

Elijah Ran from Jezebel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 19

MAIN POINT: God encouraged Elijah.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

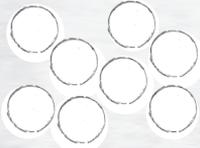
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

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SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

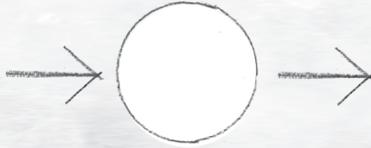
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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

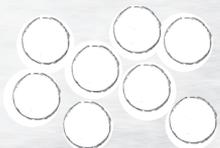
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The prophet Elijah had just witnessed God's great display of power over the false god Baal. God had sent fire from heaven and then ended a long drought with a great rain. Elijah must have felt a sense of victory; the evil King Ahab could not deny the one true God. But trouble awaited Elijah in the form of Ahab's wife, Jezebel.

When Jezebel heard what happened at Mount Carmel, she threatened to kill Elijah. Elijah ran away and hid in the wilderness. What a change Elijah experienced! He went from a man faithfully and confidently praying for God's glory to be displayed at Mount Carmel to a man begging the Lord to take away his life. (See 1 Kings 19:4.)

God was merciful to Elijah. An angel of the Lord brought Elijah food and drink while he rested. Then Elijah traveled to Horeb for a personal encounter with God. Horeb—another name for Mount Sinai—was a familiar place in the history of Israel. It was the place where God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites and where Moses met with God.

After the events in 1 Kings 18, Elijah might have expected a grand display of God's presence, but what he experienced was just the opposite. The Lord was not in the wind. The Lord was not in the earthquake. The Lord was not in the fire. God revealed Himself to Elijah in a voice, a soft whisper.

Elijah's circumstances were difficult, but God didn't leave him. God gave him Elisha, a friend and successor. God assured Elijah that he was not alone; there were 7,000 people in Israel who had not turned to worship Baal.

God's prophets suffered, but their lives and messages pointed forward to the ultimate prophet, priest, and king—Jesus Christ—who suffered for the sins of the world. Jesus was hated and killed, but His death and resurrection brought victory for God's people.



Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Elijah Ran from Jezebel

1 Kings 19

King Ahab's wife, Jezebel, was not happy with Elijah. Jezebel did not want the people to worship the one true God. Jezebel killed the men who were prophets for God. **Jezebel told Elijah to watch out! She was going to kill him too.**

Elijah ran into the wilderness where Jezebel couldn't find him. Elijah prayed to God, "Everything is going wrong! Lord, take my life. I'm ready to die." Then Elijah lay down under a tree and fell asleep.

God sent an angel to help Elijah. "Get up and eat," the angel said. A loaf of hot baked bread and a jar of water was nearby, and Elijah ate and drank. Then he lay down.

The angel came again. "Get up and eat," the angel said. Elijah ate and drank. **The food gave him strength to travel a very long way to Horeb (HOH reb), the mountain of God.**

When Elijah got to the mountain, he spent the night in a cave. God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

"God, I tried very hard to do what You said," Elijah said. "But your people have not done what You said! They are trying to kill me!"

"Go out and stand on the mountain," God said. Then God passed by. A strong wind rushed by the mountain. Was God in the wind? No. Then there was an earthquake! Was God in the earthquake? No. After the earthquake, there was a fire! Was God in the fire? No. Finally, there was a voice—a soft whisper. Elijah covered his face and stood at the opening of the cave.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” a voice asked.

“God, I tried very hard to do what You said,” Elijah said again. “But your people have not done what You said! They are trying to kill me!”

Then God told Elijah to make certain men leaders: Hazael (HAZ ay el) would be a king, Jehu (JEE hyoo) would be a king, and Elisha would be a prophet like Elijah.

Elijah did what God said. He found Elisha working in a field. Elisha left his work to follow Elijah and serve him.

