

UNIT 13 | SESSION 3

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

1 KINGS 18-19



CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent fire to show everyone He is the real God. When Jesus came, the Holy Spirit came like a dove to show that Jesus is God's Son.

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

KEY PASSAGE: May all people know the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60

STORY POINT: God showed He is the one true God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

What is the boldest request you have ever made to the Lord? Have you 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 the Lord was 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 preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find crowns

- ☐ "Crowns" printable
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ empty paper towel tubes



LEARN

Examine rocks

- ☐ rocks, 2
- ☐ water

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Elijah Confronted Ahab" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ soaked wood
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ disposable tablecloth

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LIVE

Stack altar stones

- ☐ brown paper lunch sacks, 13

Missions activity

- ☐ "Surh Family Photo" printable

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Trace the Dotted Lines" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Make a wind chime

- ☐ disposable plastic cups, 1 per child
- ☐ fine-tipped scissors (teacher use)
- ☐ string
- ☐ wooden beads
- ☐ large jingle bells
- ☐ stickers

Play out camping

- ☐ child-sized tent or sheet
- ☐ cardboard tubes
- ☐ red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- ☐ straws
- ☐ marshmallows

LOVE

Create flames

- ☐ red, yellow, and orange construction paper

Remove pom-poms

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster, 1 per 3–4 children
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster, 1 per 3–4 children
- ☐ clothespins, 1 per child
- ☐ large pom-poms

Order the story

- ☐ "Bible Story Cards" printable, 1 per 3–4 children



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND CROWNS

Print and cut apart the “Crowns” printable. Hide crowns beneath a stack of paper towel tubes assembled to resemble a fire. Invite children to find the crowns beneath the logs. Place the Big Picture Question Poster nearby and review as the crowns are discovered.

SAY “Welcome! I’m glad to see you today! You did a great job finding all the crowns. What do crowns remind you of? [Allow responses.] In our Bible story today we will learn about a time when **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD** by sending fire. When Jesus came, the Holy Spirit came like a dove to show that Jesus is God’s Son.”

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





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 EXAMINE ROCKS

Greet the preschoolers in group time. Encourage children to sit in a circle. Pass around a dry rock and discuss how it feels. Next, pass around a wet rock and talk about how that rock feels. Discuss how they are the same and how they are different.

SAY “These are both rocks, but one is wet and the other is dry. How did each rock feel? [Allow responses.] Rocks are not usually burned up in a fire, especially wet rocks. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a time when even the wet rocks were burned by fire. Let’s listen and find out what happened!”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18–19. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

SAY “Israel had a bad king named Ahab. King Ahab and many of the Israelites prayed to a pretend god named Baal. But Elijah lived in Israel too, and Elijah loved God. Elijah went to King Ahab and said, “You made things really bad in Israel because you stopped listening to God. Let’s bring everyone together and see who the real God is.”

So, everyone came, and Elijah said, “Let us have a contest. If the LORD is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him. We will both put a bull on an altar and pray. The God who sends fire is the real God.”

The people who prayed to Baal went first. They shouted and danced all day, but no fire came. Elijah said, “Maybe your god is busy or sleeping!”

Then it was Elijah’s turn. He put his bull on the altar and told people to pour lots of water on it. Then Elijah prayed, “God, show everyone that you are the real God.” God sent fire from the sky! It burned up everything! The people were amazed and said, “The LORD is God!”

King Ahab was very mad, so Elijah ran away to be safe. Elijah was tired and told God he felt alone.

God told Elijah to go to a mountain. There was a big wind, an earthquake, and fire—but God was not in those things. Then Elijah heard a quiet whisper, and in that whisper, God said, “Elijah, you still have work to do. Some people still love me. Go help them.”

Elijah did what God told him.”

Christ Connection: God sent fire to show everyone He is the real God. When Jesus came, the Holy Spirit came like a dove to show that Jesus is God’s Son.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Place a disposable tablecloth on a preschool-height table. Display a small pile of rocks and several pieces of wet wood on the table within easy view of all children. Discuss how difficult it is to start a fire, especially when everything is wet. Review the Bible story together while discussing the displayed items.

SAY “Elijah had the altar soaked with water. Every part of the altar was wet—the wood, the rocks, and even the sacrifice. Wet things don’t easily burn. Yet when the fire fell from the sky, it consumed everything! Even the wet rocks were burned up. By sending fire that burned up everything, **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD. How many gods are there? There is one true God.**”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain”:

May all people know the LORD is God,
May all people know the LORD is God,
There is no other,
There is no other,
May all people know the LORD is God.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Kings 8:60. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while pretending to warm their hands by a fire.

SAY “Elijah ran away from King Ahab. Ahab was an evil king. God told Elijah to go to a mountain. God spoke to Elijah in a whisper. God said, ‘Elijah, you still have work to do. Some people still love me. Go help them.’ Elijah obeyed God. **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.**”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for Elijah’s obedience. Ask God to help us be obedient to Him even when it’s difficult.

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CREATE FLAMES



Lead children to tear strips of paper from red, yellow, and orange construction paper to resemble flames. Lead children in saying the key passage phrase as they tear the paper. Gather the paper together to build a “fire” as they continue reciting the key passage phrase.

SAY “ King Ahab lead the people to worship an idol called Baal. They were not worshiping the one true God. Elijah obeyed God and built an altar to worship Him. God sent fire from heaven, and it burned up everything. The sacrifice, the wood, and the stones were all burned up, even though they were all wet. **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.** The key passage phrase reminds us, ‘May all people know the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60’ ”

2 REMOVE POM-POMS

Place the Big Picture Question Poster and Bible Story Picture poster at each table and cover with large pom-poms. Lead children to use clothespins to pick up each pom-pom, revealing the posters beneath. As the pages are revealed, discuss what the children discover. Review the big picture question and answer aloud together at the end of the activity.

