

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

1 KINGS 18-19



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Kings 8:60

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

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.

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



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

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!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Find the Way" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ jumbo craft sticks, 1 per kid
- ☐ yellow, orange, and red crepe paper rolls



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ mini marshmallows, 12 per kid
- ☐ stick pretzels, 4 per kid
- ☐ tubs of icing, 1 per table
- ☐ red, orange, and yellow candy-coated chocolate pieces
- ☐ paper plates, 1 per kid

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "True or False" activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Elijah Confronted Ahab" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 13, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Surh Family Photo" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "There Is No Other (1 Kings 8:60)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ index cards, 1 per kid



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “When has God answered your prayers? Tell me about it.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Find the Way” activity page.

| **SAY** “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.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FLAMES FROM HEAVEN

Provide each kid with a jumbo craft stick. At the tables, set out yellow, orange, and red crepe paper rolls; glue; and scissors. Lead kids to cut 5 inch strips of crepe paper and glue them to the end of their craft stick to create a fiery flame. Once dry, invite kids to wave their fiery flames in the air.

(Tip: Use these flames as you tell the Bible story by inviting kids to wave them in the air when you share how God sent fire from heaven.)

| **SAY** “Today, we will see that **GOD PROVED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.** We’ll learn how God sent fire from heaven to burn up a sacrifice Elijah placed on an altar.”

☐ OPTION 2: ANSWER ME



Lead kids in some call and response phrases. Share the following calls and responses with the kids, allowing them some time to practice:

- Call out “One, two, three” while kids respond with “eyes on me.”
- Call out “Ready, set?” while kids respond with “you bet.”
- Call out “Peanut butter” while kids respond with “jelly time.”
- Call out “Goodness gracious” while kids respond with “that’s outrageous.”

Mix up the phrases you call out, inviting kids to answer you with the appropriate response. Consider saying the phrases faster each round and inviting kids to be the caller.

| **SAY** “When I called out a phrase, you answered. Today, we will learn how a prophet of the Lord named Elijah told the prophets of a false god to pray to their false god. But when they called out, they received no answer. However, we’ll see how God heard Elijah’s prayer and answered him, proving He alone is the one true God.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m glad you’re here. Today, we will continue learning about the kings of Israel in the book of 1 Kings. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one and invite kids to turn to 1 Kings.]

Every story in the Bible is true and reminds us that God alone is to be worshiped. In today’s story, we will see how an evil king led God’s people to worship false gods. But **GOD PROVED THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray: ‘Dear God, You are greater than anyone and everything. You alone are the one true God. Help us have hearts that trust in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “What is our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is, **How many gods are there?** Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is, **There is one true God who alone deserves worship.**

Last week, we learned that the wicked kings of Israel led the people to worship false gods. Today, we will see how another king of Israel named Ahab also led the people to worship idols. Over and over again, the Bible reminds us what is true: God alone is the one true God. In our story, we’ll see how God helped His people see He alone is God through His power and by answering Elijah’s prayer. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “King Solomon and King Rehoboam’s unfaithfulness to God led to a divided kingdom. Do you remember the names of the two kingdoms? [Allow responses.] The Northern Kingdom was called Israel, and the Southern Kingdom was called Judah. [Point to these kingdoms on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map.] Last week, we learned that the kings of Israel did evil in God’s sight and led God’s people to worship idols. Throughout all this, God never left His people. Today, we will see how God answered the prophet Elijah’s prayers and proved that He alone is the one true God. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18–19. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Elijah Confronted Ahab.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

“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

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use the craft: If kids created the “Flames of Heaven” craft, invite them to wave the fiery flames when you tell how God sent fire from heaven.

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



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ 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.** ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 13, Session 3” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why doesn’t God always answer our prayers?
2. Why can we still trust God even when He doesn’t answer our prayers how we hope?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Remind kids that Columbus, Ohio, is home to many people who do not know Jesus. Tell kids that Columbus is also home to nearly 70,000 Somali immigrants and refugees. Display the “Surh Family Photo” printable as you tell kids about their work as church planters.

