

## 2.1 The Hottest Contest (two-syllables) (1 Kings 18:1-39)

**Directions:** 1. Read aloud a Bible story to your students from a children’s Bible or in your native language. 2. Ask: Why was everything dying in Israel? How could they prove which God was real and which one was fake? 3. Students pre-read the words in the boxes below. 4. On page two, the student reads the **bolded words** in the story. Stronger readers read the unbolded words. 5. After reading the *I Read, You Read* coloring book story, ask: Why did the people turn their hearts back to the true God? How can the real God be real in your own life? 6. Color code or label some of the words in the drawing below. Fill in the bubbles with dialogue. Write a sentence about the story on the line below.

### Words to Read

**hottest, contest, rotten, gotten, forgotten, selfish, tip top, summit (top), sunset, hectic, problem, upset, cannot, themselves, bucket, frantic (crazy), expect, expected, madness, happen, until, biggest, sudden, witness (saw what happened), wicked (suffix -ed)**

### Rule Breakers

**any, their, were**

### Sight Words

**our, won, all, water, people**

When you have two consonants, between two vowels, divide between the consonants into syllables, like this:

**r**a**b** - **b**i**t**

**v**c - **c**v      Bolded syllables have the strongest accent.




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## **2.1 The Hottest Contest** (1 Kings 18:1-39) *I Read, You Read Bible Story*

In Israel, everything and everyone was hungry and thirsty.

**Why? God had not sent any water. All was dry. It had not**

rained for three long years. Cattle and grass were dead.

**Why? The people had gotten rotten and had forgotten God.**

**“Which is the best god? We will have a contest,”** said

Elijah. He was a prophet who followed the true God.

**“Come to the tiptop of the summit. We will have a contest.”**

Hundreds of people came to the top of Mount Carmel.

Each side took a dead bull and put it on wood to burn.

The wicked men begged their fake god to burn their bull.

**They yelled until sunset. It was hectic. The wicked men had a**

**big problem. All was still from their god. “I expect he cannot**

answer,”

**He cannot help you!”** The selfish men got upset and frantic.

**They cut themselves. It was madness. Elijah got a bucket.**

He poured water all over his dead bull. He prayed,

**“God, let us witness that you are the best God.”**

**What did happen? All of a sudden, the biggest flash of**

fire fell from heaven and burned up Elijah's bull!

The people all bowed down to the true God of heaven.

**Our God won the hottest contest! Just as we expected.**

**Fresh water from God fell from the sky. The people were glad.**

## 2.1 The Hottest Contest (1 Kings 18:1-39)

I Read, You Read Bible Story Name \_\_\_\_\_



Show new readers that when you have two consonants, between two vowels, divide between the consonants into syllables, like this:

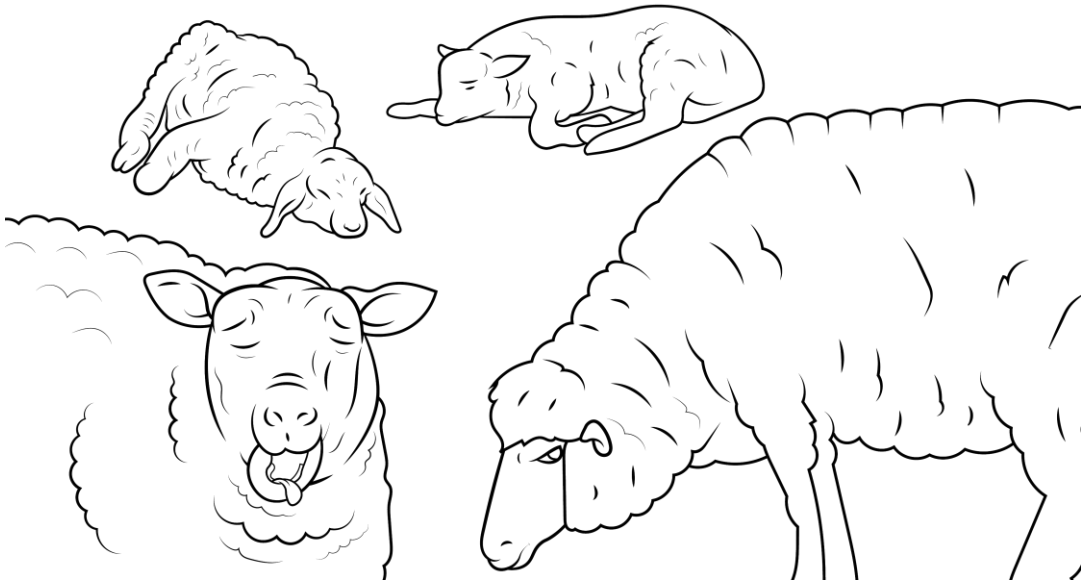
**r**a**b** - **b**i**t**      v c - c v

1. In Israel, everything and everyone was hungry and thirsty.



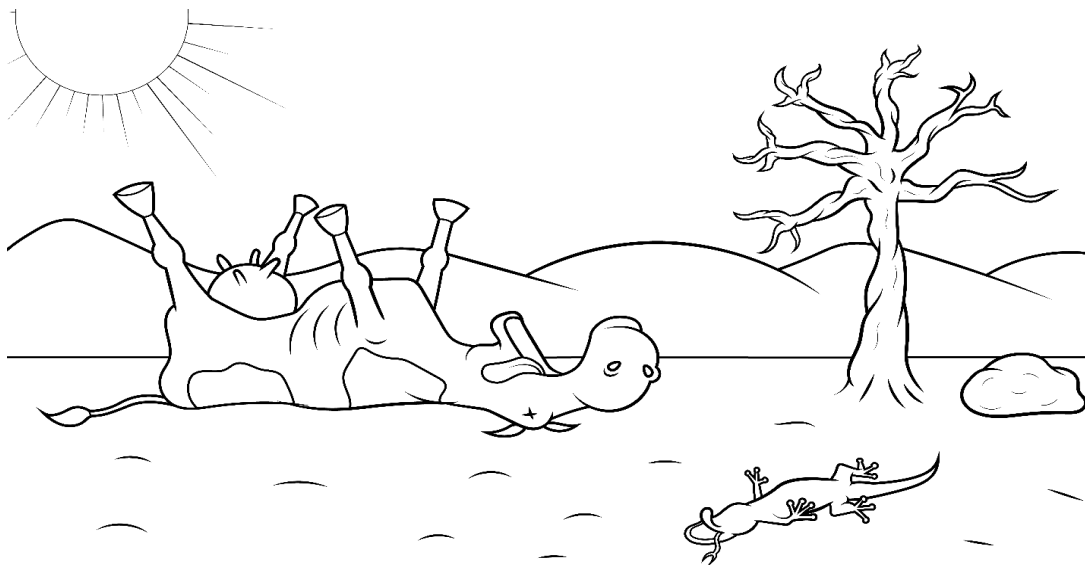
2. Why? God had not sent any water.

