

Elijah Confronted Ahab

1 Kings 18-19

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

“...So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other.”
1 Kings 8:60

Story Point:

God proved He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - “Find the Way” Activity
- ☐ Starter Activity - Build It



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Memory Verse Line Up
- ☐ Group Activity - Prayer Prompts
- ☐ Group Activity - Build the Alter Relay

SHEPHERD GUIDE

What is the boldest request you've ever made to the Lord? Have you ever experienced God answer your prayers in a uniquely powerful way? In this week's Bible story, we see how God answered Elijah's prayers.

King Ahab led the people to worship Baal. The prophet Elijah condemned Ahab for leading the people astray and instructed him to gather all the people and prophets of Baal for an epic showdown. The test was simple: both Elijah and the prophets of Baal would offer sacrifices to see if Baal would respond or if God would respond.

The prophets of Baal cried out, danced, and prayed all day with no response or hint of fire on their altar. When Elijah's turn came, he prepared the bull on the altar but took his trust in the Lord a step further by asking for water to be poured on top, saturating it completely. Elijah prayed, “LORD, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the LORD, are God.”

Immediately, fire fell from heaven and completely consumed the offering along with the wood, the stones, and even the water! After the showdown at the altar, Jezebel sought to kill Elijah, and Elijah fled. This time, Elijah's prayer was one of weariness and desperation. Again, God proved faithful to Elijah and answered his prayer. The Lord spoke to Elijah in a whisper and encouraged him, reminding him that the Lord would save those who remained faithful to Him.

The people of Israel knew that the Lord is the one true God when He answered Elijah's prayer and sent fire down from heaven. In the same way, people would know that Jesus is God's Son when the Holy Spirit came down like a dove when Jesus was baptized. Jesus is the Son of God and gave His life up for us.

Remember that God hears and answers the prayers of those who belong to Him. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness to listen and respond to our prayers. Remind boys and girls that through Jesus, we can boldly take our requests to God!

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God is the one true God. There is no other!
- *LISTEN for God and his gentle whisper to them.
- *TALK to God about everything. He sees, hears, knows and responds to their prayers.



As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Missions - Friends From Afar*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

When has God answered your prayers? Tell me about it.

Invite kids to complete the "Find the Way" activity page.

Today, we will see how God sent a prophet named Elijah to a place called Mount Carmel. At this mountain, God proved He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers.

WELCOME

Find the Way

- activity page,
- pencils,
- markers



STARTER

Build it

- 30 solo cups

Form kids into two groups and direct them to line up.

Place 15 solo cups across the room from each team. Challenge teams to build a tall tower using all the cups provided without the tower falling over.

When you say "Go," challenge the first kid from each team to place a cup on the floor, race back to her group, and tag the second kid in line. Each kid may only stack one cup per turn. The first team to successfully use all their team's cups to build a tower, without it falling over, wins.

SAY: Today, we will see how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to see if their god would answer them. Elijah and the prophets of Baal both built an altar to make a sacrifice. Let's see how our Bible story reminds us that God is the only true God.



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY (Quick 1-2 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

Quick Review of the Biblical Timeline and/or Big Picture Question:
(on powerpoint slides)

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

The kingdom of God's people was divided in two. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel, and the Southern Kingdom was called Judah. [Point to these kingdoms on slide show] Last week, we learned that the kings of Israel did evil in God's sight and led God's people to worship idols.



BIBLE STORY:

Elijah Confronts Ahab

- Bibles
- Powerpoint slides

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18-19

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Use props: Use 12 stones to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Place wood in a bucket and pour water over it.

Use dramatic effect: Vary your volume and tone of voice to create dramatic effect while telling the story.

Pause the reading: Create a dramatic effect by pausing and remaining silent when you share how nothing happened with the false god.

After King Baasha, Israel had many wicked kings. One of those evil kings was Ahab. He killed the prophets of God and led the people to worship a false god named Baal. The word of the Lord came to the prophet Elijah and said, "Go and present yourself to Ahab."

