

Lesson 3: Faith

Today's Bible Story

In the days of the prophet Elijah, the people had begun to worship a false god named Baal (*BAIL*). The prophet Elijah stood up to speak for the Lord at Mount Carmel, in front of the 450 priests of Baal. Elijah said to the people: "How long will you limp around with two different opinions? Either Baal is God or the Lord is God; you can't follow both!"

Elijah proposed that he and the priests of Baal should each prepare an altar with wood. Both would then call on their god. Whichever one answered by sending fire would prove to be the real God!

The priests of Baal went first. They limped around their altar, crying: "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. Elijah mocked them. "You say that Baal is a god. Maybe he left town — or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened!"

So the priests of Baal cried louder. They whipped themselves into a frenzy, cutting their own skin until they were bloody. But there was still no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then it was Elijah's turn. First he built up the altar of the Lord with twelve stones. Then he made a large trench around the altar, and put the wood in order.

Then he told the people, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." He did this three times, until there was so much water it ran all around the altar. Then the prophet Elijah came near and prayed: "O Lord God, let it be known this day that you are God. Answer me, O Lord, and turn the people's hearts back to you."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and all the water. When the people saw it, they cried out, "The Lord indeed is God!"



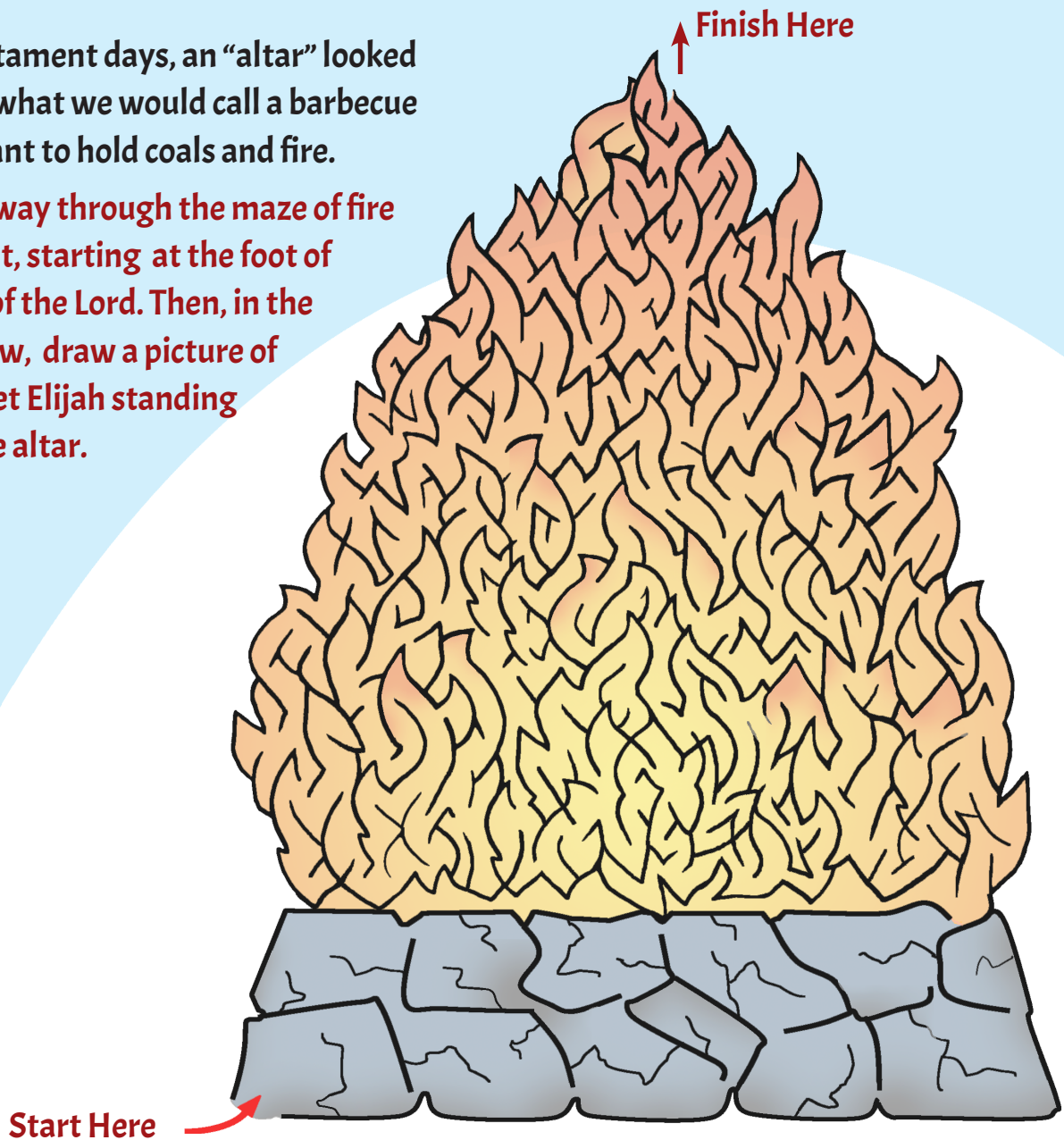
From 1 Kings 18:17-40

Bible Rhyme

Elijah challenged Baal's priests
knowing God could not be beat.
"I will show you who's the liar.
The real God will send down fire!"
So then the priests of Baal cried out,
and around their altar limped about.
Not a sound from Baal was heard.
Then it was Elijah's turn.
With water he wet down the altar,
then he prayed and did not falter.
God's fire burned both wood and stone,
proving he's the Lord alone!

In Old Testament days, an “altar” looked more like what we would call a barbecue grill – meant to hold coals and fire.

Find your way through the maze of fire to the right, starting at the foot of the Altar of the Lord. Then, in the space below, draw a picture of the Prophet Elijah standing next to the altar.



- 1) How many stones did Elijah use to make the Lord's altar? (1 Kings 18:31)
- 2) How many times did Elijah tell the people to pour water on the altar? By doing this, what did Elijah want to prove? (1 Kings 18:34)
- 3) What kind of animal did Elijah offer as a sacrifice? (1 Kings 18:23, 33)
- 4) Why did the god Baal not answer his prophets when they called on him? How did Elijah make fun of them and their false god? (1 Kings 18:27)
- 5) What did the Lord demonstrate to everyone that day? ((1 Kings 18:39)