All was dry.

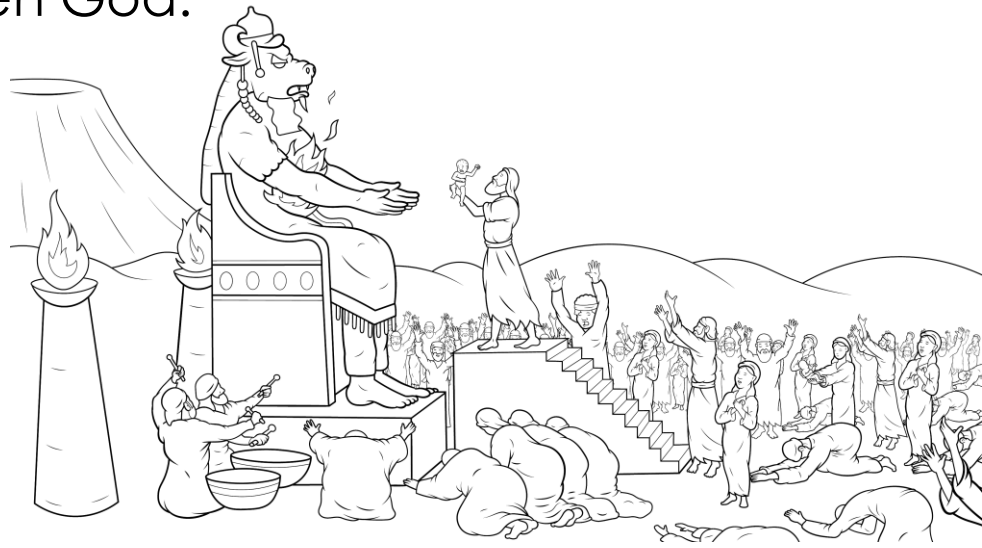


3. It had not rained for three long years.

Cattle and grass were dead.



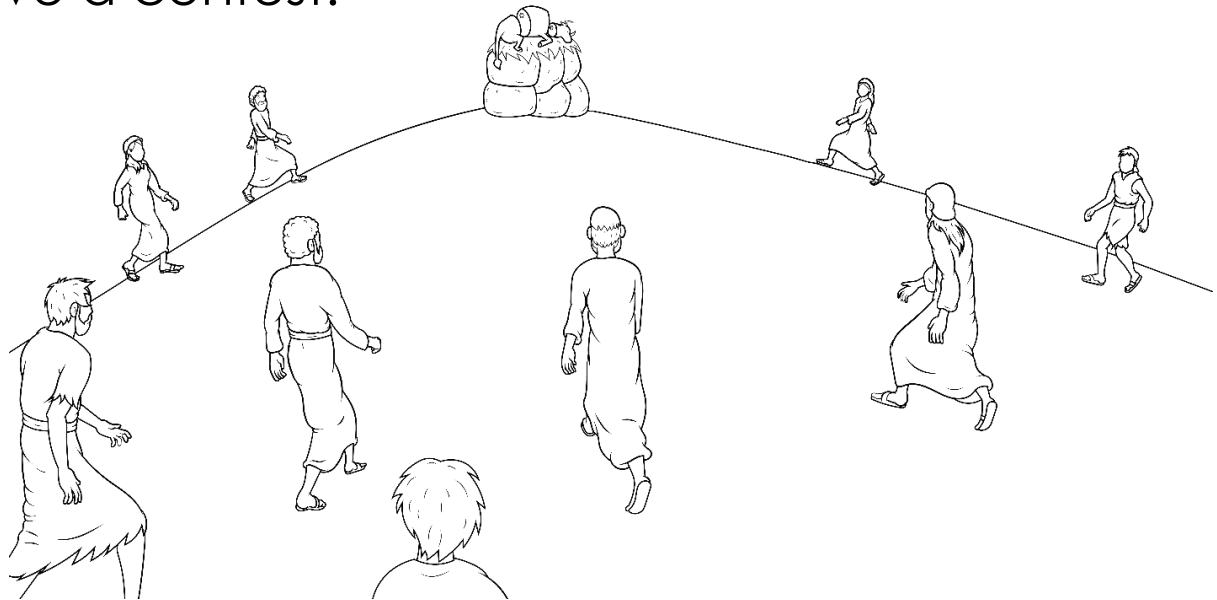
4. Why? The people had gotten rotten and had forgotten God.



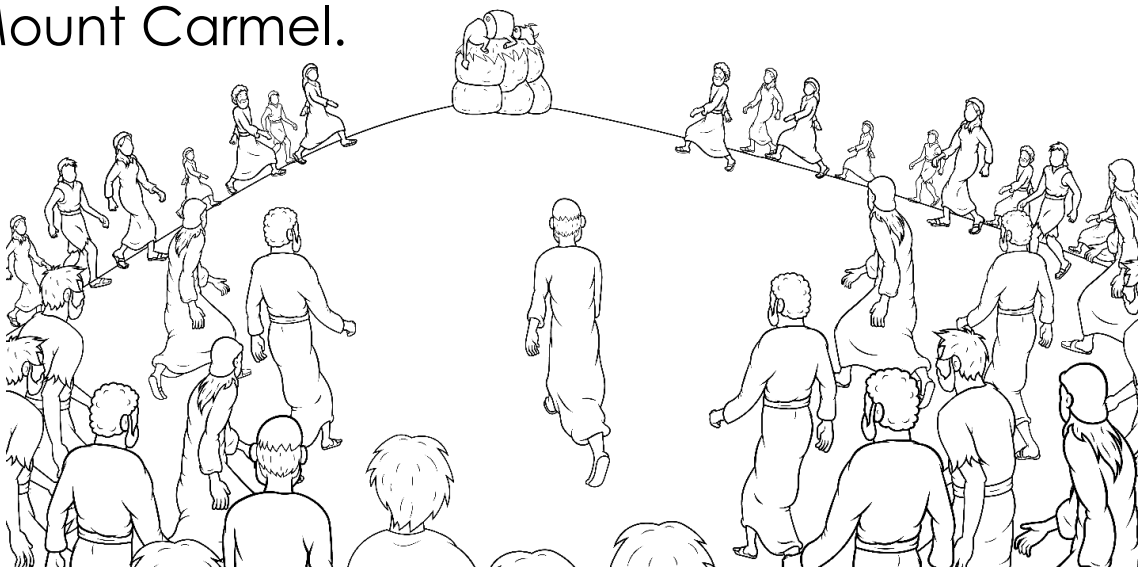
5. "Which is the best God? We will have a contest," said Elijah. He was a prophet who followed the true God.



6. "Come to the tiptop of the summit. We will have a contest."



