

January 10, 2021 Elementary

Bible Passage: Elijah at Mount Carmel / 1 Kings 18–19

Story Point: God showed that He is the one true God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:8: “I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

Big Picture Question: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Christ Connection: *The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal. But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him.*

ETOWN ZOOM ROOMS!

Jump into learn about Jesus with us each Sunday! There will be music, a bible lesson, and games. PreK: 9:30 & Elementary: 10:15

Here's the ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5849608269?pwd=QzRpNFpiUS8wOHdqaXQ3QzlkaVp1UT09>

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* BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:

King Ahab was an evil king. In fact, “Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (1 Kings 16:33). God wanted His people to be faithful to Him, but King Ahab led them away from God.

God chose Elijah to get Ahab's attention. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah told Ahab that a drought was coming. God prevented rain in the land for three years. For Ahab, a man who worshiped Baal—the false Canaanite god of rain and fertility—the drought sent a strong message about the one true God.

When God was ready to send rain on the earth, Elijah appeared to Ahab and instructed him to gather the Israelites and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. Elijah challenged the people to choose: Follow God or follow Baal. They couldn't do both.

Elijah set up a challenge to prove who is the one true God. He faced off against the prophets of Baal. They prepared a bull on an altar and called on their deity to send fire from heaven. The prophets of Baal called and cried and cut themselves, but Baal did not answer.

Elijah poured water on and around his altar. He called to God, and God sent fire from heaven. Everything was burned up! The Israelites could not deny that the God of Elijah is the one true God. Finally, God sent a great rain to end the drought.

Elijah fled from the wrath of Ahab's wife, Jezebel. He met with God on a mountain, and God revealed Himself to Elijah in a soft whisper. God gave Elijah a friend and successor in Elisha and assured him of 7,000 people in Israel who had not turned to Baal.

The false god Baal had no power. As you teach kids this week, emphasize that only God—the one true God—has power to help His people and to save them. And He saves them through His Son, Jesus.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

INTRO:

As we get into the story, let's remember our big picture question. ***How many gods are there?*** And the answer is: ***there is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** That means that our tendency to raise up or worship other things or people—like money, fame, power, or celebrities—is sin. Only God created the world, only God loved us by sending Jesus to rescue us. He alone deserves worship because of who He is and what He has done.

Israel had split into two kingdoms, and both had a lot of bad kings. The Northern Kingdom had a particularly evil king named Ahab. He was so evil, God sent a drought and famine on the land. We know **God provided in miraculous ways**, but the time was coming for God to show His ultimate power and end the drought.

We use the word *power* to describe the ability to do things. A powerful engine can pull lots of weight or move a car very fast. A powerful person may be allowed to make laws or tell other people what to do. But who is the most powerful of all? Today we'll learn more about a time God proved His power.

Elijah at Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18–19

No rain fell in the land of Israel for three years. God was punishing the people for turning away from Him to worship false gods. Without rain, the lakes and rivers dried up. People could not grow crops in the fields. Finally, God was ready to send rain.

God told Elijah to go to Ahab, the king of Israel. So Elijah obeyed God. Elijah told the king, “Meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring the people of Israel and the prophets who worship false gods.”

King Ahab and the people met Elijah at the mountain. Elijah said, “Make up your minds! If you believe the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal (BAY uhl), then follow him.”

Elijah set up a challenge to show who is the one true God. The prophets of the false god Baal set up an altar first and put a bull on it. Elijah said, “Call to Baal and ask him to send fire to your altar. I will call on the LORD. The God who answers by sending fire is the one true God.”

The prophets of Baal danced and cried out for hours. “Answer us!” they said. But no one answered. “Shout loudly!” Elijah taunted them. “Maybe he is sleeping!” Still, no answer.

Then the people gathered around Elijah. He set up an altar, dug a trench around it, and put a bull on it. Elijah told the people to pour water on the altar so everything was wet. Then Elijah prayed: “LORD, answer me so that these people will know that You, LORD, are God.”

God sent fire from the sky. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust! It dried up the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”

Elijah had all the prophets who worshiped Baal killed. The sky grew dark with clouds, and God sent a great rain.

King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done. Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah, so Elijah fled into the wilderness. He walked to Mount Horeb. At the mountain, God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him to not give up.

Christ Connection: The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal. But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him.

OUTRO:

We often set up contests to see who is better. We play in sports tournaments to see who the better teams are; we run races to see who is fastest; we give awards to the best movies and singers; and we even have science fairs to judge who has the coolest experiments. In a way, that’s exactly what Elijah was doing in our story.

