

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

AUGUST 9, 2020

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

1 KINGS 18:16-38 & JEREMIAH 2:13

Main Idea: There is one true God. Only He deserves our worship.

The Lord gave Jeremiah a message to share with Israel. In the message, God tells Israel very clearly that they have been both wrong and foolish in their worship of idols. They have exchanged the all powerful God for worthless statues. This practice of worshipping idols was not new. It had been going on for hundreds of years, despite all the times that God showed He alone is God and He alone deserves our worship. One of those times is recorded in 1 Kings 18, which takes place hundreds of years before Jeremiah was written. Read 1 Kings 18:16-38 as a family and/or watch this week's video.

In this passage, there is a showdown between Elijah, God's prophet, and the prophets of Baal. But the truth is, the prophets of Baal never stood a chance. Why do you think that is? Because Baal is not real. 450 people were calling on nothing more than a statue/image that day. When it comes to comparing power - God will win every time because there is no one like Him. He is more powerful and more real than any hero or villain or idol. That can sometimes be hard to understand because we cannot see God and we are used to seeing and touching and hearing what is real. That is where faith comes in. Elijah had faith that the one true God would send fire from Heaven. He knew that God was worthy of His trust. The God Elijah trusted is the same God today. He alone deserves our worship. While most of us don't worship a statue like Baal, people do still worship idols. We worship what is most important to us. It is usually what we give most of our time, money, love and focus to. An idol is anything we value as most important that is NOT God. God blesses us with lots of wonderful and important things - family, friends, school, sports, art, music, pets etc. But we need to remember that without God, we would have nothing. God is most important. God, and only God, deserves to be number one in our lives. We should only worship Him.

Activity Idea

As a family, collect 12 stones. You may have them around your home or you may want to go on a walk to find some. Try to recreate the altar that Elijah made in the Bible passage. For example, try to stack the stones. Dig a little trench around the stones, pour water on it etc. Explain that you are not doing this because you need to get God's attention or ask Him for something. God is always there to listen to us and care for us. You are just acting out the true story. After you have doused your pretend altar in water, talk about ways you see God's power in your life or the world. We may not see fire coming down from Heaven but God definitely still shows us His power!

Family Prayer

Talk as a family what things people today worship other than God. Make a list of things that are important to your family or even pull out a box and put things in the box that represent what is important. Just because something is important to you doesn't make it an idol. Something becomes an idol only when we make it more important than God. Is there anything that might be or be becoming an idol? How can we show God that we put Him first and worship Him? One big way is through spending time with Him! Pray as a family. You can ask God to help you put Him first and thank Him for His many gifts.