7. Hundreds of people came to the top of Mount Carmel.



8. Each side took a dead bull and put it on wood to burn. The wicked men begged their fake God to burn their bull.



9. They yelled until sunset. It was hectic. The wicked men had a big problem. All was still from their god.



10. "I expect he cannot answer," Elijah laughed,  
"Where is your fake god?  
He cannot help you!"



11. The selfish men got upset and frantic.  
They cut themselves. It was madness.





12. Elijah got a bucket. He poured water all over his dead bull.



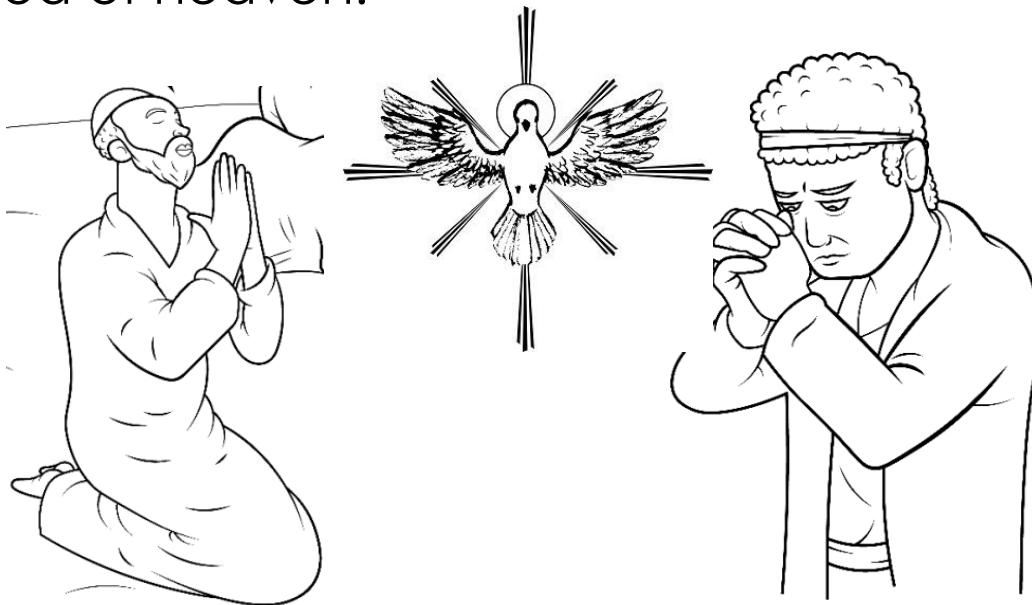
13. He prayed, "God, let us witness that you are the best God." What did happen?



14. All of a sudden, the biggest flash of fire fell from heaven and burned up Elijah's bull!



15. The people all bowed down to the true God of heaven.



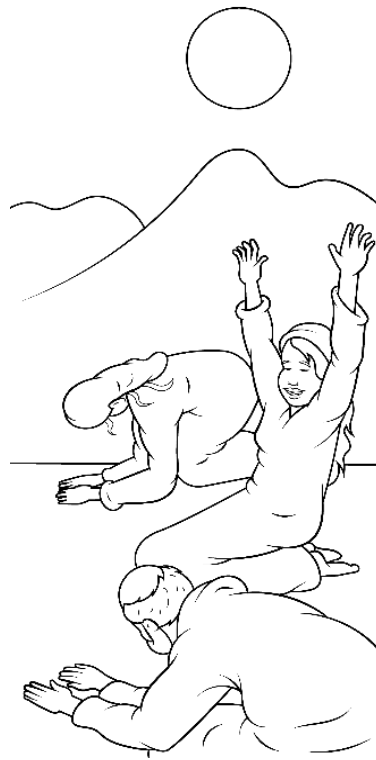
16. Our God won the hottest contest! Just as we expected.



17. Fresh water from God fell from the sky.



18. The people were glad.



The End

## 2.1 SONG: The Hottest Contest (two syllables)

*Song with Pre-Read Words*

The people had gotten, gotten rotten.  
Their good, good God they had forgotten.  
Now, the land was hot and dry.  
Not a drop fell from the sky.  
Let's all have the hottest contest.  
Let's see which god is most honest.  
Go to the tiptop. Go uphill.  
What will happen, oh what will?  
Begged their fake god until sunset.  
Go on, cry and yell. Are you done yet?  
He cannot help you. He's not there.  
The problem is... your god is just AIR!  
Now, go on, dump out the bucket.  
Then the good God went and struck it.  
All of a sudden, the biggest FLASH.  
God burned it up. Now it's all ash!  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now, we know which God is best.  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now, we know which God is best.  
Oh, now we know which God is best.  
Fresh rain fell on all who were rotten.  
Now, they loved the God they'd forgotten.  
We won't go with fake gods...never.  
We won't forget the best God ever!  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now, we know which God is best.  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now, we know which God is best.  
Oh, now we know which God is best.  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now, we know which God is best.  
Our God won the big contest.  
Now we know which God is best.  
Oh, now we know which God is best.

### Words to Read

hottest, contest, begged  
gotten, rotten, forgotten  
tiptop, uphill, happen  
sunset, cannot, problem  
bucket, sudden, biggest

### Rule Breakers

their, they, was, is  
from, have, what  
are, you, your, done  
there, won, who, were  
loved, they'd, won't



### Sight Words

people, good, all, fake  
now, most, air, out, our  
burned, see, know, rain,  
ever, never, honest, now

## 2.1 SONG: The Hottest Contest (two syllables)

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Their good, good God they had forgotten.

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Our God won the big contest.



Now, we know which God is best.

Our God won the big contest.

Now, we know which God is best.

Oh, now we know which God is best.

Fresh rain fell on all who were rotten.

