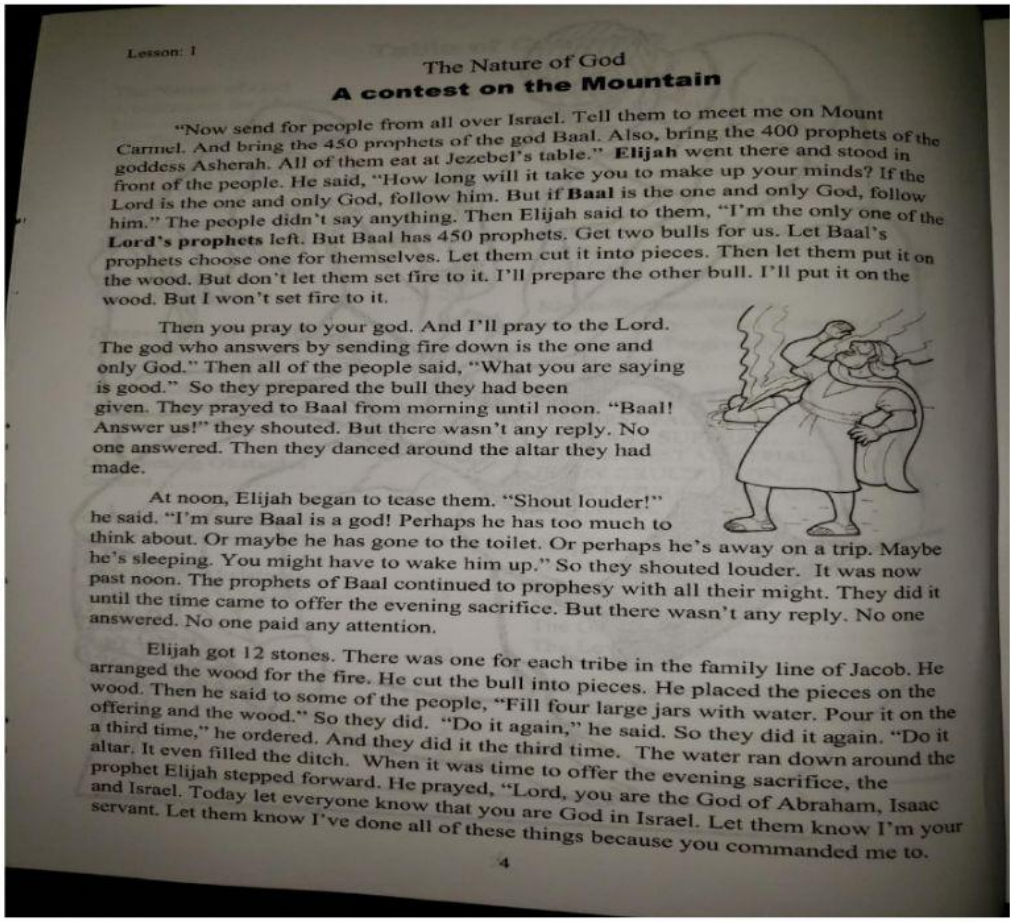
Name: _____ Date: _____

Religious Studies: The Nature of God

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Read the passage below and answer the following questions.



Lesson: 1

The Nature of God

A contest on the Mountain

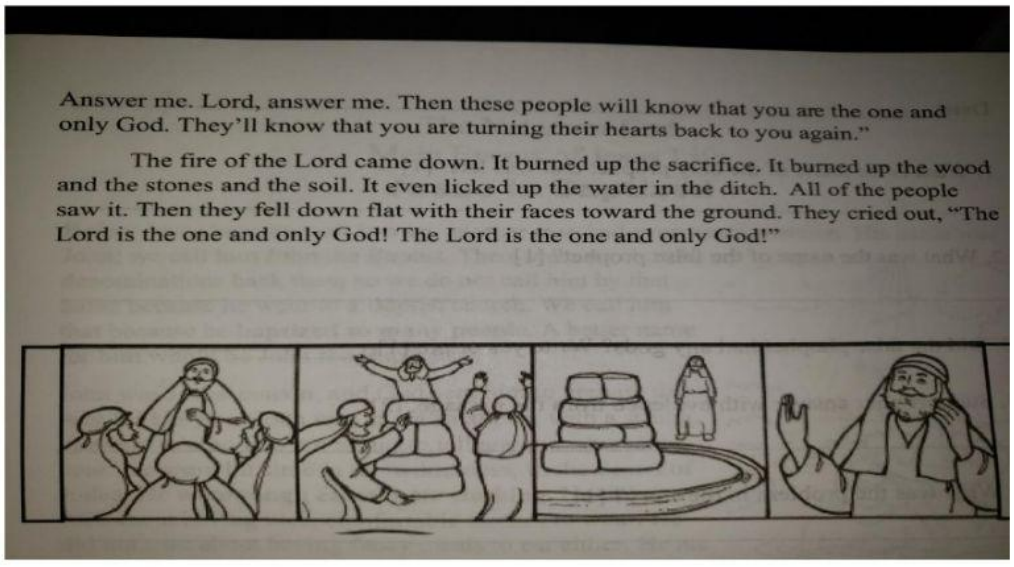
"Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god Baal. Also, bring the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah. All of them eat at Jezebel's table." **Elijah** went there and stood in front of the people. He said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, follow him. But if **Baal** is the one and only God, follow him." The people didn't say anything. Then Elijah said to them, "I'm the only one of the **Lord's prophets** left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it.

Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the Lord. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God." Then all of the people said, "What you are saying is good." So they prepared the bull they had been given. They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. "Baal! Answer us!" they shouted. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon, Elijah began to tease them. "Shout louder!" he said. "I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up." So they shouted louder. It was now past noon. The prophets of Baal continued to prophesy with all their might. They did it until the time came to offer the evening sacrifice. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. No one paid any attention.

Elijah got 12 stones. There was one for each tribe in the family line of Jacob. He arranged the wood for the fire. He cut the bull into pieces. He placed the pieces on the wood. Then he said to some of the people, "Fill four large jars with water. Pour it on the offering and the wood." So they did. "Do it again," he said. So they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered. And they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar. It even filled the ditch. When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all of these things because you commanded me to.

4



Answer me. Lord, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."

The fire of the Lord came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood and the stones and the soil. It even licked up the water in the ditch. All of the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What is the name of the prophet who served God?

2. Name the kings and his wife?

3. Who is Baal?

4. How many prophets served Baal?

5. Why did Elijah want to have a contest?

6. What happened on the altar of Baal?

7. How did the True God show his supremacy?

8. What did the Israelites do at the end of the contest?

LIVEWORKSHEETS