The rules of the contest were clear. Both “teams” were asked to call on the one they worshiped to send fire. The results were clear: the prophets of Baal worshiped a false god with no power. Even though the prophets of Baal spent all day dancing, singing, and pleading with Baal, and even though Elijah poured water all over and around his altar, God was the only One who responded. He is the only One who could respond!

God showed that He is the one true God. Elijah trusted in God, and God used Elijah to prove His awesome power. In some ways, obeying God made Elijah’s life more difficult! The queen heard about what happened and wanted to kill Elijah, but God helped Elijah keep going.

But, the most incredible show of God’s power came when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Jesus proved that He is God the Son and He has power over everything, including sin and death.

Let’s review our Gospel Plan to find out more about God’s plan to save us through His Son Jesus.

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He’s already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Suggest kids talk with their parents and/or email us if they have any questions.

*** KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

Our key passage comes from the writings of a different prophet named Isaiah. He wrote these words from God to teach people that God is not willing to share the glory that belongs only to Him. No other gods are real or powerful, and God will not allow His people to worship false gods. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***

***PRAY**

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- How long had the drought lasted when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal? *(three years, 1 Kings 18:1)*
- How long did the prophets of Baal cry out to Baal? *(morning until noon and all afternoon, 1 Kings 18:26,29)*
- What did God's fire burn up? *(everything—the offering, wood, altar, and water; 1 Kings 18:38)*
- Why is it important to know God is all-powerful? *Guide kids to see that we can trust God because He is all-powerful, good, and loving. He can do what He wishes, which is always for His glory and our good.*
- Why do we put other things before God? *Guide kids to see that we have sin in our hearts. We naturally desire to do things our own way, and we often doubt God's goodness. When we wonder if God is doing what is best, we often think we know better than He does and choose to put other things before Him.*
- How can we help other people see that God is the one true God? *Guide kids to see that Elijah received specific instructions from God. It would not be wise for us to try to "test" God. Instead, we can tell people about Jesus and help them understand the Bible in order to show that God is the one true God.*

***ACTIVITY:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Invite kids to complete the "Color the Flames" activity page. Color in the flames on the Bible story art using the color key provided.

Say • The color of a flame can give you a hint about how hot it is. Today we will learn about a time God used fire to show His power. The fire was so hot, it burned up an offering on an altar, the wood on the altar, and the entire altar made of stones!

BIG PICTURE CODE

Invite kids to complete “Big Picture Code” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the key to decode the answer to the big picture question.

Say • This is the big picture question and answer we learned last week. We are going to keep it in mind today when we hear today’s Bible story. The prophet Elijah was up against some false prophets who did not believe that there is one true God. **God showed that He is the one true God.**

WORSHIP WAYS

Split your family up into teams. Provide each team with a sheet of paper and a writing utensil. Instruct the teams to write or draw pictures representing as many ways to worship God as they can think of. Then help the teams compare their lists. Cross out duplicate items. The team with the most list items left over wins. Play additional rounds in which teams list reasons to worship God, or ways God has shown His power.

Say • We can worship God in lots of great ways, and He deserves our worship for lots of reasons. In our story, **God showed that He is the one true God.** Ultimately, He deserves our worship because He is the one true God. Only He created us, and only He sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue us from sin. In Him, we have all we need.

BUILDING BLOCK ALTARS

Provide the kids with building blocks. Encourage the kids to make altars. Describe the altar that Elijah built in 1 Kings 18:31-32.

Say • An altar is like a table on which people leave or burn offerings. Only the one true God deserves offerings, but sadly, people sometimes worship false gods and make offerings to them. Today we learned about a time Elijah built an altar to prove that only the one true God deserves our worship.

ROCK-ON REMINDERS

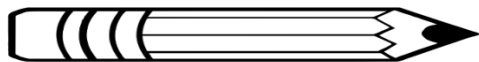
Write the following references on separate stones: *Romans 1:23-24; Psalm 135:15-17; 1 Kings 18:39; Isaiah 42:8; Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 44:6.* Put the stones in a paper bag.

Remind kids that Elijah and the prophets of Baal used rocks to build altars as part of the challenge to prove who is the one true God.

Distribute Bibles and ask a volunteer to choose one stone from the bag. Read the verse together.

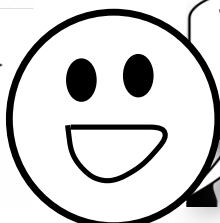
Say • ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** God showed His love for us by sending His Son. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him.

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.

Date: _____



who is speaking?



words you heard but don't know...



what are we learning about God from this passage?

what is the main passage we are reading today?