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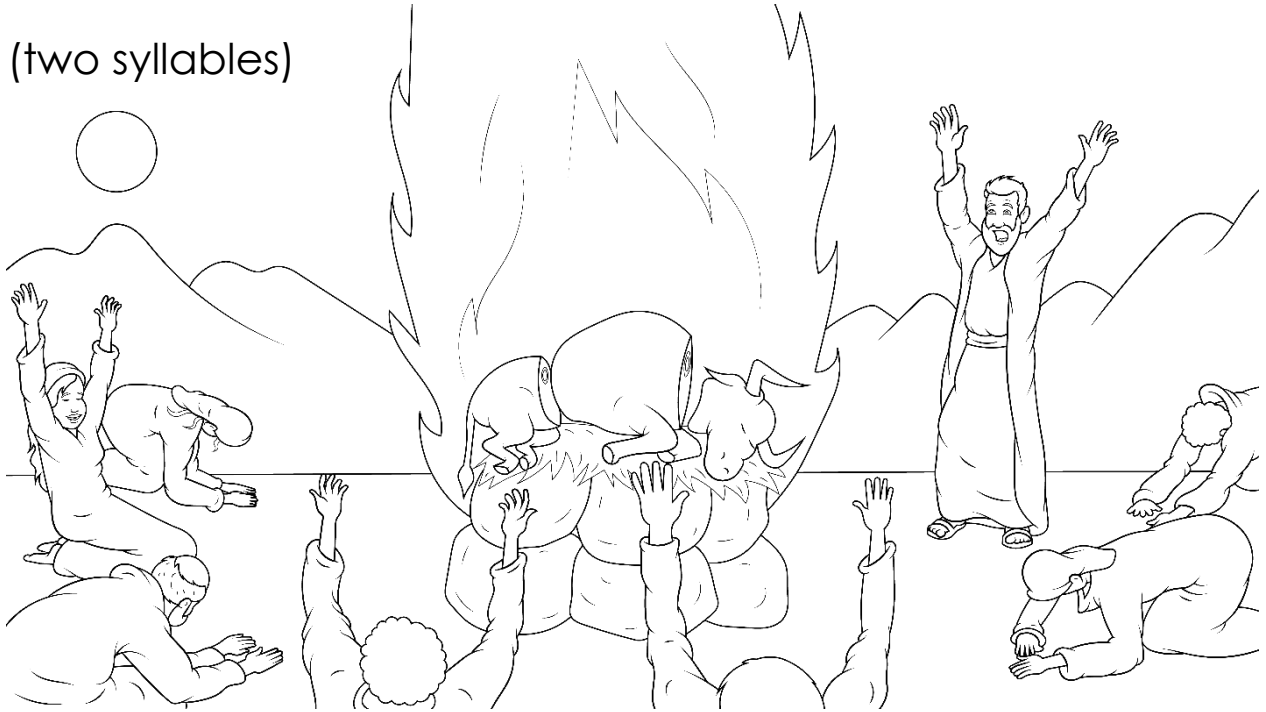
Now we know which God is best.

Oh, now we know which God is best.



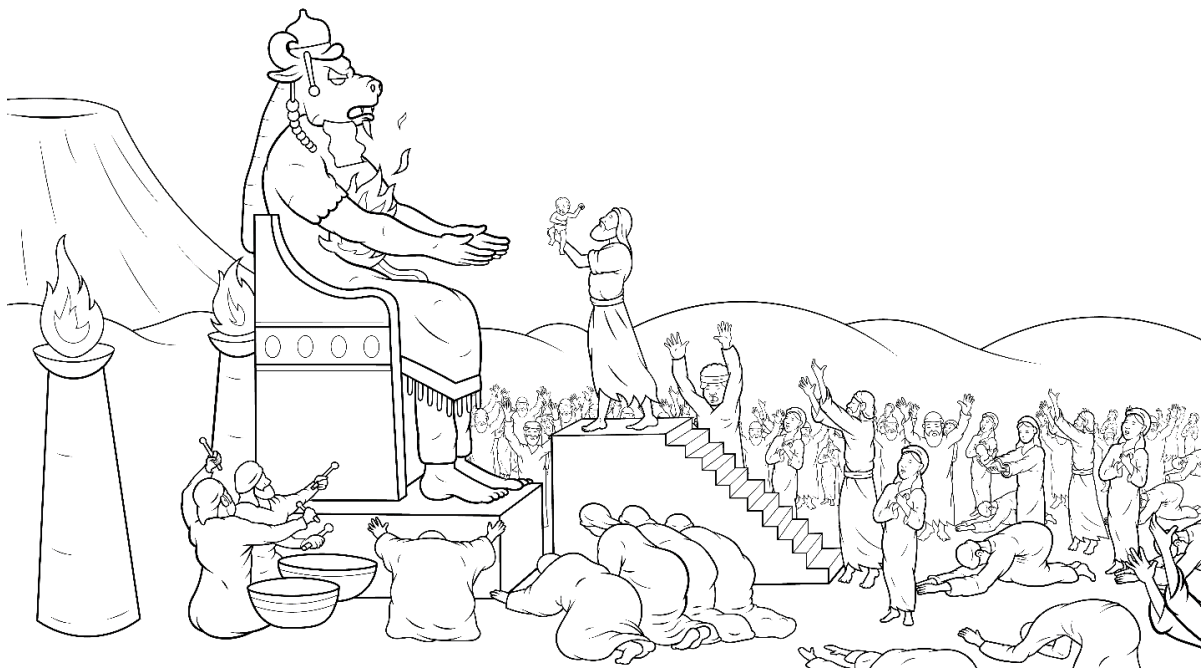
## 2.1 Song The Hottest Contest Song (1 Kings 18)

(two syllables)



1. The people had gotten, gotten rotten.

Their good, good God they had forgotten.





2. Now, the land was hot and dry.

Not a drop fell from the sky.

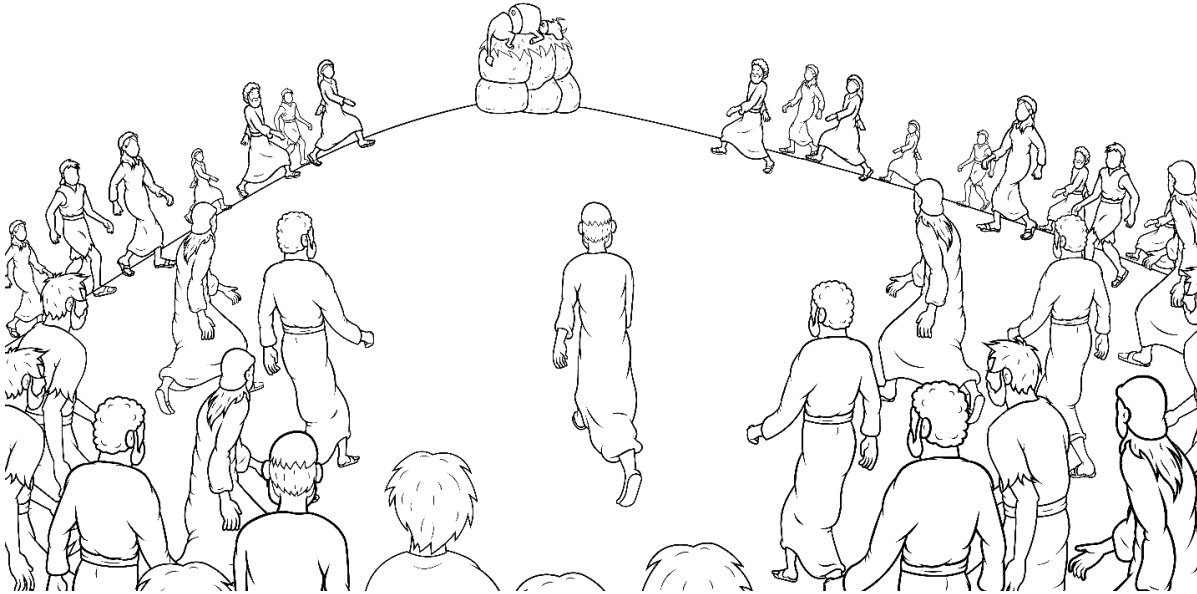


3. Let's all have the hottest contest.

Let's see which god is most honest.



