

Unit 13 • Session 2

Elijah at Mount Carmel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 18–19

2-3's Lesson

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

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How many gods are there? There is one true God.



INTRODUCE THE STORY (30 MINUTES)

Opening Activities



Opening Activities Supplies

No supplies needed

TEACH THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Large Group



Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
Key Passage Marker
Paper bags, tissue, and paper water drops for LG

EXPERIENCE THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Small Group



Small Group Supplies

"Story Sequence" Printable
1 per group, crayons
Bible Story Picture/Story Point Poster, Key Passage Card, Big Picture Card/Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child

LEADER Bible Study

King Ahab was an evil king. In fact, “Ahab did more to anger the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (1 Kings 16:33). God wanted His people to be faithful to Him, but King Ahab led them away from God.

God chose Elijah to get Ahab’s attention. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah told Ahab that a drought was coming. God prevented rain in the land for three years. For Ahab, a man who worshiped Baal—the false Canaanite god of rain and fertility—the drought sent a strong message about the one true God.

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When God was ready to send rain on the earth, Elijah appeared to Ahab and instructed him to gather the Israelites and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. Elijah challenged the people to choose: follow God or follow Baal. They couldn’t do both.

Elijah set up a challenge to prove who is the one true God. He faced off against the prophets of Baal. They prepared a bull on an altar and called on their deity to send fire from heaven. The prophets of Baal called and cried and cut themselves, but Baal did not answer.

Elijah poured water on and around his altar. He called to God, and God sent fire from heaven. Everything was burned up! The Israelites could not deny that the God of Elijah is the one true God. Finally, God sent a great rain to end the drought.

Elijah fled from the wrath of Ahab’s wife, Jezebel. He met with God on a mountain, and God revealed Himself to Elijah in a soft whisper. God gave Elijah a friend and successor in Elisha and assured him of 7,000 people in Israel who had not turned to Baal.

The false god Baal had no power. As you teach preschoolers this week, emphasize that only God—the one true God—has power to help His people and to save them. And He saves them through His Son, Jesus.

The BIBLE Story

Elijah at Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18–19

No rain fell in Israel for three years. God was punishing the people for worshiping gods that were not real. Without rain, the people did not have water and they could not grow food to eat. Finally, God was ready to send rain.

God told Elijah to visit King Ahab of Israel. Elijah obeyed God and went to the king. Elijah told the king, “Meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring the people of Israel and the prophets who worship false gods like Baal (BAY uhl).”

The king and the people went to the mountain. Elijah said to the people, “Do you believe the LORD is God? Or do you believe in Baal? You must choose!”

Elijah set up a contest to show who the one true God is. The worshipers of Baal made an altar for their false god.

“You call to Baal,” Elijah said. “Ask him to send fire to your altar.

I will call on the LORD. The God who answers by sending fire is the one true God.”

From morning until noon, the false prophets called out to Baal, but no one answered. They danced and cried loudly, but still no one answered.

Then Elijah made an altar, dug a ditch around it, and put on a



pile of wood. He asked for four jars of water to be poured on the wood. The altar was very wet. Elijah asked for even more water.

Elijah prayed: “Answer me, God, so that these people will know that You are God.”

God answered Elijah by sending fire from the sky!

The fire burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust! It dried up the water that was in the ditch. God showed everyone that He is the one true God.

The people who were watching fell to the ground.

They said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!” Soon the sky grew dark with clouds, and God sent rain.

The king told the queen everything that had happened, and she was angry. Elijah ran away and went to another mountain. There, God talked to Elijah and told him to not give up.

Christ Connection: The people who worshiped the false god Baal worked hard to show they loved Baal, but Baal was silent. The one true God is not like false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: Elijah at Mount Carmel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 18–19

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

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

Welcome time

Intro Music

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

Hold contests

Invite preschoolers to participate in several contests. First, compete to see who can stand on one leg the longest. Next, compete to see who can jump the highest. Finally, compete to see who can be the most quiet. Make up additional competitions to lead preschoolers in as time allows. Invite suggestions from preschoolers.

SAY • Did you have fun competing against each other? Today's Bible story is about a kind of competition. This contest was between people who followed a pretend god named Baal and Elijah, a prophet who followed the one true God. Who do you think won the contest? We'll find out in our Bible story.

This is an optional activity before worship

Transition to teach the story

Show the countdown video to transition to Large Group.

Video: Countdown

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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

[Song: Only One True God](#)
[Song: Isaiah 42:8](#)

Worship

Welcome friends! We are so glad you are here today! Let's all stand up and sing songs to tell God how amazing He is.

Bible
Bookmark

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 18–19 in your Bible.

Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Today's story is from the Bible, just like all the stories we share with you! The stories in the Bible are true. They tell us true things about God. Today's Bible story is from the Book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Wasn't that amazing? **God showed that He is the one true God** by making the fire come on Elijah's altar [*build altar with paper bags, then throw paper water drops on it. Finally add the tissue to represent fire coming down*], even when it was so wet! Our God is the one true God! The one true God is not a god that people made. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

[Video: "Elijah at Mount Carmel"](#)

[CG: Story Point](#)
Paper bags,
paper water
drops, tissue fire

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 42:8. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Say the key passage together.

SAY • Our key passage tell us that God does not share His glory with anyone. God would not share His glory with the made up god Baal. **God showed that He is the one true God** by sending fire to Elijah's altar.

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Let's say our big picture question and answer together. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.*** Only the one true God could make fire on a very wet altar like He did in our Bible story!

Bible
Key
Passage
Marker

[CG: Key
Passage](#)

[CG: Big
Picture
Question](#)

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



Small Group

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

Order the story

"Story Sequence"
Printable,
1 per group

Mix up the "Story Sequence" printable pieces. Encourage preschoolers to put the pages in the correct order, helping as needed. When finished, point to the pictures and retell the Bible story.

SAY • Elijah prayed for God to send fire. **God showed that He is the one true God.** There is one God. When we pray to God we can be sure that He hears us.

Circle time (5 minutes)

Bible
marked to 1
Kings 18
Bible Story
Picture/
Story Point
Key Passage
Card

Have the preschoolers watch you open your Bible to 1 Kings 18. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers and remind them that God hears them when they pray.

Gospel Gems

- * Elijah prayed for God to send fire.
- * God hears us when we pray to Him.
- * God showed that He is the one true God.

Big Picture
Card/Bible
Story
Coloring
Page
Crayons

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page. 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 Card for families.