SAY “In 2019, Isaac and Hannah Surh, with the support of two other couples, started a new church in the Columbus area. They met weekly to pray and determine God’s will for the new church. They named the church Chroma because it means ‘the intensity of color as it is illuminated by a light source.’ They thought the name showed how important it is for people to show the light of Jesus and share the good news about Him with others. Chroma Church desires that people from all different cultures and backgrounds will trust in Jesus to save them from sin.”

Pray for Isaac and Hannah and Chroma Church as they help people in Columbus learn about the one true God and His Son, Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

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.”

Provide each kid with a Bible and an index card. Invite kids to look up 1 Kings 8:60 and write the verse on their index card. Encourage kids to take their card home and use it to help them memorize the verse and share it with others.

Lead kids to sing “There Is No Other (1 Kings 8:60).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “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.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 18. Explain that throughout the books of 1 and 2 Kings we are introduced to several prophets, like Elijah, who God sent to warn people of their sin.

Consider pointing out the location of Mount Carmel (D4) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 18:37 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “Elijah had great faith and boldness when he prayed to God. His prayer also revealed a good desire—that the people would know the Lord alone is God. We can pray with boldness and faith as well. While God may not always answer every prayer how we hope, we can pray toward His glory, asking Him to show others that He alone is God. We can ask the Lord to help others turn from their sin and trust in Jesus. God delights in prayers that magnify His greatness.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Elijah had men pour water on the altar three times. Why do you think he did that?”

Discuss how confident Elijah was that God would respond to his prayer because his prayer was for God’s glory. The water only served to show how great and powerful God is—not even water could keep the altar from burning up. Remind kids that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and holy. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 42:8.)

SAY “The people wavered between following God and following a false god. Do people do that today? How?”

Share how people can divide their life into “church stuff” and “other stuff.” Discuss how we can think we are following God because we go to church, but then throughout the week, we don’t live for God or even think about Him. Encourage kids to remember that God is worthy of every part of our lives. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 18:21.)

SAY “Jezebel hated Elijah because he stood against her wicked ways. Why do some people hate Christians? Why is the world against the good news of Jesus?”

Remind kids that the evil in the world hates Jesus because He is light. Evil loves the darkness because they do not want their wickedness exposed by the light. But Jesus came to rescue people from the darkness and forgive their sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is brought into the light and made right with God. Tell kids that just as God came to Elijah and comforted him, God will never leave Christians no matter what they face. The Holy Spirit prays for them, helps them, and strengthens them. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:17-21.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: EDIBLE ALTAR



Provide kids with the food items and a paper plate. Direct kids to take the 12 marshmallows and build them into a square or rectangle on the plate by using the icing to stick the marshmallows together. Next, guide kids to coat one side of the pretzel sticks with icing and stick them to the top of the marshmallows. Place an animal cracker on top of the pretzels to represent the “bull” from the story. Pause here until everyone has completed the previous steps. Then direct kids to grab a handful of red, orange, and yellow candy-coated chocolate pieces. When you say, “then the Lord’s fire fell,” lead kids to drop the candies on their “altar.” Invite kids to take their edible altar home and retell the story.

SAY “ When the prophets of Baal cried out to their false god, nothing happened. But **GOD PROVED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.** We worship God alone because He is the one true God who sent Jesus to save us from sin. ”

☐ OPTION 2: PRAYER PROMPT



Provide kids with an index card. Invite kids to title their card, Prayer Prompt. Then invite kids to write the letters P, R, A, and Y along the side of the card. Next to the P kids will write Praise. Next to the R kids will write Repent. Next to the A kids will write Ask. Then next to the Y kids will write Yield or Your Will.

Tell kids this acronym helps us remember how we can pray to God. Consider inviting kids to write a Bible reference next to each letter to demonstrate each part of the prayer. For example, you might choose to use Psalm 30:4; Isaiah 55:7; 1 Peter 5:7; and Matthew 6:10. 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. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for His greatness and power. As time allows, lead kids to complete “True or False” on the activity page.