Christ Connection: Some people did not like Elijah, and they wanted to hurt him because he worshiped God. Elijah's life reminds us of Jesus, the greatest Prophet. Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God encouraged Elijah on the mountain. (1 Kings 19:12) Jesus often spent time alone in prayer to be encouraged by His Father. (Luke 6:12) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Elijah Ran from Jezebel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 19

MAIN POINT: God encouraged Elijah.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Welcome time

- “Only One True God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “What Does Not Belong?” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to look at the picture and circle the things that do not belong. (Answers: television, truck, lamp, airplane, mobile phone, basketball. If preschoolers circle the jar or bread, do not correct them.)

SAY • What did you see that did not belong? Hot baked bread and a jar of water are not normally just sitting out in the wilderness, but in today’s Bible story, they really were! God’s prophet Elijah fell asleep under a tree, and when he woke up, there was a loaf of hot baked bread and a jar of water nearby for him. An angel told Elijah to get up and eat. We will hear more in today’s Bible story.

Run in place

Tell preschoolers that when you say “go,” they should all run in place. Explain that the preschooler who runs in place the longest is the winner. For younger preschoolers, set a timer and challenge them to run in place for a certain amount of time.

SAY • You ran in place for a long time! Elijah ran in our Bible story today, but not for fun. He was afraid! Queen Jezebel heard about the contest between Elijah and the prophets of the false god Baal. Jezebel was angry that **God defeated the prophets of Baal**. She wanted to hurt Elijah, so Elijah ran away. Let’s find out what happened.



• timer

Sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It”

Sing the song “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” leading preschoolers through the motions. If you are unfamiliar with the tune, lyrics, or motions, look up the song online before the session.

SAY • Remember our Bible story from last time? God used Elijah to do something amazing! God sent fire from the sky to burn up the altar Elijah had built. Elijah was probably really happy that God defeated the prophets of Baal, but in today’s Bible story, Elijah was far from happy. Let’s find out why.



Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to make their best sad face as they move to Bible study.

• countdown video
(optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Elijah Ran from Jezebel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 19

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KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Introduce the Bible story

- “Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab” Bible Story Picture

Show the Bible story picture from “Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab” and briefly review the story. Invite preschoolers to share any details they remember.

SAY • In our last Bible story, we learned that God is all-powerful. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that God is also kind and gentle.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- bookmark
- Bible
- “Elijah Ran from Jezebel” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • We find out what God is like from the Bible because the Bible is God’s words. All God’s words are true.

Today’s Bible story is found in 1 Kings.

Show the Bible story video “Elijah Ran from Jezebel,” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • Elijah’s fear of Jezebel seems silly after God showed Elijah His power by defeating the prophets of Baal. But God did not think Elijah was silly for being

afraid. **God encouraged Elijah.** God knew Elijah needed to rest, to eat, and to know God was still working His good plan.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Who was King Ahab's wife? (*Jezebel*)
2. What did Jezebel want to do to Elijah? (*kill him*)
3. What did Elijah do because he was afraid of Jezebel? (*ran into the wilderness to hide*)
4. Whom did God send to help Elijah? (*an angel*)
5. Was God in the wind, earthquake, or fire? (*No, God was in the soft whisper.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Do you remember the answer to our big picture question? ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.*** Jezebel did not want people to worship the one true God. In fact, she wanted to hurt Elijah because he worshiped God. Elijah's life reminds us of Jesus, the greatest Prophet. Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 1:1-2. Read the key passage aloud several times. Then sing together the key passage song, "Speaking to Us."

• Key Passage Poster
• "Speaking to Us" song

SAY • Elijah was a prophet who gave God's messages to His people. Now, we do not need a prophet to hear from God. God told us all we need to know through His Son, Jesus, in the Bible.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Elijah Ran from Jezebel

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KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Play telephone

Invite children to sit in a circle. Whisper a phrase to one preschooler. Invite him to whisper the phrase to the next preschooler and so forth. The last preschooler to hear the phrase says it out loud. Play again whispering a phrase to a different preschooler. Use phrases such as the main point, the big picture answer, or phrases from the key passage.

