
**BEAR
HUG 8**

Elijah Reminds the Israelites to Worship Only God

Make It Stick: Jeremiah 10:10: ... *The LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: At Mount Carmel, the Israelites saw that God was more powerful than the idol Baal. We should worship the one true God, not idols.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: 1 Kings 18; Isaiah 42:8; Psalm 115

Memorize: Jeremiah 10:10

When you have a problem, where do you go for help? Depending on the problem, you might go to a family member or friend, a trusted advisor, an expert in the field, a how-to book or the Internet. It is not wrong to seek help in these places. God, in His grace, gives us various people and resources to benefit our lives. However, it IS wrong to put a level of trust in these things that matches or surpasses the trust we have in God.

At Mount Carmel, Elijah rebuked the Israelites for trusting in both Baal and God. The people were in the midst of a famine due to a drought that had lasted three-and-a-half years (Luke 4:25). The drought was a judgment from the Lord because of their idolatry (1 Kings 17:1; 18:18). The Israelites could have gotten rid of their gods and sought God alone to bring the rain, but they were too attached to the supposed “help” of their gods, especially Baal. (The name Baal was used for a variety of gods, including Hadad, the storm god. Hadad was said to control the rain and the fertility of the land.)

You probably aren't tempted to trust in idols of wood or stone, but watch for other idols in your life. An idol is anything that takes God's place as a source of help or trust. Your Cubbies are literal thinkers; they will not understand how a person or money or sports could become an idol. But they can understand the futility of praying to a stone statue rather than the true God. This is a good place to start in this lesson.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand what an idol is and why it can't help us.
2. Hear how God showed His power to the Israelites at Mount Carmel.
3. Believe that there is no other god except the one true God and desire to worship only Him.
4. Know that only God is living and powerful to answer our prayers.
5. Name ways to love and worship the one true God.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Alive or Not?

What You Need

- Set of picture cards for each table (resource CD; print on card stock)

Beforehand, print and cut out sets of picture cards. (A page makes a set.) Station a leader at each table to help Cubbies at the table sort pictures into two piles: things that are alive and things that are not alive. Ask Cubbies, "Is God alive? Is Jesus alive? How do you know?" Explain that their memory verse, Jeremiah 10:10, tells us that God is living (which means He's alive). Recite the verse together. Show Cubbies the picture cards of Baal and Buddha. Ask Cubbies, "Would you pray to gods like these who are not alive? Would a god who is not alive be able to hear your prayers or help you? Why or why not?" Review that God is the one true God. There is no other God but Him, and we must worship only Him..

IDEA 2: Block Altar

What You Need

- Large blocks or assorted boxes
- *Optional* — sticks from outside to place on the altar

Explain to Cubbies that sometimes people in the Bible worshiped God by building altars to Him. These altars were often made from large stones piled up. The people placed sticks on top of the altar to build a fire. They burned meat from animals, such as bulls, lambs or goats, as a gift (called an offering or sacrifice) to honor God. Let Cubbies pretend the blocks are stones and try to build an altar to honor God.

IDEA 3: Altar Pictures

What You Need

- Construction paper, including brown and gray paper
- Red, orange and yellow tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Jeremiah 10:10 verse labels (resource CD)
- *Optional* — red and yellow paint, small paper plate for each Cubbie, paint brushes or cotton swabs, flat toothpicks

Beforehand, make a sample altar picture to show Cubbies. To make your picture, tear small pieces of gray paper and glue them to another paper to look like piled stones. (This is the bottom of the altar.) Rip small brown paper strips and glue them to the top of the altar to look like sticks of wood. Flat toothpicks may also be glued on as sticks. Tear long strips of tissue paper and glue them above the sticks to look like flames. Show Cubbies your sample picture and help them make their own altar pictures. Ask the Cubbies if they remember any altars from this week's Bible lesson in their handbooks. See if any of them can retell the events at Mount Carmel.

Instead of using tissue paper, Cubbies may paint flames on their altars. Give each Cubbie a paper plate containing small puddles of red and yellow paint. Cubbies will use a paint brush or cotton swab to paint flames on top of their altar. See if Cubbies notice the orange color that appears when red and yellow paint are mixed.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — toy elephant that can be held in Katie Collie's mouth or picture of a toy elephant (resource CD), flashlight

(If you are using the optional props, practice beforehand making a shadow on the wall by shining a flashlight on the toy elephant or the cutout picture from the resource CD. Position the flashlight so the shadow is as large as possible.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping around excitedly.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls! Guess what! Timothy and I just saw an elephant on the farm.

