

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

- ☐ "Crack the Code" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ tissue boxes, 20



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



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
- ☐ bucket, wood, water (optional)

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)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ plastic tablecloths, 1 per table
- ☐ bowls of red, orange, and yellow washable paint
- ☐ toothpicks, 3-4 per kid
- ☐ pipettes, 1 per kid
- ☐ cardstock, 1 per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



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** “Do you think God hears us when we pray to Him? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Crack the Code” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we will see how **GOD PROVED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BUILD IT

Form kids into two groups and direct them to line up. Place 10 tissue boxes across the room from each team. Challenge teams to build a tall tower using all the boxes provided without the tower falling over. When you say “Go,” challenge the first kid from each team to place a box on the floor, race back to her group, and tag the second kid in line. Each kid may only stack one box per turn. The first team to successfully use all their team’s boxes 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.”

☐ OPTION 2: NO ONE ANSWER



Challenge kids to respond to questions when you start the question with the word, “Now.” Tell kids if the question does not start with the word “now,” they should remain silent. If kids answer when they should not, they are out. Consider asking the following questions, or create your own:

- “Now, what is the name of our planet?” (Earth)
- “Now, what color do you get by mixing blue and yellow?” (green)
- “What does a dog say?” (kids don’t answer)
- “Now, who deserves all our worship?” (God)
- Where do sharks live? (kids don’t answer)

| **SAY** “Great job, everyone! You either answered me or didn’t answer based on what you heard. In our Bible story, we will see how the false prophets cried out to their false god, but he didn’t answer. However, we’ll learn that **GOD PROVED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.**”

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 am so happy you’re here. Today, we will hear about an epic showdown that occurred between a true prophet of God and the false prophets of an idol. 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.]

We have been learning that God is the only true God, and He alone is to be worshiped. In today’s story, we will see how an evil king named Ahab 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 “Who can tell me the 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.**

Today, we will see how a king of Israel named Ahab led the people to worship idols. Just like Jeroboam built the golden calves and told the people to worship them, King Ahab told the people to worship a false god named Baal. 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 that 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 “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 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. In fact, God sent prophets to remind His people what was true and to tell them to turn away from sin. 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 props: 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.



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 had wicked kings who turned the people away from the Lord. Today, we learned that Ahab led the people to worship a false god named Baal. But God loved His people and wanted them to remember that He is the one true God. Who did God send to His people to speak His words? **[Allow responses.]** God sent the prophet Elijah to the people of Israel. Elijah told the people they had abandoned the Lord. Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to see if their god would answer them.

What happened when the false prophets called out to Baal? **[Allow responses.]** No one answered! There was complete silence. Baal was no god. He was just something the people created to worship. Idols are not alive. They cannot hear or speak. Idols cannot save people from their sin.

Then Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord. After, Elijah placed a bull on the altar, he covered the altar with water, until everything was soaked. Then Elijah prayed to God, and the Lord’s fire fell and burned up everything on the altar. What did the people say in response? **[Allow responses.]** The people said 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: Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

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



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

“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 “Let’s praise the one true God as we continue to learn our key passage.”

Direct kids to listen closely as you read parts of the key passage. Read the first few words of the key passage aloud, leaving out one word. Challenge kids to shout out the missing word. Continue reading the verse and leaving out words until you have read the entire verse.

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, for being the one true God who hears us when we call and responds to our prayers. Help us live in ways that bring You honor and glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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





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 19. Explain that the Bible is divided into sections within the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament is divided into books of the Law, History, Poetry, Minor Prophets, and Major Prophets. Tell kids that 1 Kings is in the History division.

Consider pointing out the location of Mount Carmel (D4) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 19:18 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ After God answered Elijah’s prayers at Mount Carmel, proving He is the one true God, Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah. So, Elijah ran away. But God spoke with Elijah, reminding Elijah that He would be faithful to the people who still followed Him. The Lord encouraged Elijah to continue acting as His prophet. God protected Elijah from Jezebel and Ahab. God is the one true God who is greater than the earthly kings or queens. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ How can we know God will hear us when we pray? ”

Tell kids that the Bible teaches us that God hears us when we pray. He is alive and active, so not only does He hear us when we pray, but He also responds and acts. God always answers our prayers, but not always in the way we think or even the way we want. He knows what is best, so He will answer prayers in a way that brings Him glory and is for our good.

SAY “ Elijah was bold and reminded the people that there is only one true God. How can we tell others about the one true God? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that God wants believers to tell others about Him and His Son, Jesus. Discuss how we can share stories from the Bible with others. We can tell people how God has answered our prayers. We can share the gospel. And we can help others understand that God alone is worthy of worship.

SAY “ Elijah stood up for what was right, and Jezebel wanted to hurt him. How did God encourage Elijah? ”

Discuss how God came near to Elijah and reminded Elijah of His faithfulness. God promised to save those who did not bow down to Baal. When we face rejection from others for following Jesus, we can trust that God will be faithful to us. God will be with us, and through His Spirit and the Bible, we can find encouragement. God also provides us with other believers who can pray for us and encourage us to keep following God no matter what.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FIERY PAINTINGS

Cover tables with plastic tablecloths. Place pencils, crayons, and bowls of red, orange, and yellow washable paint at each table. Distribute a sheet of cardstock to each kid. Direct kids to draw the prophet Elijah on one side of the paper. Next to Elijah, lead kids to glue several toothpicks to their papers to create an “altar.” Lastly, direct kids to use the pipettes to suck up a small amount of washable paint. Assist kids in gently squirting the paint on the altar to create the “fire that fell from heaven.” Allow paintings to dry.

SAY “ Today, we learned how **GOD PROVED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD BY ANSWERING ELIJAH’S PRAYERS.** When Elijah prayed, God responded by sending fire from heaven. Then the people responded by saying God is the one true God. God alone is worthy of our worship and praise. ”

☐ OPTION 2: PICTURE IT



Form kids into two teams. Decide which team will go first and invite a kid from that team to draw an image from the Bible story such as Elijah, fire, altar, idol, Jezebel, Mount Carmel, etc. As the kid draws the item, kids on his team will guess what is being drawn. Allow 30 seconds for kids to draw. Award a point if the team guesses correctly. Repeat, allowing the other team a turn to draw. Play as time allows and announce the team with the most points as the winner.

SAY “ Our Bible story is a great reminder that no matter what, God is God. He hears our prayers, saves His people, is all-powerful, is faithful to His people, and encourages His people to continue following Him. **There is one true God who alone deserves worship.** ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.