Book: _____

Chapter: _____

Verse: _____



Favorite song today was:

write or draw something you heard in the sermon

Questions?

How does today's message apply to your life?

The most important thing you learned was:

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



**I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.**

Isaiah 42:8



Color the Flames

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the number key to help you color fire that God sent from heaven.



Younger Kids Activity Pages

Unit 13 • Session 2

Elijah at Mount Carmel

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Elijah challenged false prophets to prove if their gods were real.
- The false god Baal could not answer his prophets.
- Elijah asked God to send fire, and God burned up the entire altar.
- God showed that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What are some things people put before God today?
- What are some ways we can worship the one true God?
- What ways has God proven His power in our lives?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- If your area permits, make a fire in a fire pit in your backyard. Share stories of God's power. Roast hot dogs or marshmallows. At the end of the night, put out the fire using water and remind your kids Elijah's altar was sopping wet.



**DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP**



Big Picture Code

Use the key to decode the answer to the big picture question.

How many gods are there?

4 🔥 3 🔥 1 🔥 4 ☁️ 1 🔥

2 ⚔️ 1 ⚔️

4 ⚔️ 2 ☁️ 1 🔥

4 🔥 4 ☁️ 2 🏺 1 🔥

1 ☁️ 4 ⚔️ 3 ☁️

2 🔥 3 🔥 4 ⚔️

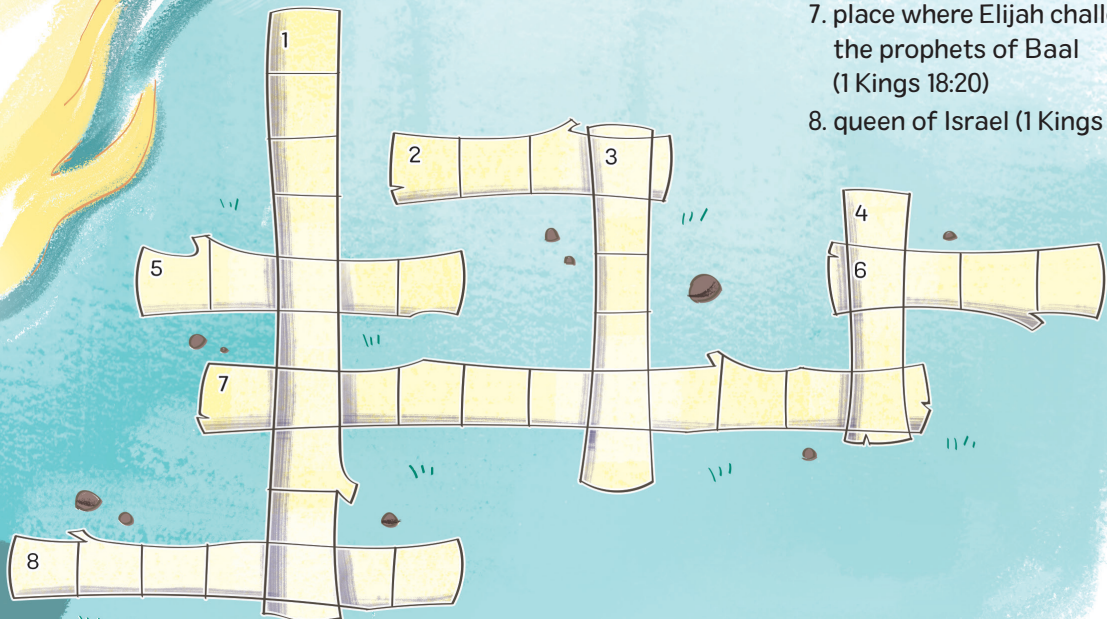
1 🏺 4 🏺 4 ⚔️ 2 ☁️ 1 🔥

3 ☁️ 1 🔥 1 ⚔️ 1 🔥 4 ☁️ 3 ⚔️ 1 🔥 1 🔥

2 🔥 4 ⚔️ 4 ☁️ 1 ⚔️ 3 🔥 2 ⚔️ 3 🏺

A	U	P	L
G	N	D	R
E	W	H	T
S	I	V	O

1 2 3 4



Crossword Challenge

Use the clues to fill in the puzzle. Find the verses in your Bible to check your work.

DOWN

- place where Elijah went to escape from Jezebel (1 Kings 19:8)
- prophet of God (1 Kings 18:22)
- false god (1 Kings 18:26)

ACROSS

- what God sent from the sky (1 Kings 18:38)
- what Elijah poured on the altar (1 Kings 18:33)
- evil king of Israel (1 Kings 18:20)
- place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20)
- queen of Israel (1 Kings 19:1)