

Unit 13 • Session 2

Elijah at Mount Carmel

2nd-3rd Lesson

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 who alone deserves worship.



INTRODUCE THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

Opening Activities



TEACH THE STORY (30 MINUTES)

Large Group



APPLY THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

Small Group



Opening Activity Supplies

No supplies needed

Large Group Supplies

2 Water guns, table, 20 solo cups (10 red/10 blue), leader attire, Bible, bookmark

Small Group Supplies

Key passage poster, 1 ball per group, timer (optional), pencils, Journal Page/Activity Page, 1 per kid

LEADER Bible Study

King Ahab was an evil king. In fact, “Ahab did more to provoke 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.

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 to 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 kids 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

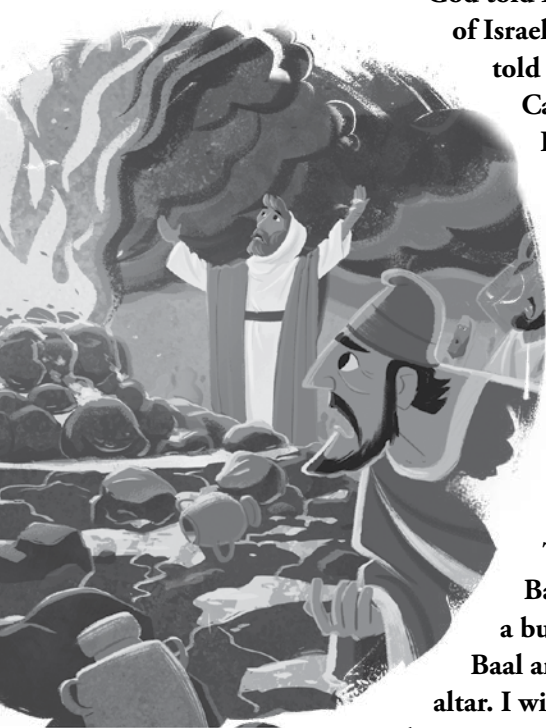
No rain fell in the land of Israel for three years. God was punishing the people for turning away from Him to worship false gods. Without rain, the lakes and rivers dried up. People could not grow crops in the fields. Finally, God was ready to send rain.

God told Elijah to go to Ahab, the king of Israel. So Elijah obeyed God. Elijah told the king, “Meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring the people of Israel and the prophets who worship false gods.”

King Ahab and the people met Elijah at the mountain. Elijah said, “Make up your minds! If you believe the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal (BAY uhl), then follow him.”

Elijah set up a challenge to show who is the one true God. The prophets of the false god Baal set up an altar first and put a bull on it. Elijah said, “Call to Baal and 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.”

The prophets of Baal danced and cried out for hours. “Answer us!” they said. But no one answered. “Shout loudly!” Elijah taunted them. “Maybe he is sleeping!” Still, no answer.



Then the people gathered around Elijah. He set up an altar, dug a trench around it, and put a bull on it. Elijah told the people to pour water on the altar so everything was wet. **Then Elijah prayed: “LORD, answer me so that these people will know that You, LORD, are God.”**

God sent fire from the sky. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust! It dried up the water in the trench. **When the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”**

Elijah had all the prophets who worshiped Baal killed. The sky grew dark with clouds, and God sent a great rain.

King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done. Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah, so Elijah fled into the wilderness. He walked to Mount Horeb. At the mountain, God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him to not give up.

Christ Connection: The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal. But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him.

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 who alone deserves worship.

Intro Music

Note: These optional activities are a way for you to connect with kids before worship.

Welcome time

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss what it means to have power. Who are some powerful people they can think of?

SAY • We use the word *power* to describe the ability to do things. A powerful engine can pull lots of weight or move a car very fast. A powerful person may be allowed to make laws or tell other people what to do. But who is the most powerful of all? Today we'll learn more about a time God proved His power.

Optional Activity: This or that?

Explain that you will call out some options. Kids must choose which option they prefer and stand with other kids who prefer the same option. Point to a different area of the room for each option to show kids where to gather. Play several rounds. Sample options:

1. chocolate or vanilla
2. video games or board games
3. apples or strawberries
4. breakfast or dinner
5. dogs or cats

SAY • In today's Bible story, Elijah told God's people to make up their minds. They needed to choose who they would worship. Do you think the people chose to follow God or something else? Let's find out.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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 who alone deserves worship.

Video: Countdown

Depending on your room/stage/space, you should choose the best place for the 2 kids to stand at a good distance away from the table. We recommend you leave the table on the stage and have the kids stand off the stage in the middle of the room with the rest of the kids spread out to watch.

SFX: Music
Song:
Wavewalker
Song: Let it
Be known

Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to the Large Group game.

It's game time again! I need 2 volunteers - 1 boy and 1 girl. Choose 2 kids. Try to choose kids that haven't been chosen before. OK, this game is called Make it Rain. And the reason why is because you 2 are going to be using these! Pull out 2 water guns and hand 1 to each kid.

