

Kings and Chaos

It is the end of King David's rule and he is old and weak, perhaps even a little senile. In fact Bathsheba, his wife, and Nathan, the prophet, had to inform him that his Son Adonijah is trying to gain the throne rather than his son Solomon. David does set things right and instructs Solomon before he dies. Solomon loves the Lord and starts out well. He rules with both brains and heart. But Solomon loved many foreign women. This divided his heart and left him with the legacy of a divided nation. The kings that followed King Solomon divided the kingdom and led the nation of Israel into the sin of Idol worship. God sends the prophet Elijah to confront the king and the people. Let's do some role play to discover the power God showed the people of Israel through the prophet Elijah.

Say it! Play it! Pray it!

Objectives:	Play out the Role of the prophet Elijah when he confronted the sins of the people by coming against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Gain insight into your own faith. Have fun with your family.
Number of Players:	3 - 6 or more (narrator, Elijah, King Ahab, prophets of Baal, the people of Israel,
Length:	30 minutes - 1 hour
Set up:	You can get as elaborate as you like. As the Narrator is reading, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel.
Props:	A couple of stuffed animals to be the sacrificial bulls.

Narrator: Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him,

Ahab: Is that you, O troubler of Israel?

Elijah: I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.

Narrator: So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said,

Elijah: How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.

Narrator: But the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said to the people,

Elijah: I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; But Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the

wood, but put no fire under it. Then you call on the name of your gods and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.

All the people: It is well spoken.

Elijah (to the prophets of Baal): Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.

Narrator: So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying,

Prophets of Baal: O Baal, hear us!

Narrator: But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the alter which they had made. And so it was at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said,

Elijah: Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.

Narrator: So they cried aloud, and cut themselves as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people,

Elijah: Come near to me.

Narrator: So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come saying,

Elijah: Israel shall be your name.

Narrator: Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said to the people,

Elijah: Fill water-pots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood. Do it a second time. Do it a third time.

Narrator: So they did and the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said,

Elijah: Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.

Narrator: Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said,

The people: The Lord He is God! The Lord He is God!



FAMILY STUDY

Elijah: Seize the prophets of Baal!!! Do not let them escape!!!

Narrator: So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Discussion: Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life. Questions to consider: What was the sin of the people and the king that Elijah was confronting? How did Elijah show his strong faith in God? When have you had to stand up for your faith in God?

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.