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## Making Spiritual Connections

### Elijah's Story - Outline Plan

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#### Note to Leaders

This is an exciting, challenging story that shows how anyone can be a channel for God's power and see exciting things happen. Young people are looking for excitement and kicks. Let's point them in the right direction and see how as a group we can pray stuff into action.

The resource could be used in connection with occult related issues if required. Some young people will be unaware of such issues. In UK they are currently more likely to be aware of school mates (even 12 and 13 year olds) engaging with drink, drugs, sex etc than with Ouija boards, although there is a great deal on TV about the supernatural. A few may come from a household where a family member is involved in spiritualism. We need to be able to give some guidance here.

#### Aims select from

(Having established that a spiritual world does exist – see Angels and the Spiritual World)

- To show that it is possible to contact the spiritual world at any time (not just Halloween)
- To think about what type of spiritual connections we may want to develop or avoid in our own lives
- To reflect on how to deepen our spiritual lives

#### Key Bible verse

James 5:16-18 but especially 16

When a believing person prays, great things happen. Elijah was a human being just like us. NCV

The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance... the Message

#### Bible references:

- 1 Kings 16:29-17:9;
- 18:1-8, 16-46;
- 19:1-18
- Leviticus 9, especially verses 22-24
- Leviticus 26:3-5; 14; 19

References to God and thunder include Psalm 18:12-14; Psalm 29:1-9; Psalm 104:1-15

#### Resources select from

- DVD of 'Ratatouille' where the theme is 'anyone can cook' – even a rat!
- A Bible Atlas is useful to show the places mentioned in the account. It helps to show that is not just a fable.
- Just Dance 4 "Superstition"
- Food link: Angel cake or Freshly baked bread or rolls (with honey?)

## Programme

### Games / Links

Set up a simple circuit to light up a bulb.

Play the game Connect where you slot discs into a board and have to get 3 in a row.

Play the computer version of the above

### Music suggestions

Music can be used for drama, entertainment, and creating a certain atmosphere as well as in worship.

#### Christian songs

- Supernatural: Tribe
- Shout it Out: Tribe
- Talk, talk: Doug Horley: Lovely Jubbly
- Shine Jesus Shine (Blaze Spirit Blaze)
- Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me
- D is for Dynamite: Ishmael: Land of Hope and Glories

#### Secular songs (details below)

- Fire: Arthur Brown
- Great Balls of Fire: Jerry Lee Lewis
- Stevie Wonder - "Superstition" – in 'Just Dance 4'
- Genesis: 'Mama' has a very spooky sound to it which could be used as a background to a game or drama.

### Main Focus

Elijah story in 1 Kings 18-19

See leader's notes

The Elijah story shows a range of spiritual connections.

- The prophets of Baal and Asherah - pagan spirit worshippers.
- Elijah who has strong spiritual connections with God
  - He hears clearly from God and acts on it.
  - He is helped by an angel
  - He knows the power of prayer and fasting
  - He has an amazing spiritual experience on Mount Sinai.

### Approach

➤ Drama: you need to think about how you feel regarding their role playing a pagan spirit worshipper. If you are ok with it the options include:

- Act out the contest to the music 'Uranus' from Holst's Planet Suite. The track starts with the people trekking up Mount Carmel and end with 4 dramatic notes that shout 'THE LORD IS GOD'.  
(Thank you Joyce Mumby)

- Fire: Arthur Brown

YouTube clip [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eawL6aJ2nBc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eawL6aJ2nBc) Track duration: 02:37



- TV reporter interviewing people both before and after the contest.

Characters could include

- Jedediah the reporter
- Irritable Ahab;
- Cool calm but eccentric Elijah;
- 'The boys' - macho, full of bravado, prophets of Baal;
- An Israelite spectator with his/her family;

➤ Tell them the story in your own style, pausing to discuss certain aspects as you go.

### **Application**

How can we use Elijah as a role model for an awesome, powerful prayer life?

Other role models include Paul Y Cho; Mother Theresa; Rees Howells; John Wesley; Martin Luther

### **Activity**

As they eat the 'angel food', chat about how they can feed themselves spiritually. Are they still dependant on others always providing something or can they at least make themselves a spiritual sandwich (or manwich as my 15 year old describes a healthy snack)?

**Reflection / Application** - *select according to whether you are focusing on the occult, on leading a double life or on going deeper with God*

- It is possible to contact the spiritual world.  
It is harder to connect with God's Spirit than any other but it is SO WORTH IT!
- Have we so lost sight of God's love and power that even we do not realise how much he has to offer us in comparison with local/modern culture?
- Are we ready to deepen our spiritual connection with God? Back to key verse. (Accept that some may not be ready to move forward in their spiritual journey yet.)
- You can be awesomely connected to God in the same way that Elijah was – and see amazing answers to prayer. (This is very different to the cheap party tricks that other spirits will perform just to get you hooked).
- How can we use Elijah as a role model for an awesome, powerful prayer life?
- God has no favourite children. Elijah was probably a humble shepherd. **Anyone** can have a powerful prayer life if they follow God with their whole heart.

### **Prayer activities**

- Pray for any whose 'fire' needs to be rekindled.
- Let them light a candle as an act of worship to symbolize this but ensure there is sufficient time for prayer ministry.
- Have an outdoor bonfire activity. Be aware of safety issues.



**Application – how to strengthen our spiritual connections to God**

- Prayer – how can we bring this alive?
- Meditation – how can we chill with God?
- Fasting – increases spiritual awareness but health issues need to be considered especially with adolescent age children. There is partial fasting as in Daniel 10:3. Perhaps a technology fast would be more appropriate for some.
- How can we have a healthy spiritual life within our modern lifestyle?
- Help them to fix on something practical they can do that will work for them.

**Application relating to other spiritual issues**

'Download' spiritual support:

- Text a friend for prayer support
  - Find an appropriate Bible verse and keep repeating it to yourself.
  - Say 'Jesus' over and over
  - Pray in a spiritual language if you have one
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- *What do you do if you have to live or stay in a house where someone is into spiritualism? Perhaps you find yourself sleeping in a place where you have a sense of unease. Would you try to ignore it? Discuss how you might pray.*

**Secular songs – details:**

**Fire: Arthur Brown**

Performance: Track duration: 02:37 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eawL6aJ2nBc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eawL6aJ2nBc)

"Fire" is a 1968 song by Arthur Brown, Vincent Crane, Mike Finesilver and Peter Ker

Lyrics: [www.songmeanings.net/songs/view/3530822107858576959/#q0wvwmRht9wguge4.99](http://www.songmeanings.net/songs/view/3530822107858576959/#q0wvwmRht9wguge4.99)

**Great Balls of Fire: Jerry Lee Lewis**

Fun music for a jazzy slant to this theme. The words are not particularly relevant

Performance 1.54m: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrgY01VEwgM>

Lyrics: <http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/topgun/greatballsoffire.htm>

**Genesis song 'Mama' [www.youtube.com/watch?v=huXh3M7bCs4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huXh3M7bCs4)**

**Stevie Wonder - "Superstition"**

<http://www.sing365.com/music/lyric.nsf/Superstition-lyrics-Stevie-Wonder>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQAbzLUI9ns>

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