SAY “ In the picture, we see the fire coming down from heaven onto the altar. The people in the picture all look shocked and afraid. They never expected God to send fire from heaven like that! **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.** The big picture question and answer says, ‘How many gods are there? There is one true God.’ King Ahab and the people forgot this truth and worshiped idols. ”

3 ORDER THE STORY

Print and cut part the “Bible Story Cards” printable, 1 per group. Assist children in putting the events of the story in order using the cards. Lead children in retelling the story when finished.

SAY “ King Ahab led the people to pray to a pretend god named Baal. Elijah challenged the people to a contest between their god and the one true God. The people worshiping Baal built their altar first, but no fire came from their god. Elijah built an altar for God and made the rocks, wood, and sacrifice wet so that only a miracle from God could make them burn. Elijah prayed, and God sent fire from heaven and burned up the altar and sacrifice. **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.** King Ahab was mad, and Elijah fled. God told Elijah he was not alone and to go help the people who loved Him. Elijah obeyed God. ”

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 STACK ALTAR STONES

Stuff brown paper lunch bags halfway full with crumbled paper. Fold down and tape with masking tape to create stones. Write one word of the key passage phrase and reference on each stone. Lead children to stack the stone blocks in order to create a key passage phrase altar. Disassemble and rebuild as time allows.

SAY “ You stacked all the stones so well. These stones remind me of the altar Elijah built and how **GOD SHOWED THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.** Let’s say the key passage phrase together now, ‘May all people know the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60.’ ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print and display a copy of the “Surh Family Photo” printable. Mention that Isaac and Hannah Surh started a new church called Chroma Church in Columbus, Ohio. The word “chroma” describes how bright a color is. They thought this name showed how it is important for people to show the light of Jesus and tell the good news about Him to others. Pray for Isaac and Hannah and Chroma Church as they help people in Columbus learn about Jesus.

SAY “ Columbus, Ohio, is home to many people. Most of them do not go to church. There is a growing number of people who moved to Columbus from other countries. Columbus is home to the second largest community of people from Somalia in the United States. New churches are needed in Columbus to reach these groups of people. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ God sent fire to show everyone He is the real God. When Jesus came, the Holy Spirit came like a dove to show that Jesus is God’s Son. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time



1 ASK A QUESTION

Greet the children in group time. Ask children what kind of things typically fall from the sky. Children may offer ideas such as rain, snow, hail, and so forth. Guide them to the story by asking the children what they think Elijah and the people must of thought when fire fell from the sky.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18–19. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

- King Ahab was a bad king. He and many of the people prayed to a pretend god named Baal. But Elijah loved the real God. Elijah told King Ahab, “Let’s have a contest to see who the real God is.”
- They set up a contest. The people who prayed to Baal asked for fire, but nothing happened. Then Elijah asked God for fire, and God sent fire from the sky! Everyone saw that the Lord is the real God.
- King Ahab was mad, so Elijah ran away. He was tired and prayed to God. God whispered to Elijah and told him there was still work to do. Elijah listened and did what God asked.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain”:

May all people know the LORD is God,
May all people know the LORD is God,
There is no other,
There is no other,
May all people know the LORD is God.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Kings 8:60. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while pretending to pour water over the ground.

5 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help us be bold like Elijah and obedient to what He asks us to do, even when it’s hard.

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 FIND ELIJAH

Print several copies of the Bible Story Picture Poster. Without children noticing, adhere the pictures with masking tape to the backs of several children. When ready, lead children to move around the room searching for all the “Elijahs” by looking at each other’s back. Once they’ve all been found, hide again and repeat play.

SAY “**GOD SHOWED THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.** Everyone saw God send fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar. King Ahab was angry. This made Elijah afraid, so he ran but couldn’t hide from God. When Jesus came, the Holy Spirit came like a dove to show that Jesus is God’s Son.”

7 MAKE A WIND CHIME

Before the session, prepare a wind chime for each child. Use a hole punch to make four holes around the rim of each cup. Poke a hole in the bottom of the cups with scissors. Cut string into 12- to 14-inch pieces, four pieces per child. Tie one end of each string through the holes around the rim. Encourage children to decorate their cups with stickers. Lead preschoolers to string beads and bells on the string, tying each off with double knots. Turn the cup upside down and use a loop of string and a large bead to secure a hanger.

SAY “These chimes will sound lovely whenever the wind softly blows through them. Whenever you hear it, you can think about the way God spoke to Elijah. God did not speak to Elijah in the fire or in the earthquake. God spoke to Elijah in a quiet whisper. We can listen and remember that **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD** who sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross and come back to life so we can be forgiven of our sin.”

8 PLAY OUT CAMPING

Post an Allergy Alert. Ask a few preschoolers to help you set up a campsite. Show a child how to build a pretend campfire by adding red, orange, and yellow tissue paper to a stack of cardboard tubes. Set up a tent and place a Bible inside it that is open to 1 Kings 18. Place marshmallows on the end of a straws and guide children to pretend to roast them.

SAY “If this were a real campfire, how would we get the fire started? [Allow responses.] Would you be surprised if fire came down out of the sky? After Elijah poured water all over the altar, he prayed and asked God to send the fire. **GOD SHOWED HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD** that day. Fire came down to show everyone that the Lord is God. Later, God showed that Jesus is His Son when the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus like a dove.”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.