LEADER (surprised): An elephant? No way! *(Turning to Cubbies)* Elephants don't belong on farms, do they, Cubbies? *(Allow response.)* Cubbies, where do we usually see elephants? *(Children may suggest the zoo or a jungle.)*

CUBBIE: I know elephants don't belong on a farm, but believe me, I saw one! He was over at the woodshed.

LEADER: What was the elephant doing at the woodshed?

CUBBIE: He wasn't doing anything at all. Timothy tried to talk to him. He said, "Mr. Elephant, what is your name?" But the elephant didn't answer.

LEADER: What did you do then?

CUBBIE: Timothy talked to the elephant again. He said, "Mr. Elephant, can you hear me?" But the elephant didn't make a sound. He didn't even move.

LEADER: That's strange! Maybe he was scared of you and Timothy.

CUBBIE: US? Why would he be scared of us? He is much, much bigger than we are. Timothy walked up really close to the elephant and waved his arm above his head. He said, "Mr. Elephant, if you see me, lift up your trunk and stomp your foot one time!"

LEADER: What happened then? I'm sure the elephant saw Timothy when he was standing so close.

CUBBIE: Nothing happened! The elephant didn't even blink an eye. He looked frozen, like a statue.

(Bring Katie Collie into view, barking. If you have the toy elephant or a picture of the toy elephant, hold it in her mouth.)

KATIE (nudging Cubbie to get his attention): RUFF, RUFF!

(Take the elephant out of Katie's mouth before she begins to speak and display it to the Cubbies.)

KATIE: I found a toy elephant sitting on a bench near the woodshed.

CUBBIE: Thanks, Katie! Did you see the big elephant by the woodshed too?

KATIE: No, I didn't see a big elephant. I only saw this one.

LEADER (laughing): Oh, Cubbie, I think I know what happened. That big elephant you saw wasn't real! The sun was making a shadow of the toy elephant on the side of the woodshed.

CUBBIE (laughing): OH! That's why the elephant wasn't moving or talking. The elephant wasn't alive; he was just a toy.

LEADER: That's right!

CUBBIE (tilting his head to the side): I think I hear Timothy calling me from the playground. C'mon, Katie, let's go play. I'll see you later.

LEADER: Bye, Cubbie! Bye, Katie!

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away. For fun, and so kids understand the concept of a shadow, dim the lights and make the elephant shadow on the wall.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: Fake and Real Food**What You Need**

- Toy food or cookies shaped from Play-Doh
- Real snack that Cubbies enjoy
- Fancy plate

Tell Cubbies you have been working hard all afternoon to prepare a great snack for them. Then, with great fanfare, bring out the toy food on the fancy plate. When Cubbies express their disappointment, show them the real snack and ask, "Which snack would you rather have? Why?" Explain that you really did not work hard to prepare the fake snack; you were just joking. Talk about the differences between the real and fake food. Tie this into the Bible story by mentioning that the Israelites began worshiping fake gods, like Baal, but Elijah built an altar to the real God, the true and living God. Talk about the differences between the real God and fake gods. Fake gods may look nice, but they do not help us when we call.

IDEA 2: Edible Altar**What You Need**

- Rectangular or square crackers
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Pretzel sticks
- Small paper plates
- Cups of water

Let Cubbies each use a few crackers to build an "altar" on a plate. They can place pretzel sticks on top for "wood" and sprinkle the altar with cheese "flames." Ask Cubbies, "What did God do to show His power at Mount Carmel? How do we know that God, not Baal, is the true God?" As they drink water, remind them of the water Elijah poured on his altar. Encourage Cubbies to eat EVERYTHING on their plate. Talk about how the fire God sent burned up the altar and EVERYTHING on it. The fire even licked up the water and the dirt on the ground!

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"My God Is So Big"** or the chorus of **"Our God Is an Awesome God"** by Rich Mullins
- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, replacing "praise Him" with "love Him," "thank Him" and "serve Him."
- **"What a Mighty God We Serve"**

If you did not invite some of your church's musicians to come last week, consider inviting them this week or in the next unit lessons. They could show their instruments to the Cubbies, share why they enjoy worshiping God through music and lead Cubbies in a few upbeat praise songs.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can tell God we are sorry for our sin. The Israelites sinned by disobeying God and worshiping idols instead of the one true God. *(If necessary, define the word idol for Cubbies.)* We disobey God too. We disobey God when we don't listen to our parents, fight with a sister or brother, whine and complain or push others out of line at Cubbies. Cubbies, can you think of other ways children might sin? *(Let Cubbies share ideas.)*

(Model a short prayer of admitting a sin to God. For example, you could say, "We are sorry, God, for the times we have said unkind things to others. We know that You say that is a sin. Thank you, God, that all our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.")