SAY • You used a whisper to tell the message. God used a whisper to show Himself to Elijah. Elijah needed to be reminded that God was with him. **God encouraged Elijah.** The one true God is a gentle and kind God. God gives His people what they need when they need it. God gave Jesus at just the right time to save people from sin.

Play out wind, earthquake, fire, whisper

Demonstrate the following actions for each word.

- *earthquake*: shake entire body
- *fire*: hands above head and wiggle fingers
- *wind*: move arms from side-to-side in front of body
- *whisper*: whisper the main point, **God encouraged Elijah.**

Call out the words, leading preschoolers to perform the action. As preschoolers gain familiarity with the actions, call out the words in rapid succession to make the game more challenging.

SAY • God spoke through the whisper—not the wind, earthquake, or fire. **God encouraged Elijah.** Queen Jezebel did not like Elijah, and she wanted to hurt him because he worshiped God. Elijah’s life reminds us of Jesus, the greatest Prophet. Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son.

Build a mountain with blocks

Set out blocks and invite preschoolers to build a mountain. Encourage them to create a cave in the mountain like the one Elijah spent the night in.

SAY • Elijah was upset and afraid. Queen Jezebel wanted to kill him because he followed God. Elijah traveled to Horeb, the mountain of God. There **God encouraged Elijah.** God told him what to do next. Elijah’s life reminds us of Jesus, the greatest Prophet. God sent Jesus to earth to rescue God’s people. Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son.

Paint on bread

Pour milk into cups and mix a different color of food color in each. Provide a new paintbrush and a slice of bread on a foam plate for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to dip paintbrushes in the colored milk and paint the colors on their slices of bread.

When preschoolers finish painting, toast their bread in a toaster oven. Point out the colors on the toasted bread. Invite preschoolers to eat their toast. Provide butter and a



• blocks

- Allergy Alert download
- new, jumbo paintbrushes
- cups
- foam plates
- bread slices
- milk
- food color
- spoon
- toaster oven
- butter
- plastic knife

plastic knife for preschoolers to butter their toast if desired.

SAY • God encouraged Elijah. God gave Elijah a loaf of hot baked bread and a jar of water when he was hiding from Jezebel in the wilderness. Jezebel wanted to hurt Elijah because he worshiped God. Elijah's life reminds us of Jesus. Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son.

Assemble activity bags

Invite preschoolers to assemble activity bags to deliver to a local children's hospital or women and children's shelter.

Gather items such as stickers, sticker pages, safety scissors, tape, activity books, coloring sheets, word search puzzles, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, craft sticks, watercolor paints, and bead kits with instructions. Form an assembly line where each preschooler places a certain item in each ziplock bag. Consider adding a drawing or card from your preschoolers in each bag.

SAY • God encouraged Elijah when he was afraid. God encourages us when we go through hard times too. Because God encourages us, we can encourage others. The children who will receive these bags are going through hard times. They might be afraid like Elijah. Let's pray for those children and pray that God would use these activity bags to encourage them.

- ziplock bags
- items for bags
- cards (optional)
- paper (optional)
- markers (optional)

Option: Contact preschool families before the session and encourage them to bring items for the activity bags.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve the bread preschoolers painted earlier and water for snack. Remind preschoolers that God gave Elijah bread and water to eat. The food gave Elijah strength to travel a long way to Horeb, the mountain of God. **God encouraged Elijah.** God knows just what we need, and He provides it just when we need it. God knew we needed a Savior and He sent His very own Son, Jesus.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of themselves with Jesus beside them. Remind preschoolers that **God encouraged Elijah.** Elijah thought everything was going wrong, but God was with Elijah. When we feel like everything is going wrong around us, we can remember that Jesus is with us. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, Jesus was hated and killed because He is God the Son. Thank You that because of Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of anything. Thank You that when we are afraid, You encourage us. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*