



Elijah: Making Spiritual Connections Plan



Note to Leaders

It is too easy to see the prophets of Baal as a joke. They were not! They really were accustomed to connecting with the spirit world and seeing the supernatural, which makes their surprise at the 'no show' of any spirits understandable.

Young people are looking for excitement and kicks and too easily look in the wrong direction, landing themselves in trouble. In the UK, there is an increasing interest in New Age type spirituality which can be harmful. One high street shop has been banned from selling Ouija boards, as even the spiritualists and mediums were alarmed.¹ Another store has 'games' that promote interest in contacting one's guardian angel or using tarot cards.

There may be those in your group who come from a household where a family member is involved in spiritualism. Some careful guidance would be needed here.

Aims select from

- What type of spiritual connections do we want to develop or avoid in our own lives?
- Avoiding making dangerous spiritual connections through the occult.
- Could we pray like Elijah?

Key Bible verse

James 5:16-18: "... When a believing person prays, great things happen. Elijah was a human being just like us." NCV (Youth Bible)

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

Bible references:

- The main story is in 1 Kings 16:29-33; 1 Kings 17:1; 1 Kings 18:1-45
- Leviticus 9:22-24 – fire from heaven
- 1 Kings 19:1-18 – further spiritual experiences for Elijah.

Resources select from

- A Bible Atlas is useful to show the places mentioned in the account; it's not just a fable.
- Food link: Angel cake
- Music for drama, or worship. Suggestions below
- A firepit, if you want to have an outdoor approach.

¹ <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Poundland-s-Spirit-board-might-be-cheap-but-it-is-incredibly-dangerous>

Programme

Games / Links

- Play the game Connect where you slot discs into a board and have to get 3 in a row.
- Set up a simple circuit to light up a bulb.

Main Focus

Elijah story in 1 Kings 18, with more in chapter 19. See leader's notes

The Elijah story shows opposing spiritual connections:

- The prophets of Baal and Asherah, who were pagan spirit worshippers.
- Elijah, who had strong spiritual connections with God

Approach

1. Drama:

- Use the music 'Uranus' from Holst's Planet Suite to mime the story of the contest on Mount Carmel from the people trekking up the mountain at the start, to their shout of 'THE LORD IS GOD' to those 4 dramatic notes at the end.
- Create a drama around a TV reporter interviewing people both before and after the contest.

Characters could include:

- Jedediah the reporter
- Irritable Ahab
- Cool calm but eccentric Elijah
- Obadiah, the secret resistance fighter (hiding 100 prophets of God)
- 'The boys' - macho, full of bravado, prophets of Baal
- An Israelite spectator with his/her family

2. Tell them the story in your own style, pausing to discuss certain aspects as you go. See leaders' notes for ideas.

The story is well told in the Bible so one options is to read it directly from a modern translation **with plenty of expression.**

Discussion

Chat about healthy and unhealthy spirituality (whilst eating the 'angel food' if you have that). There is a great deal that can be covered here. Plan it according to the needs of your group. Try to warn about the dangers of Ouija boards etc. if appropriate. The 'dark' side might have some appeal, but it leads to fear. We need light in order to flourish. We need to warn them without imparting fear in the more sensitive ones. There is a light-hearted quiz called 'Spot the Scam' on occult connections which could be used a focus for discussion, along with a 'Glossary of Spiritualist Terms'. Speak to your church leader if you need guidance here.

Application

How can we use Elijah as a role model?

God has no favourite children. Elijah may have been a humble shepherd. Anyone can have a powerful prayer life if they wish. James 5:16-18

Application relating to other spiritual issues

What could you do, if you felt that you were in a place with a bad spiritual vibe?

- Leave! As Soon As Possible.
- Say 'Jesus' over and over as a simple prayer
- Text a friend for prayer support
- Pray in a spiritual language if you have one

Prayer activities

- Pray for any whose 'fire' needs to be rekindled.
- Let them light a candle as an act of worship to symbolize this.
- Have an outdoor activity with a firepit. Be aware of safety issues.

Music suggestions:

Christian songs

- Supernatural: Tribe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCedbbAf3Ew> 4:32
- Talk, talk: Doug Horley: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7solA0T_pE 4:06

Secular songs for dramatic effect

- 'Uranus' : Holst's Planet Suite <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDFGmiXnLjU> 6:18 minutes
- 'Fire': Arthur Brown, 1968. www.youtube.com/watch?v=eawL6aJ2nBc 02:37. This could be used to depict the priests of Baal.
- 'Mama' by Genesis has a really spooky sound which might be helpful for a background effect. www.youtube.com/watch?v=huXh3M7bCs4 7:25 minutes but could be shortened.
- 'Great Balls of Fire': Jerry Lee Lewis <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrgY01VEwgM> 1.54m
Fun music, maybe use it to depict the moment the fire struck the altar?
- Stevie Wonder - "Superstition" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQAbzLUI9ns> 5:0

All links were working at the time of posting. Otherwise, do a fresh search.

Writer: Brenda Lord;16 Oct 2014, updated Oct 2020

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