That's right - you're gonna make it rain...kind of! To kids and audience Now some of you may remember a game we did recently where the kids had to stack cups into a pyramid. Whoever built it first was the winner. Well, this time it's the opposite. Show table with pre-built cup pyramids or literally build the pyramids while saying the next part. These pyramids are already built and whichever one of you destroys your pyramid first is the winner!

OK! You not only have to knock down your pyramid but you have to shoot every single one of your cups completely off the table. Whoever does that first is the winner! Any questions? OK, get ready!
3-2-1...GO!

Sing

LEADER • Let's take some time to worship the one true God. He deserves it because He is holy, loving, all-powerful, and good.

Introduce the Session (3 minutes)

Leader enters wearing business formal attire.

LEADER • Hello there, folks, and welcome to Weather Wonderland. I'm your host and favorite meteorologist [your name]. My job is to tell you the weather so you can be prepared! Rain, snow, sleet, hail, or anything in between; if it falls from the sky, you will be ready for it.

Leader attire

As you may know, we've been in a drought for a while. This week, the forecast is again nothing but sunshine and heat. I wish we could get something falling from the sky. Some rain would be wonderful. But maybe next week. Until then, we are under a burn ban. We can't risk any wildfires getting started; the forest is dry as kindling!

You know, speaking of fire and stuff falling from the sky reminds me of our Bible story this week. You see, there's one thing that I couldn't forecast falling from the sky, and that's fire! You may be wondering *well, who could predict fire falling from the sky?* The answer is Elijah! I'll tell you all about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we get into the story, let's remember our big picture question. *How many gods are there?* And the answer is: ***there is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** That means that our tendency to raise

up or worship other things or people—like money, fame, power, or celebrities—is sin. Only God created the world, only God loved us by sending Jesus to rescue us. He alone deserves worship because of who He is and what He has done.

[CG: Big Picture Question](#)

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

LEADER • Israel had split into two kingdoms, and both had a lot of bad kings. The Northern Kingdom had a particularly evil king named Ahab. He was so evil, God sent a drought and famine on the land. We know **God provided in miraculous ways**, but the time was coming for God to show His ultimate power and end the drought. Our story is called “Elijah at Mount Carmel.”

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video “Elijah at Mount Carmel.”

LEADER • Imagine the looks on the faces of the people when God sent fire from the sky—not only to burn up the sacrifice, but also the altar, the stones, and even the water! God made sure the people knew without a doubt the fire was from Him and wasn't some trick by Elijah. God showed that He is the one true God who alone deserves our worship.

[Video: “Elijah at Mount Carmel”](#)

Elijah and Elisha

I think the Israelites got the picture because they fell down and declared, “The Lord, He is God!”

Then Elijah told King Ahab to get ready because the rain was coming. Elijah trusted that God is faithful and would send the rain.

God’s mighty power reminds us that He is in control. He has a plan bigger than we can imagine. We get to be part of that plan when we love Him, worship Him, and obey Him.

When Elijah escaped to the mountain to get away from Queen Jezebel, he probably expected God to speak to him in a loud, booming voice—especially after everything he had witnessed on Mount Carmel! Instead, God revealed Himself to Elijah in a whisper.

Elijah knew that God is powerful. When Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah, God showed him that He would protect him and take care of him.

Christ connection

LEADER • The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal. But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him. The Bible teaches that we love because God loved us first [*See 1 John 4:19.*] When we believe the truth about Jesus, God forgives our sin and makes us new. Then the Holy Spirit lives in us. He gives us power from God to love and obey Jesus more.

Key passage

Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read Isaiah 42:8.

LEADER • Isaiah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He wrote the words to our key passage, but they were really God’s words. God said that He would not share glory with false gods or idols. They do not deserve worship, but God does. How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

**CG: Key
Passage**

Pray before dismissing to apply the story.

APPLY the Story



Small Group

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 who alone deserves worship.

Key Passage
Poster, ball 1
per group
stopwatch/
phone
(optional)

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Direct the kids to stand in a circle. Hold a ball and say the first word of the key passage. Then pass the ball to another kid who will say the next word and pass the ball to another kid who will say the third word. Play continues until the kids say the key passage at least once. If time allows, challenge the kids to repeat the key passage in this way faster than they did the first time. You may use a stopwatch/phone to track their time.

SAY • God is clear when He teaches us not to worship other gods.

Our key passage reminds us that He refuses to share glory and praise. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** That means it is good for God to get all the glory and praise.

Power charades

Form two teams of kids. The teams will take turns allowing one member of their team to act out a powerful character of his or her choice. Both teams may guess who the kid is pretending to be. The first team to guess correctly wins a point. The team with the most points after each kid has had a chance to act out a character, or when you run out of time, wins.

SAY • It can be fun pretending to be very powerful character, like a superhero.

Today we learned more about God. God is more powerful than anyone or anything else, and He isn't make-believe like superheroes are. How do you think God proved His power in today's Bible story? Have you seen God's power in your life?

Reflection and prayer

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions on the page. :

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

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the activity page provided with this session. Pray for your group. Send home the "Crossword Challenge" activity page.

Journal/
activity
Page, 1 per
kid
Pencils