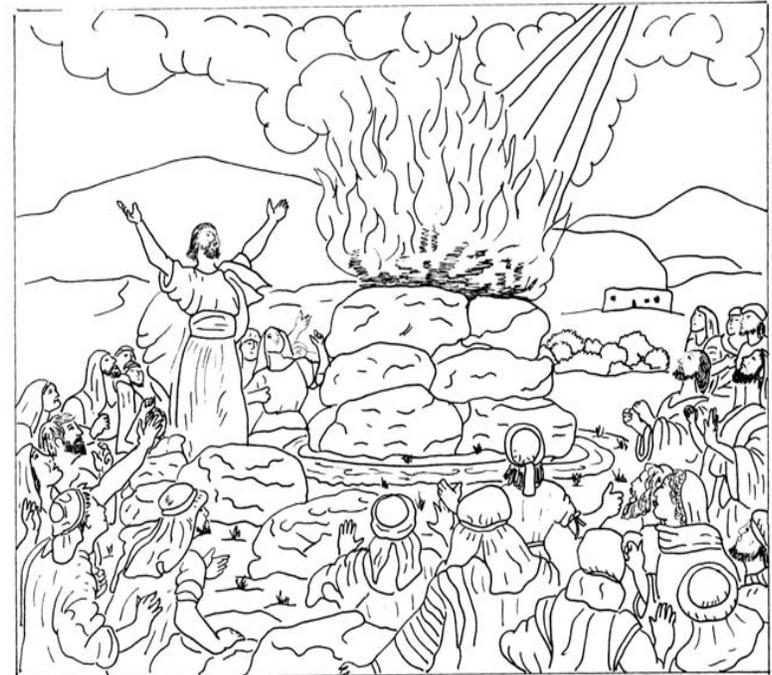
*Emmaus Bible Lessons*

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #03 of 13

## First Commandment

### *Elijah and the Prophets of Baal*



God says to you in the first commandment,  
"Do not have any other gods besides Me"  
(Exodus 20:3).

**THIS MEANS** you must trust God's promises  
even when no one else will.

## Bible Reading: 1 Kings 18:21-39

### Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

#### 1. How many friends did Elijah have in this story? How many prophets of Baal (an evil demon) were against him?

Elijah had no friends to help him. Elijah said, "I'm the only prophet of the LORD who is left, and there are 450 prophets of Baal." These prophets of the demon Baal were all against Elijah. They did not want Elijah to speak God's Word and promises to the people of Israel.

Elijah was alone, but he trusted in God's promises. Elijah believed that God would care for him, even when it seemed that everyone in the world had turned against him.

#### 2. What contest did Elijah want to have with these prophets of Baal? Why did he want to have this contest?

Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest of offering sacrifices. He told the prophets of Baal to choose a bull, cut it in pieces, place it on the wood, but to put no fire under it. Elijah said that he would also do the same thing. Then Elijah said, "You call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and then the god who answers by fire, he is God." By challenging Baal's 450 prophets to this contest, Elijah wanted to show the people of Israel that the idol Baal is a false god. The LORD is the true God!

#### 3. What did the LORD do in order to turn the people of Israel back to Him?

The LORD performed a miracle for Elijah. The LORD caused fire to come from the sky and to burn up Elijah's sacrificed bull. The fire also burned up the wood, the altar, and all the water that Elijah had poured into the trench around the altar! This miracle caused all the people of Israel to confess, "The LORD is God! The LORD is God!"

#### 4. God says in His Bible that people "hanged Jesus on a cross and murdered Him. But the God of our fathers raised Him [Jesus] and took Him up to His right hand as Leader and Savior in order

to give the people... repentance and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:30-31).

#### a. According to these Words above, what amazing thing did God do in order to turn you and all people back to Him?

God the Father allowed His dear Son Jesus to be sacrificed on a cross for you and for your sins. God also performed a great miracle by raising Jesus from the dead and taking Jesus "up to His right hand as Leader and Savior" (Acts 5:31).

#### b. Why did God do this?

God raised Jesus from the dead in order to "give the people... repentance and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31). That is to say, God's miracle of sacrificing and raising Jesus is similar to His miracle of burning Elijah's sacrifice. In each miracle, God gives His people the power to believe in Him and to say, "The LORD is God! The LORD is God!"

#### 5. In the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, the people of Israel had stopped listening to God. This made Elijah feel that he was the only one left in the world who listened to God.

#### a. When do you feel a similar temptation to stop listening to God as the people of Israel did?

Everyone feels tempted to ignore God and to stop listening to His promises. This is especially true when others around you, including friends and family, also ignore God and His promises. When others are ignoring God, this can easily make you feel alone, as if you are the only one left who wants to hear and trust God's promises.

#### b. How does this story help you in these temptations?

When you feel lonely and tempted, remember Elijah. Elijah trusted God even when he felt terribly alone. God is faithful. He will never leave or abandon you, just as He never left or abandoned His prophet Elijah. Rather, God promises you in His Bible, "I will never leave you or desert you" (Hebrews 13:5). Your Lord Jesus, who forgives you all your sins, also promises you, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).