The prophet Elijah came to Ahab and said, "You have ruined Israel because you have abandoned the Lord's commands and followed Baal instead. Gather the entire nation, and bring the prophets of Baal, too."

Once everyone had gathered, Elijah said, "How long will you go between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him. Bring two bulls—one for me, and one for the prophets of Baal. We will each prepare them on an altar as a burnt sacrifice. Prophets of Baal, you will call on your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers with fire is the one true God."

The prophets of Baal cried out to their false god from morning until noon, but nothing happened. Elijah made fun of them, saying, "Maybe your god is taking a walk, or maybe he is sleeping!" They danced and shouted all day, but there was no sound; no one answered; no one paid attention.

Then it was Elijah's turn. He repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. He then prepared the bull on the altar and asked that water be poured on top. So much water was poured that it gathered in a trench around the altar. Elijah prayed to God: "Lord, today, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and you have turned their hearts back."

Then the Lord's fire fell. It completely consumed the burnt offering, the wood and stones of the altar, and even the water gathered in the trench. The people were amazed, falling facedown and saying, "The Lord, he is God!"

Ahab told his wicked wife, Jezebel, everything that had happened. Jezebel sent word to Elijah saying she was going to kill him. Elijah ran for his life. When he was far enough away, he prayed and said, "Lord, I have had enough. I'm no better than the prophets before me." The next day, the Lord spoke to Elijah. He told Elijah to go out to a mountain. A great wind passed by. Then an earthquake. Then fire. But the Lord was not in any of these. Then there was a soft whisper. In that whisper, God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah? Go and anoint a new king over Israel. I will preserve for myself people who still worship me and who have not bowed down to Baal. Go and anoint a new king and follow me." Elijah obeyed God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent fire down from heaven to prove that He alone is Lord. God sent the Holy Spirit like flames of fire on Jesus' disciples to empower them to tell others that Jesus is God's Son who saves people from sin



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process – however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

Israel was a troubled and divided kingdom. Last week, we learned about some of the first kings who ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel and how these kings led Israel to worship false gods. Today, we learned about another evil king, Ahab. **What did Ahab lead the people to do?** Look at 1 Kings 18:18. [Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 18:18 aloud.] Ahab abandoned the Lord's commands and followed Baal, a false god. God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab to warn him about his wicked ways. Elijah told Ahab that his evil ways were ruining Israel because the people had turned away from the one true God. Elijah challenged Ahab and the prophets of Baal to meet him on top of Mount Carmel to see who is the one true God. Elijah told the people to choose who they would follow and worship: God or Baal. Then the prophets of Baal prepared their sacrifice on an altar and called out to their false god.

What happened when they called out to Baal? Look at 1 Kings 18:26. [Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 18:26 aloud.] There was silence. Baal was no god—he wasn't even alive. Psalm 96:4-5 tells us, 'For the Lord is great and is highly praised; he is feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.' Then Elijah placed his sacrifice on the altar he repaired. He even drenched the entire altar with water. Elijah prayed to God, and the Lord's fire fell and burned up everything on the altar.

What did the people say in response? Look at 1 Kings 18:39. [Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 18:39 aloud.] The people fell face down and declared that the Lord is God. God proved He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers.

God proved He is the one true God. When Jesus was on earth, He performed miracles and spoke truth that proved He is God. After Jesus went back to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit like flames of fire on Jesus' disciples to empower them to tell others that Jesus is God's Son who saves people from sin. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are declaring that He is God and only He can save us from sin.



Reflection and Prayer

- Journal Page

Have children use their journal page (on the back of their activity worksheet). Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions: Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is the one true God. He is all-powerful. There is no other god. He listens and answers our prayers.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I need God just like Elijah needed God. That God gives me His Holy Spirit to help me and I can always ask for help.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 13, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Why doesn't God always answer our prayers?
- Why can we still trust God even when He doesn't answer our prayers how we hope?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Key Passage Activity:

Memory Verse Line-Up

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards (with words from verse)
- masking tape

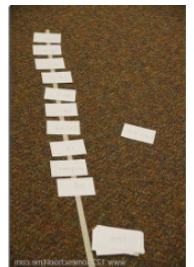
Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Kings 8:60 together.

