

September 7-8, 2019

4th-5th Lesson

Unit 13, Session 2

Elijah at Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18-19

Story Point: God showed that He is the one true God.



Open your Bible and read aloud 1 Kings 18-19, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

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!”** 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.

Supplies: 2 water guns, 10 red cups, 10 blue cups, table, Bibles, paper 1 per kid, pencils, crayons, take home 1 per kid.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

[Intro Music](#)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss what power is. How do they know if something or someone is powerful?

Large Group

[Video: Countdown](#)

Large Group Game: Make it Rain

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!

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.

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!

Worship

Sing "Wavewalker" and "Let it Be Known"

[Song: Wavewalker](#)
[Song: Let it Be Known](#)



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Last time, we learned that God sent the drought because the people were worshipping idols. In today's story, God was ready to send the rain. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read 1 Kings 18–19.

- What does this story teach us about God?

[CG: Question 1](#)

God made sure the people of Israel 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. I think they got the picture because they fell down and declared, "The LORD, He is God!" Elijah told King Ahab to get ready because the rain was coming. Elijah knew **God is faithful** and would send the rain.

- How should we respond to displays of God's power?

[CG: Question 2](#)

God uses His mighty power to remind us 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.**

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.



TEACH the Story

Big Picture Question

CG: Big Picture Question

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

PRAY

God, we thank You that we can put our trust in You. You show us that You are in control, and You do that because You love us. Help us to keep our eyes on You alone. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



Big Picture Question

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

By sending Elijah to tell about the future weather, God reminded the people of the answer to our big picture question. The people needed to know that God—and nothing or no one else—is in control of all things.

- Does God ever sleep? How do you know?
- How do you feel knowing God is in control even while you sleep?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 18. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 18:38-39. Remind kids that God showed that He is the one true God. The people of Israel fell facedown and acknowledged the Lord as the one true God! Choose another volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 18:38-39 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. The prophets of Baal tried to prove their love so that their god would hear them. How is the one true God different than false gods like Baal?

Lead kids to recognize how God showed His love to us by sending His Son. Point out that salvation from God is a gift; we don't earn it by doing good things or loving God in a certain way. We obey God and love Him in response to who He is and what He has done for us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 4:19.)

2. Why is idolatry so offensive to God?

Remind kids that idolatry is worshiping anything besides the one true God. Emphasize that God alone is our Creator and Lord. Worshiping anything other than Him denies who God truly is. Only He deserves our worship. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 135:15-18.)

3. Why do you think we sometimes doubt that God is able to do something?

Point out that Elijah's challenge seemed to make victory for God impossible. How could an altar catch fire when it was soaked with water? But God answered Elijah and sent fire from heaven. Encourage kids to live with complete faith that God can have victory over any situation. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Jer. 32:17.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: Bibles

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Isaiah 42:8. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Remind the kids that Elijah teased the prophets of Baal to shout louder because Baal might be sleeping. Explain they will read the key passage together, but you will control the volume. When your hands are low, they will say it quietly. When your hands go up, they will get louder. Repeat this, changing the volume level several times.

Emphasize that no matter how loud or how quiet the world around us may be, God's truth never changes. He is the only One who deserves our praise.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God that as He heard Elijah, He always hears us when we pray.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Missing items

Supplies: paper, crayons, pencils

Prompt each kid to name something she would miss if she moved away to a faraway city. Explain that followers of Jesus often leave a lot behind when they obey God's call to take the gospel to people in another place. They believe that the Lord is the one true God, and they want everyone in the world to know Him!

When we obey God and go where He calls us to go know it won't always be easy but it is worth it to make sure everyone hears of the one true God and His Son, Jesus. Many of our friends from Hope are following God to start a new church in Garner.

Distribute paper, crayons, and pencils to kids. Prompt them to write encouraging letters or draw pictures to send to volunteers that help start a new church in Garner. When kids finish, collect the letters to be given to a KidCity staff member.