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 20, 37-43
- Bible with bookmarks placed at 1 Kings 18 and Jeremiah 10:10
- *Optional* — figurine, toy animal or doll; blocks; four pitchers or buckets; red sheet or blanket with flame shapes attached

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Today Cubbie and Timothy saw an elephant on the farm. Cubbies, why didn't the elephant talk or move? (**Allow response.**) The elephant wasn't real. The elephant was only a shadow of a toy. It's silly to talk to a toy or ask the toy for help, because it's not alive.

Optional: Hold up the figurine, doll or toy and ask the Cubbies: "Can this doll see you or hear you? Can the doll talk to you? Would the doll be able to help you if you asked for help? Why not?" Let the Cubbies ask the toy to help them with a certain task, such as tying their shoes or lifting a book. Talk about how silly it was for the Israelites to pray to idols.

(Display TC38.) God's people, the Israelites, did something silly. They started praying to idols, which are statues made of wood, stone or gold. They thought these idols were real gods like the one true God. (**Point to Baal on TC38.**) This idol was named Baal. The people asked Baal to bring rain to their land so the food would grow. The rain had not come for a very long time.

Cubbies, do you think Baal could bring rain to the land? (**Allow response.**) No, only God can bring rain. (**Display TC20.**) God made the sky, the sun, the water and the clouds. He created the whole world. God decides when to give us rainy days or sunny days.

God was NOT happy that the Israelites were worshiping idols. God is the one who had stopped the rain because the Israelites were disobeying Him. (**Direct Cubbies to hold up one finger.**) Remember, **God is the one true God.** There are no other gods except God. God

wanted the Israelites to worship only Him.

(Display TC39 and open your Bible to 1 Kings 18.)

God sent prophets to remind the people to worship only God. One of those prophets was Elijah. (**Point to Elijah.**) One day Elijah told the Israelites to meet him at Mount Carmel. Elijah had a message from God. "How long will you worship BOTH Baal and God?" said Elijah.

The people didn't answer him a word.

"Let's get two altars ready," said Elijah. "You call to Baal at your altar. I will call to the Lord God at my altar. The God who answers with fire is the true God."

(Display TC40.) The people thought this was a good idea, so the prophets of Baal got their altar ready. They prayed, "Oh, Baal, answer us!" They leaped and danced around their altar. They called to Baal from morning until lunch time, but no one answered them.

Elijah started to tease them. "Call louder," said Elijah. "Maybe your god is busy or away on a trip. Or maybe he is sleeping!" He knew their god wasn't sleeping or busy doing anything; their god wasn't real at all.

The prophets cried louder. They shouted and screamed until almost dinner time. Still, no one answered.

Optional: Chose a group of Cubbies to play the prophets of Baal. They will build an altar with blocks and shout as they jump and dance around it. Then choose one Cubbie to play Elijah and two Cubbies to be water pourers. Elijah will build his altar with blocks. Give the water pourers four large pitchers or buckets. They can pretend to pour water over the altar with each bucket. Tell them to pour all four jars a second time and a third time.

(Display TC41.) Then Elijah used 12 stones to build an altar for the Lord. He told people to pour four jars of water over his altar. He told them to do this a second time and a third time, until the altar and the meat and wood on top of it were soaked with water. The water even spilled down to fill the ground around the altar.

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No one could burn an altar with that much water on it — no one, except God!

Elijah prayed, “Oh, Lord, answer me, so the people know that You are God.”

(Display TC42.) Right away, the fire of the Lord came down and burned up the altar and everything on it. The fire even licked up the water and the dirt on the ground.

Optional: If you had a Cubbie build Elijah’s altar, bring a red sheet or blanket to represent fire. If desired, attach flame shapes cut from orange and red tissue paper or cellophane to the sheet. When you speak about the fire burning up the altar, throw the sheet over the altar to cover it. Talk about everything that was burned up and disappeared because of the fire.

When all the people saw it, they were amazed. They fell with their faces to the ground and said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”

Soon after, dark clouds came into the sky, and God sent a mighty rain to the land.

Cubbies, **God is the one true God.** There is no one like Him. Only He can send the fire and the rain. He did this to show Israel that He was God, but we have the Bible to show us. **(Turn in your Bible to Jeremiah 10:10.)** Jeremiah 10:10 says: ... *The LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King ...* **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)**

Cubbies, the word *everlasting* means “forever.” God is alive, and He is our God and King forever. We must worship only Him.