4. Go to the tiptop. Go uphill. What will happen, oh what will?



5. Begged their fake god until sunset.

Go on, cry and yell.

Are you done yet?



6. He cannot help you. He's not there.

The problem is...

your god is just AIR!



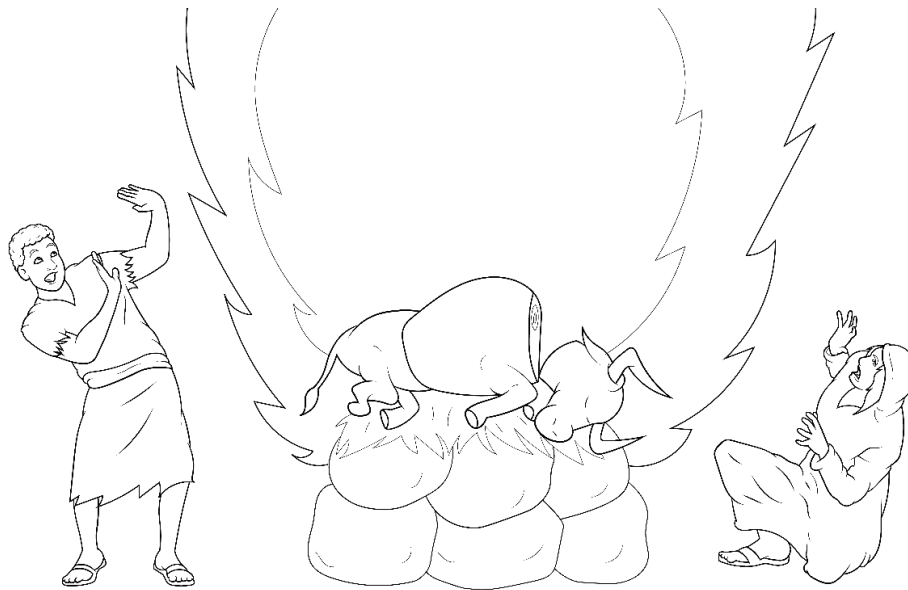
7. Now, go on, dump out the bucket.

Then the good God went and struck it.



8. All of a sudden, the biggest FLASH.

God burned it up. Now it's all ash!



9. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Oh, now we know which God is best.



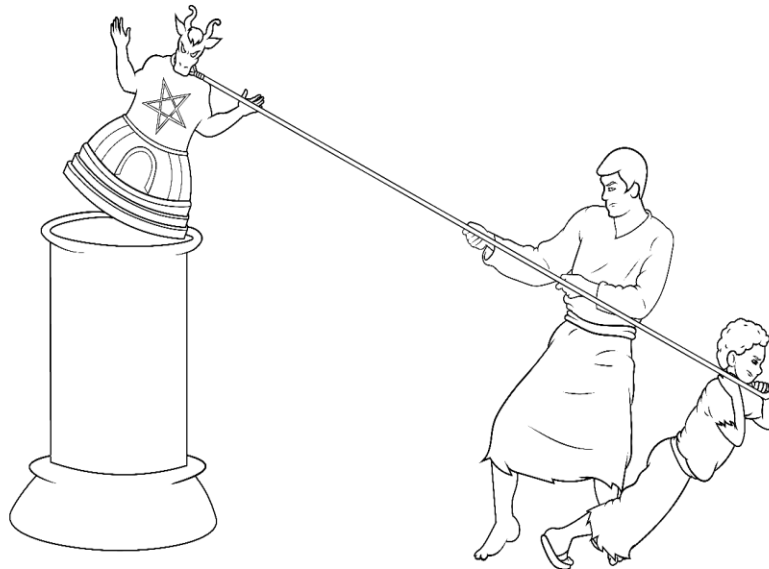
10. Fresh rain fell on all who were rotten.

Now, they loved the God they'd forgotten.



11. We won't go with fake gods...never.

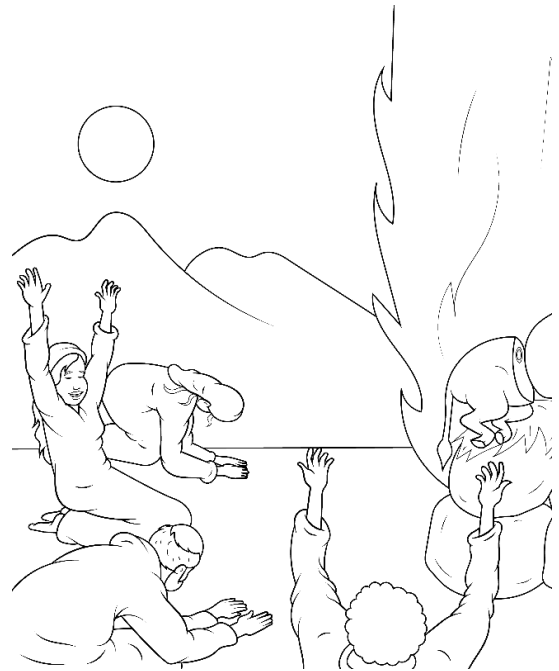
We won't forget the best God ever!



12. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Our God won the big contest. Now we know which God is best. Oh, now we know which God is best.



13. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Oh, now we know which God is best.



The End

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**2.1 SONG: The Hottest Contest** Fill in the missing words.

The people had gotten, \_\_\_\_\_ rotten.

Their good, good God they had forgotten.

Now, the land was hot and dry.

Not a drop fell from the \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's all have the hottest \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's see which god is most honest.

Go to the tip\_\_\_\_. Go uphill.

What will \_\_\_\_\_, oh what will?

Begged their fake god \_\_\_\_\_ sunset.

Go on, cry and yell. Are you done yet?

He cannot help you. He's not there.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is... your god is just AIR!

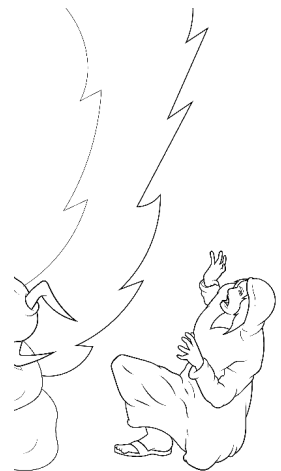
Now, go on, dump out the bucket.

Then the good God went and struck it.

All of a sudden, the \_\_\_\_\_ FLASH.

God burned it up. Now it's all ash!

Our God won the big contest.



Now, we know which God is best.

Our God won the big contest.

