Look Closer: What Are the Prophets of Baal in Our Lives?

I Kings 18:1-2,18-46: Fire from Heaven



Compare and contrast what it means to worship Baal or the Lord. Take a closer look at the Baals in life and how worshiping them affects us.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of "What Are the Prophets of Baal in Our Lives?" (see attached sheet)

Activity

1. Read the introduction and table depicting "Baals" and "The True God" aloud with students, discussing as appropriate.
2. Discuss wider implications of these ideas.

Wrap-up

Encourage students to be on the lookout for false Baals this week. Look for alternative ways of acting if they find them, and look for ways to support others in their efforts.



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What Are the Prophets of Baal in Our Lives?

Baal was a Canaanite god. The name Baal means literally "lord." In Canaanite mythology, Baal was lord over all—especially the fertility of the land. Every person born into the world has the opportunity to choose what thoughts and feelings will rule their lives. This quality will be the "lord" that "rules over them." Let's take a closer look at what some of the false "Baals" might be in our own lives.

Baals pose as holy men. They appear to be mediators of Divine power. They look good! They appear to make us successful. But their long-term effects in our lives may be quite different.

False gods—"Baals"	The True God
It is more important to cheat on a test so that I do well in school than to fail.	It is more important to face the consequences of not studying so that I can learn not to make that mistake again, and so that I can really learn what I was supposed to.
Watching a fun movie with characters who continually make poor moral choices can't hurt me. Everyone does it, so what can be wrong with it?	Watching movies that show other people making poor moral choices and telling me that they are OK, normal or acceptable may hurt my moral values if I make a habit of watching them often.
It's fine to talk another person into being intimate with me. Besides the other person is fine with it, and it feels right.	Intimacy is reserved for marriage. I can show my friends respect by honoring their freedom instead of talking them into making bad choices that we will both regret later.
I feel really down. If I get drunk or high then I will feel much happier. Feeling happy is important. It's what the Lord wants for me.	I will be happier in the long run if I face up to choices I have made. I will be truly happy if I make a better choice the next time I have the chance to try. This will bring me eternal heavenly happiness.
I am completely justified in being angry with my friend. My friend said something that really hurt me—and it was not even true. I think everyone should know what a rotten person she is.	Letting bad feelings rule the way I see things and think about people may lead to a destructive and self-centered mental outlook. These feelings come from evil spirits wanting to pull me down to their level. I will be happier if I do not make them welcome in my life.

1. The Land of Canaan in the Word represents the kingdom of heaven. If we are to experience states of heavenly peace and joy, we need to drive "Baal" out of our own lives. What steps can a person take to do this?

2. Why was it important for Elijah to kill all the prophets of Baal—not letting even one of them escape? In what ways might this relate to the Baals of our lives? What could be the consequence of letting even one live?

3. How might knowing about this affect the way you think about friendship with other people or the ways you spend your free time? Can we help others with these problems?

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