SAY: Our key passage, like our Bible story, reminds us that there is only one true God. Let's practice memorizing our key passage.

Divide the class by table groups. Give each group a set of index cards that have one word from the verse on each card. Place a long strip of masking tape (sticky side up) down the middle of the table. (you might need to tape the ends to the table for it to be able to stay). Have the kids work together to put the words in order from beginning to end along the masking tape line. When they finish, have them recite the verse together.

Pray together:

Thank You, Lord, that You are the one true God who hears us when we call and responds to our prayers. Help us live to bring You honor and glory. In Jesus' name, amen.





Prayer Prompts

- P.R.A.Y worksheet
- Pencils

Provide kids with P.R.A.Y Prompts worksheet.

Tell kids this acronym helps us remember how we can pray to God.

Talk through the different letters:

Praise - Tell God how awesome He is

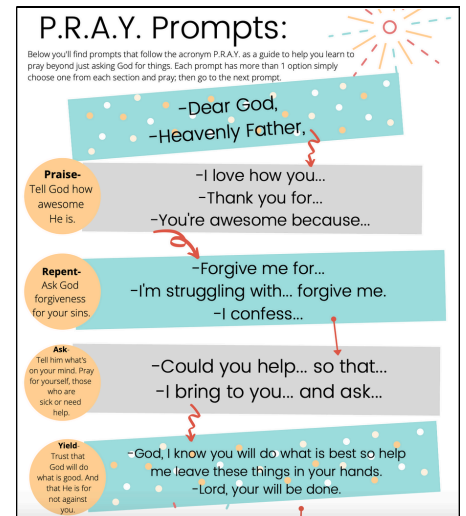
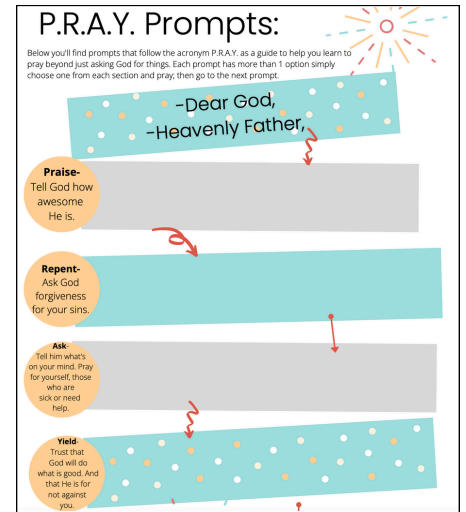
Repent - Ask God for forgiveness for your sins.

Ask - Tell God what is on your mind. Pray for yourself - for help, wisdom, patience, etc. and for those in need.

Yield - Trust that God will do what is good and that He is for you and loves you!

Encourage kids to use their card to help them remember ways they can pray to God.

SAY: God heard and answered Elijah's prayer. God hears and will answer our prayers in His timing and for His purposes. God wants us to talk with Him, and He is happy when we depend on Him through prayer. He is all-powerful and uses prayer to change our hearts and help us live for Him.



Build the Alter Relay

Stones,
paper towel rolls

Reenact Elijah building the altar with 12 stones by doing a relay race!

Divide the kids into 2 teams and have them line up at a table with 4 paper towel rolls.

Place the stones at one end of the room.

Have each team member run to grab a stone and bring it back to build the altar on the table.

Have them tag the next person in line and continue until they have 12 stones. Then have them add paper towel rolls as sticks to build their altar.

The first team to get all 12 stones and build their altar with paper towel rolls wins.

Afterward, talk about how Elijah used 12 stones to remind the people of God's covenant with Israel and how God showed His power and that He is the one true God by answering Elijah's prayers.