

Unit 13 • Session 2

Elijah at Mount Carmel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 18–19

4-5'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

EXPERIENCE THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

Small Group



Small Group Supplies

Large sheet of paper, 1 per
group, crayons
Bible Story Picture/Story
Point Poster, Key Passage
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.

2

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!”

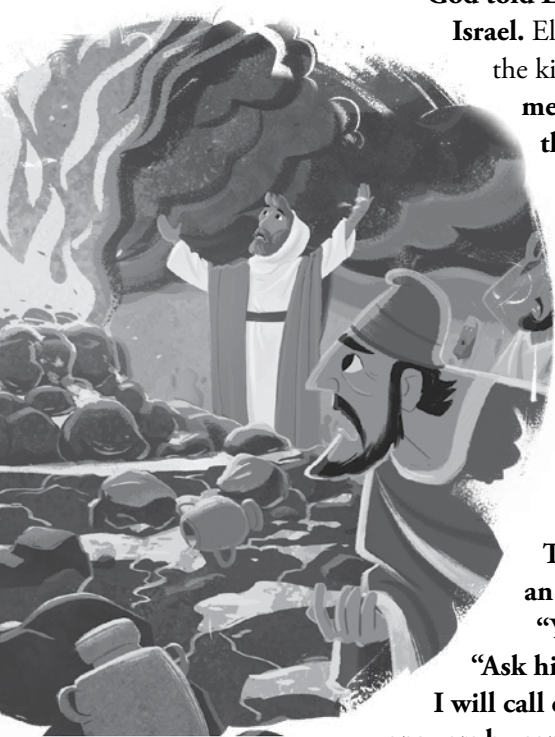
Elijah set up a contest to show who the one true God is. The worshipers of Baal made an altar for their false god.

“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

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.

Transition to teach the story

Show the countdown video to transition to Large Group.

Intro Music

This is an optional activity before worship

Video: Countdown

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

[Song: Only One](#)

[True God](#)

[Song: Isaiah 42:8](#)

Bible

Bookmark

[CG: Giant](#)

[Timeline](#)

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

[CG: Story Point](#)

[CG: Bible Story Picture Poster](#)

Paper bags, paper water drops, tissue fire

Worship

Hello everyone! Welcome to KidCity! My name is [name].

We are going to have so much fun today. Let's stand and sing now.

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 and 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.

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 and altar with paper bags, throw paper water drops on it*], even when it was so wet! [*Add tissue fire to the altar.*] 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.

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

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.

Create an imaginary pet

As a group, image what animal you want to create to be your new pet. Small group leaders will draw an imaginary pet on a large piece of paper. Then invite preschoolers to imagine what to add to their pet. How many legs should the pet have? What color should he be? Give your imaginary pet a name.

SAY • This is a pretty great imaginary pet! Do you think he is real? Could he play fetch or eat pet food? Of course not! We just made him up. In today's Bible story, some people worshiped a god that they made up. The people who worshiped the made-up god, Baal, worked hard to show they loved Baal, but Baal did not send fire to their altar. That's because he is not real. But **God showed that He is the one true God** by sending fire to Elijah's altar. The one true God is not like pretend gods that people make up. 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.

Duck Duck Goose

Guide the children to sit in a circle. Choose one child to be "It." Have "It" walk around the outside of the circle while touching the other children's heads and saying, "duck." Ask the child to choose someone and to be the next "It" and choose that person by touching their head and saying, "goose." Repeat the activity until each child has had a turn to be "It."

LOW PREP

- Large sheet of paper
- Crayons

SAY • Let's play a fun game. We have to be patient while we are playing this game. We are going to sit in a circle and [child's name] will be 'It.' She will walk around the circle and touch everyone's head and say, 'duck, duck, duck.' (Demonstrate.) When you choose someone to be the next 'It,' then you touch their head and say, 'GOOSE!' Are you ready?

After the Activity: Great job! You were all so patient! Sometimes we ask God for something and we have to wait for Him to answer us. **God showed that He is the one true God** when He answered Elijah and lit the altar on fire!

Review

No rain fell in Israel for three years because God was punishing the people for worshiping gods that were not real. **God showed that He is the one true God.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

· Bible Story
Picture
Poster/
Story Point
· Key Passage
Poster

1. What happened when the prophets of Baal called out to Baal? (*No one answered.*)
2. What happened when the Elijah prayed? (*God answered Elijah by sending fire from the sky!*)
3. What happened after Elijah's altar was set on fire by God? (*God sent the rain.*)
4. **How many gods are there? There is one true God.**

· Bible Story
Coloring
Page
· Crayons

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage, or the big picture question.

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 activity page for families.