(Display TC43.) Many people who live in the world today do not worship the one true God. They worship other gods, and these gods often look funny and strange. See the statue of the man with four arms and an elephant head? These gods are not alive like our God, and they cannot help us when we need them.

Optional: If you know your Cubbies have had exposure to some of the religions on the card, spend more time talking about them. For example, maybe a parent has a Buddha figure in the house. Perhaps the Cubbies live near a

mosque. TC43 shows a Muslim worshiping Allah at a mosque, a Hindu worshiping the elephant-head god, Ganesha, and a Buddhist worshiping Buddha.

(Display TC37.) Cubbies, you can worship the one true God. God is awesome! When you show love and respect to God because of how awesome He is, we call that *worship*. Cubbies, what are some ways you can love God? (Reading the Bible, singing to God, giving God a special gift, praying, memorizing and obey His words in the Bible, helping out at Cubbies or church, etc.) **(After Cubbies name a suggestion, pantomime it together. For example, pretend to open a Bible and read it.)**

Let’s worship God right now by praying to Him. **(Close in prayer, asking God to help you worship Him with love and respect.**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 8 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 8 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 8 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — glue sticks, brown paper, flat toothpicks, red and orange tissue paper, pairs of child-sized scissors, drinking straw for each Cubbie

Review the events at Mount Carmel with Cubbies and recite Jeremiah 10:10 together. Make sure Cubbies understand that the word *everlasting* means “forever.” God is alive forever, and He is the one true God. Only He controls the fire and the rain. Only He can help us when we call. If desired, help Cubbies follow directions at the bottom of the sheet to glue some of the optional items on t

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 8 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Altar Building Relay****What You Need**

- A supply of large blocks or stacking cups (available in the Awana Catalog)
- Pretend flames (Flames can be cut from yellow, orange or red felt or tissue paper. Red bandanas or bean bags can also be used as flames.)

Divide Cubbies into groups and give each Cubbie a block except the last person in each group. The last person will receive a few pretend flames. To start, the first Cubbie will run to the spot where his group is going to build an altar. After placing his block, he runs back to his group to tag the next person. The next person runs to place her block. Play continues in this pattern until the last person in each group runs down and places the pretend flames on the top to “light” their altar. If the altar topples before it is lit, it must be rebuilt by the person who knocked it down.

IDEA 2: Flame Throwers**What You Need**

- Several pretend flames (see ideas for making flames above)
- Music player

Cubbies stand in a circle. Give every other child a pretend flame. While music plays, Cubbies pass the flames to the person on their right. When music stops, everyone yells “God is the one true God!” and then throws their “flames” up into the air inside the circle. Repeat the game a few times. As flames fall, talk about how the fire of the Lord fell down and burned up Elijah’s altar and everything on it or near it, including the dust and water. God did this to show He is more powerful than anyone and anything else. He is the one true God.

IDEA 3: Four Corners**What You Need**

- Four sheets of paper numbered 1 to 4
- Masking tape
- Music player

Hang the numbers in the four corners of your room at Cubbies’ height. Begin the game with the Cubbies in the middle of the room. Review the numbers and the Bible story by saying,

- “In our Bible story there were two altars. Run to the number 2!”
- “Elijah had the people bring water in four jars. Run to the number 4!”
- “They dumped water on his altar three times. Run to the number 3!”
- “The one and only true God answered with fire. Run to the number 1!”

Then play some upbeat worship music. As the music plays, Cubbies will WALK around the room. When the music stops, the leader will call a number (without looking at the corners). Anyone in that corner must shout “God is the one true God!”