Now, we know \_\_\_\_\_ God is best.

Oh, now we know which God is best.

Fresh rain fell on all who were rotten.

Now, they loved the God they'd forgotten.

We won't go with fake gods... \_\_\_\_\_ .

We won't forget the best God ever!

Our God won the big contest.

Now, we \_\_\_\_\_ which God is best.

Our God won the big contest.

Now, we know which God is best.

Oh, now we know which God is best.

Our God won the big \_\_\_\_\_.

Now, we know which God is best.

Our God won the big contest.

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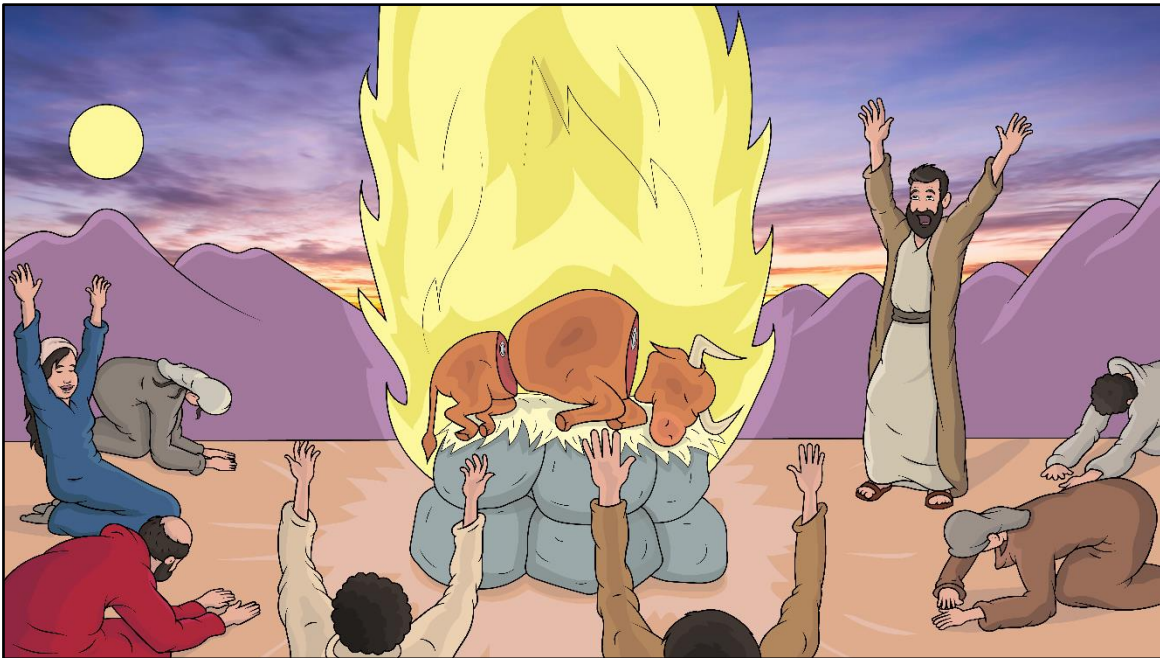
Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ we know which God is best.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.1 Song The Hottest Contest Song (1 Kings 18) (two-syllable words)



1. The people had gotten, gotten rotten.  
Their good, good God they had forgotten.



2. Now the land was hot and dry.  
Not a drop fell from the sky.

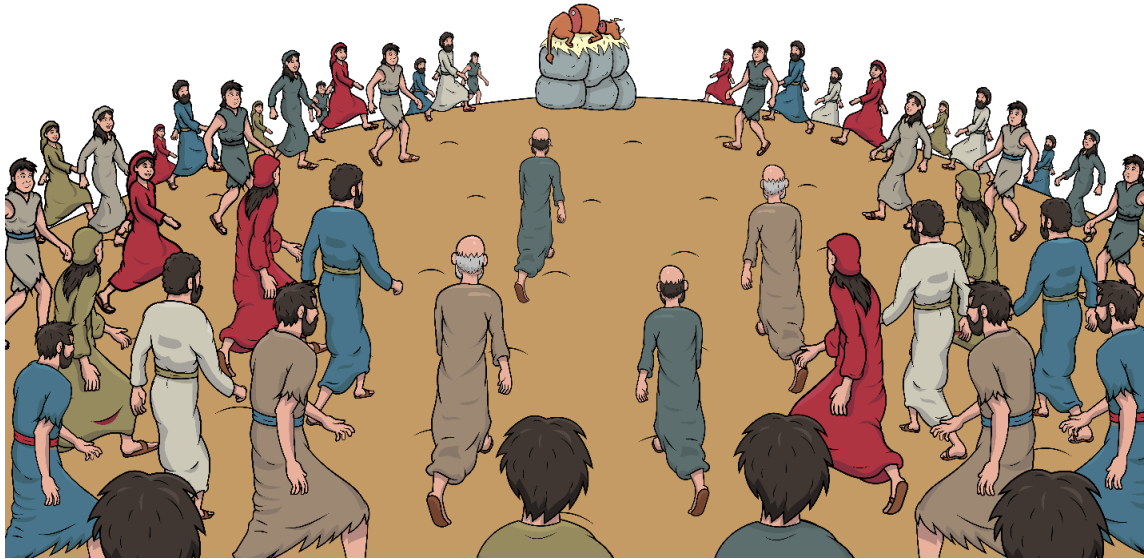


3. Let's all have the hottest contest.  
Let's see which god is most honest.



4. Go to the tiptop. Go uphill.

What will happen, oh what will?



5. Begged their fake god until sunset.

Go on, cry and yell. Are you done yet?

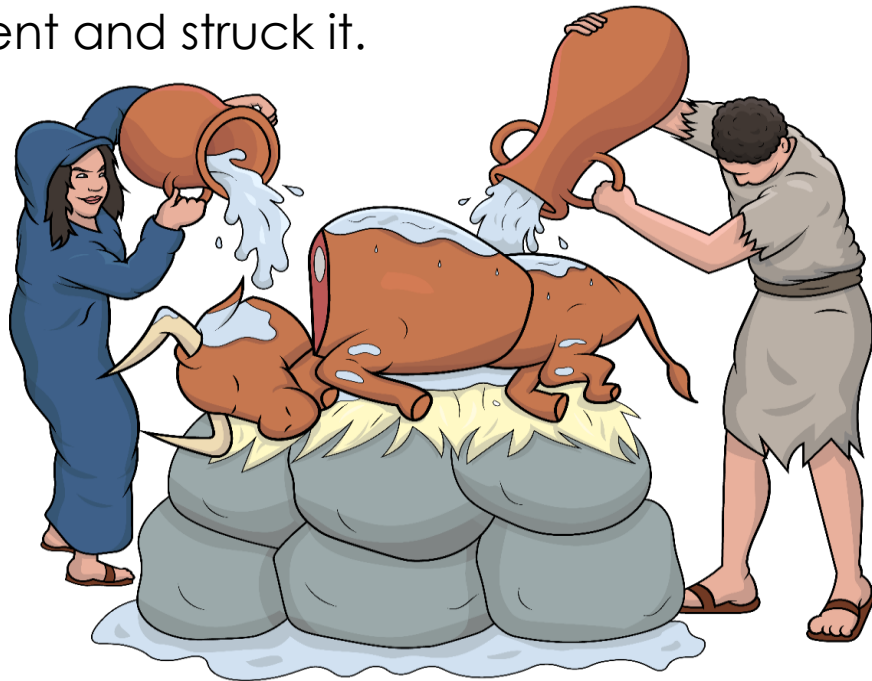


6. He cannot help you.  
He's not there.



The problem is...  
your god is just AIR!

