

ONLY GOD

Elementary
Week 3

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: 1 Kings 18

God's people were worshipping the Canaanite gods. Baal was arguably the worst, and King Ahab was leading the people into this darkness. So, Elijah challenged him to a spiritual showdown to settle who was the real god. All day long, Baal's prophets pleaded with him to send fire. But there was no response. When it was Elijah's turn, he rebuilt the altar, soaked it with water, and simply prayed, *"show these people that you, Lord, are God. **Then the people will know that you are bringing them back to you,**"* 1 Kings 18:37.

This was the reason for the famine, the drought, the fire, and the rain. God wanted his people to remember his faithful love, even in their rebellion. He was after their hearts. God did what Baal could never do, and there was no doubt that the Lord was the true God (1 Kings 18:39). The people repented, and God sent rains to refresh the land.

Our idolatry is likely not as obvious as worshipping a god like Baal. But, we all have put something in God's place at one time or another. We have all fooled ourselves into thinking that something other than God could take care of us, or that something other than God is most important. It could be our money, our appearance, our kids, our reputation, our status, etc. Whatever it is, it's also true that we've worshiped our false god and sacrificed something at its altar. Maybe we've sacrificed our sanity, our integrity, our purity, or our worth.

But this story reminds us that no matter how corrupt our idol worship may be, **God is bringing us back to him.** His love remains faithful, even when we're not. It might take some pretty intense fire to burn down the altar of our false gods, but God wants us to know that he is the only God who can truly take care of us. He loves us. And just like the rain refreshed the Israelites after their repentance, he desires to refresh us when we repent and remember his love.

"Therefore, repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord," Acts 3:19.

Can you identify something in your life that has taken the place of God? What have you sacrificed to your idol?

Read Acts 3:19 again. How have you felt "seasons of refreshing" from the God after repenting and remembering his love for you?