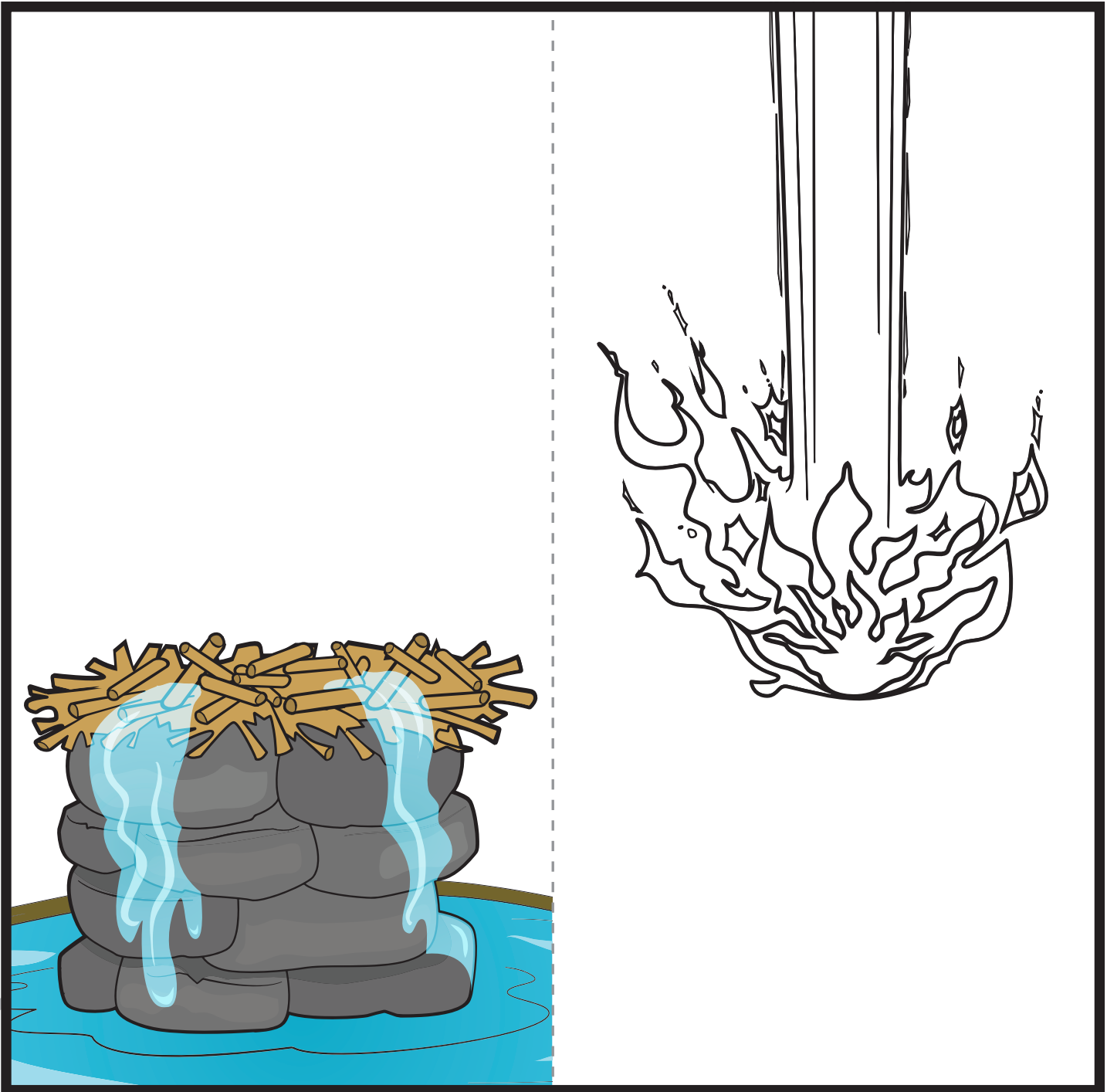
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Wrap up the time with Cubbies by reviewing the definition of worship: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Ask Cubbies to name ways they can worship God. As Cubbies offer ideas, ask specific questions to help them think more about applications (e.g., “What are your favorite songs to sing to God? What are some of the words in the Bible that we should obey? How could we help at Cubbies?”).

Remember, preschoolers are still trying to discern the difference between reality and make-believe. It is best not to have puppets teach the Bible truth or verse. The puppets are make-believe, but God and His Word are real. Let’s be careful to not confuse Cubbies. May they come to know that God is truly alive and only He is worthy of worship.

... The LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King ...
(Jeremiah 10:10)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the flames on the right side of the box. Do you remember what happened when the prophet Elijah built an altar to the Lord on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)?

Even More Fun: Glue strips of brown paper or flat toothpicks on top of the altar to look like wood. Glue red and orange tissue paper pieces on the flames. After Elijah prayed, God sent a fire to burn up the altar and everything on it. The people knew that God was the true God!

Ultimate Fun: (Best if printed on card stock.) Cut out the box. Fold the box on the dashed line so pictures face outward. Tape the top of a drinking straw or skewer on the backside of the pictures where indicated. Tape or glue picture backs together. Hold the end of the straw between your palms and rub your hands back and forth quickly to spin the picture before your eyes. Do you see flames appearing on the altar?



Tape straw or skewer here, centered on the backside of this panel.