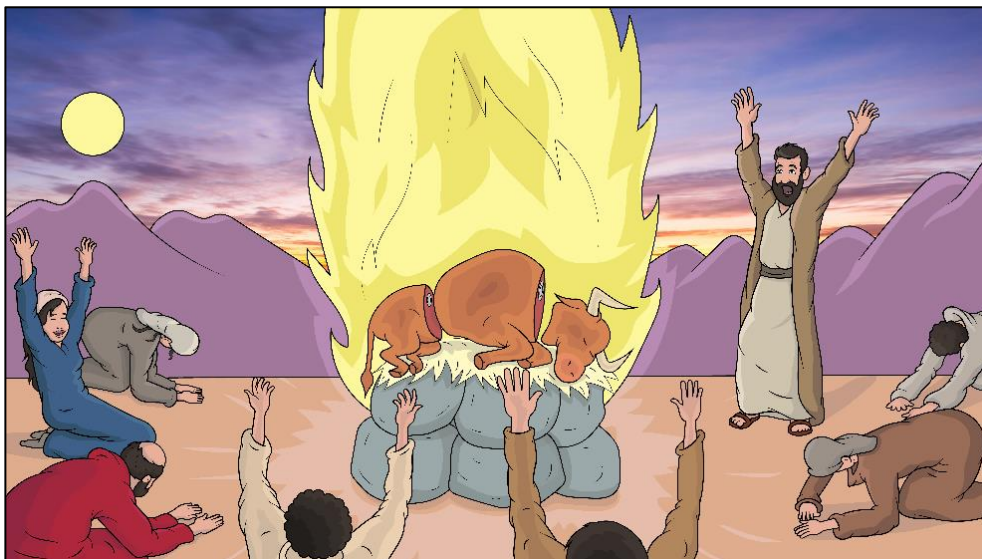
7. Now, go on, dump out the bucket. Then the good  
God went and struck it.



8. All of a sudden, the biggest FLASH. God burned it up. Now, it's all ash!



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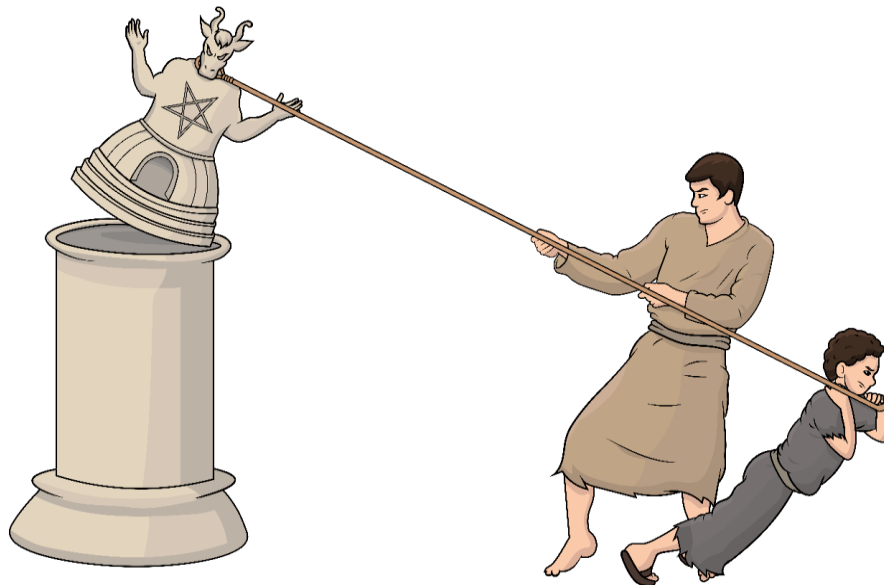
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Now, they loved the God they'd forgotten.

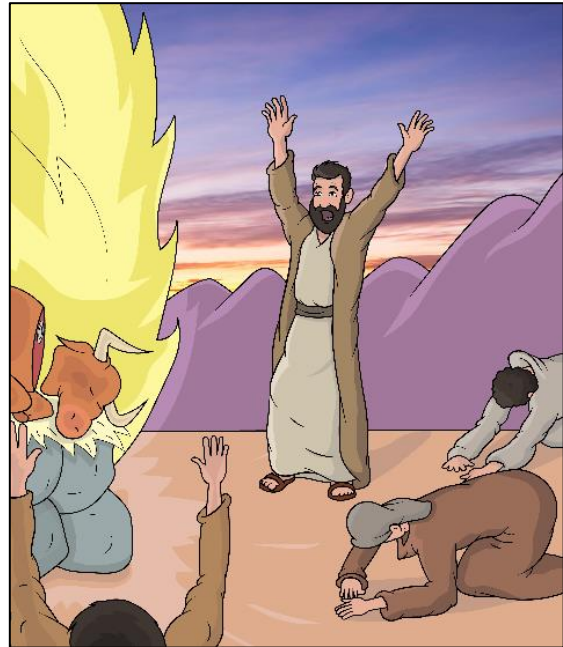


11. We won't go with fake gods...never.

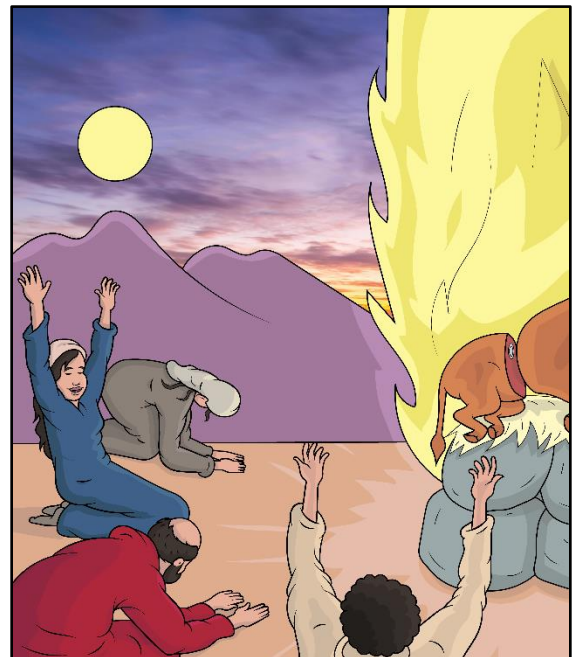
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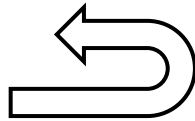
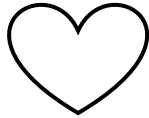


13. Our God won the big contest. Now, we know which God is best. Our God won the big contest. Now we know which God is best. Oh, now we know which God is best.



The End

## Bible Extension Activities: **Capture a Wandering Heart, Part A**



**In this activity**, kids will create a short prayer book.

**Prepare:** print one of the next page for each student.

**Say:** There is a wonderful saying: “No matter how many steps you take away from God, it only takes one step to come back.” **Ask:** What might that step be? It is repentance. That means telling God what it is that you have done wrong and asking him to forgive you through the blood of Jesus. Repentance means turning around and changing your mind and coming back to Jesus.

**Share aloud** (as appropriate) this backstory: People can be incredibly stubborn. The Jewish people were chosen and called the family of God. They had been hand-picked by God to love him, serve him, and share his story with the world. Instead, they allowed their selfish kings to lead them into the horrible sin of idolatry. What is that? They worshipped fake gods. Some of these idols were from hell. It got so crazy that people were actually allowing their children to be burned up to honor these demonic beings. God had to put a stop to this intense evil. To get their attention, God stopped the rain from falling. Even after three whole years, the king, his wife, and most of the Jewish people continued to ignore God. So, Elijah set up a contest to remind them that the God of heaven is the real and mighty Lord, not idols. When it was Elijah's turn, he filled the trench with water three times. Why did he do this? He wanted to make the contest even harder so the people could REALLY get it...that the God of Israel is the real God. Then he prayed this beautiful prayer in 1 Kings 18:37: “Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

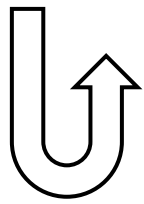
**Ask:** Who in your life might need to turn his or her heart toward God?

**Do:** On the next page, fill in the names of people you know whose hearts may need to turn back to God. Maybe you need to write your name as well? Cut each strip out and create a tiny “book” by stapling the left side. Color the cover. Place it on the dinner table next to the napkins and add these beautiful prayers to your dinner blessing each night.



Bible Extension Activities: **Capture a Wandering Heart, Part B**

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**Turn hearts back again, O Lord!**



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Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning his/her heart back again."

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Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning his/her heart back again."

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Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning his/her heart back again."

+++++

Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning his/her heart back again."

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## Bible Extension Activities: **AMAZing Maze of Ways**

**In this activity**, create a maze to understand impediments to God.

**Prepare:** bring tape, cookie sheets, playdough, for each student: scissors, markers, cardstock. Make one before class as a trial.

**Say:** God desires a close relationship with us. He wanted the same thing for the whole Israelite nation. But their leaders blocked the way to God. How? **Ask:** What blocks you from a close relationship with God? Sometimes it is our own self! We all can get a little lazy and wander away from God, a step at a time. Before you know it, your heart is far from God. Your heart may be hardened against him. God wants you to break through those barriers to get close to him again. We're going to create a maze to go from far-away to near-to-God.

**Directions:** Cut the cardstock into fat strips. Write on the strips things or people that block or weaken our devotion to God. See the box below. Bend the strips back and tape them onto the cookie sheet into a maze. Roll the playdough into small balls. The kids will tilt the pan back and forth trying to get the ball across to the "God" side. As the ball winds its way through, talk about overcoming God-blockers.

### **Possible God Blockers:**

Not going to church  
Not reading your Bible  
Not praying  
Not understanding your faith  
People who may mock you  
Friends or family members who don't believe  
People from other religions pulling you toward theirs  
Being tired or over-busy so we don't spend time with God.



When your ball of playdough reaches the "God" side, form it into a soft heart and ask God to keep your heart soft toward him.

Include this verse in your maze: 1 Kings 18:37: "Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

## Bible Extension Activities: **Hardened Hearts = Hardened Land**

In this activity, kids will create a puzzle to learn a verse.



As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Hebrews 3:15

Have each student make a puzzle like the one above. On cardstock, draw a big heart or trace the outside of the one above. Have the kids write the verse, draw lines, and cut them into pieces. Share the puzzles among each other. Memorize the verse by removing one piece at a time. Talk about how God let the ground become hard, dry, and cracked because the Israelites' hearts had become hardened against him. How can we keep our hearts soft toward God? **Extra fun!** Start your lesson with a pan of brownies noticing the crusty top layer. Does it remind you of cracked, dry land? Make brownies ahead of time. Google search: Recipe for brownies with a crust on top.

## Bible Extension Activities: Blessings and Curses

**In this activity**, kids will sort index cards in a race for the most blessings, found in Deuteronomy 28.

**Teacher Note:** If you read the curses associated with disobedience, it is shocking. But if you understand the depth of Israel's sin, it is just as shocking. The king would slay anyone who didn't please him for any reason. The queen killed 900 of the Lord's prophets. The Israelites fell into the serious of sin of worshipping false idols, to the point that they were actually offering child sacrifices in the fire to these demonic entities. Please only share with your students what you feel would be beneficial according to their maturity level.

**Write these blessings on index cards or let the children:** You will be blessed in the city. You will be blessed in the country. Your children will be blessed. The crops of your land will be blessed. Your animals and their babies will be blessed. Your baskets of food will be blessed. The Lord will bless your barns. Your enemies will be defeated. God will establish you as his holy people. Everything you do will be blessed. The Lord will send rain in season. You will not borrow. You will always be on top.

**Write these curses on index cards or let the children:** You will be cursed in the city. You will be cursed in the country. Your children will be cursed. The crops of your land will be cursed. Your animals and their babies will be cursed. Your baskets of food will be cursed. You will be confused. You will be destroyed. You will have diseases. The Lord will send scorching heat. The Lord will send a drought. The sky will be bronze. The ground beneath you will be iron. The rain over your country will turn to dust and powder.

**Prepare:** Set up two chairs at one side of the room. Add to one chair a sign that says: Blessings...**if** you carefully obey the Lord. The other chair: Curses...**if you do NOT** obey the Lord. Mix the cards facedown into one pile and let teams race back and forth putting the cards onto the chairs, without reading them. Were the cards on the correct chair? You win!

**Ask:** Why was God so harsh with the Israelites? Was the drought possibly a direct effect of their sin? How serious is God about sin and obedience? What can you do to obey God?

**Please** remind the children that sickness, tornadoes, and other harsh realities are NOT always a direct effect of sin. "Good" Christians suffer today as well as those who do not have God directly in their lives.