



ELIJAH AND MT. CARMEL

BIBLE PASSAGE (1 KINGS 18:16–45)

Summary: Elijah told King Ahab to send the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel. Elijah asked the prophets to call on their god to send fire to burn up a sacrifice. They cried and prayed and danced, but nothing happened. Elijah prepared his altar and even drenched it with water. He prayed to God, and the Lord sent down fire, burning up the sacrifice and everything around it. God showed all the people that He is the one true God.

Today's Brite Idea is: The Lord is the one true God.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised.

(PSALM 145:3)



BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!



God is real.



We can
talk to Him.



I can
talk to Him.

LEADER TRAINING: REDIRECT WITH HUMOR

Laughter is a powerful tool for helping preschoolers change course without shame. Humor lightens the moment, captures attention and makes redirection feel safe and positive. When used intentionally, it turns potential tension into connection.

- **Use funny voices or silly gestures.** A playful “penguin waddle to the rug!” can shift focus immediately and spark joy in following directions.
- **Turn misbehavior into a teachable moment.** Example: “Uh-oh, we don’t throw toys at each other. Let’s share, and each pick a toy to play with and have fun!” Playful phrasing helps kids recognize the right behavior without feeling corrected harshly.
- **Keep it gentle and inclusive.** The goal is to redirect, not embarrass. A shared laugh invites everyone back into unity and grace.
- **Model joy in obedience.** Jesus often used stories and playful illustrations to engage others, teaching truth with a smile. When kids see you enjoying the process, they learn that following God’s ways is both good and delightful.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: MORE THAN ONE GOD?

In a survey by Barna, 50 percent of adults indicated that they believe Muslims and Christians worship the same God.* Pluralism accepts that all religious beliefs can be true and co-exist. Pluralism says that you can believe what you believe, I can believe what I believe and we can both be right. Kids in your group may have already heard this messaging and think that there are other gods. Our world says there are many gods. But in today’s Bible story, kids will learn that the Lord is the one true God.

Be sensitive to kids who come from other backgrounds or who might have relatives from another religion. Speak truth in love so kids feel safe with asking questions and learning how to tell others about the one true God.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Altar: a place where people worship

Prophet: a person who gives God’s messages to His people

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

FIRE OR WATER?

SUPPLIES: 2 pieces of cardstock, marker

OR

PASS THE PRAISE

SUPPLIES: Beanbag

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

ELIJAH AND MT. CARMEL

(1 KINGS 18:16–45)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

WORSHIP WITH SCARVES

SUPPLIES: Scarves (1 per kid), Memory Verse Song, music player

OR

WHO IS THE TRUE GOD?

SUPPLIES: None

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

WE CAN TALK TO GOD

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, white paper cups (2 per kid), yarn, scissors (prep), paper clips (2 per kid), tape (optional)

OR

TALK TO GOD

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages



FIRE OR WATER?

SUPPLIES:

2 pieces of cardstock, marker

PREP:

On 1 piece of cardstock write "Fire." On the other piece of cardstock write "Water." Place the "Fire" sign on one side of your space and the "Water" sign on the opposite side.

LEADER TIP: If you have a small space, have kids stand up or sit down instead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Make copies of the "Fire" and "Water" signs for kids with physical limitations to hold up in place of moving.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name?

Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's play a fun game! When I call out, "Fire!" you will move to the fire sign.
2. *Point to the fire sign.*
3. When I call out, "Water!" you will move to the water sign.
4. *Point to the water sign.*
5. **Say:** Let's try it! Fire!
6. *Lead kids to move toward that sign.*
7. **Say:** Great job! Now ... water!
8. *Continue for several rounds, changing the movement style each time (e.g., tiptoe, hop, crawl, march, etc.).*
9. **Ask:** Which side was your favorite—fire or water?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Great moving, friends! Now let's get ready to hear an amazing story together.



PASS THE PRAISE

SUPPLIES:

Beanbag

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** We will all work together to pass the beanbag around our circle. When it's your turn to hold the beanbag, say one thing you can praise God for!
3. **Say:** Some ideas you could praise God for are your family, friends, food, sunshine or the fact that you're here at church. Once you share, pass the beanbag to the person sitting next to you.
4. **Say:** Let's practice praising God together!
5. *Start the activity by saying the name of the kid sitting next to you and then hand them the beanbag.*
6. *Continue around the circle until each kid has had a turn.*
7. **Ask:** Why do we praise God?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did such a great job praising God together! We will learn about someone who praised God for how God showed up in a big way. We will discover more about how God is the one true God and deserves all our praise.

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: I'm so glad you're here today! I hope you're ready to learn about a true story from the Bible.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: Last week we learned about two best friends named David and Jonathan and how God has a good plan we can trust.

Show teaching image: Jonathan Puts God's Plan First.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about a man named Elijah who prayed on a mountain for God to show He is real. God answered by sending down fire from the sky!

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3 drumroll!



BIG QUESTION

Show Big Question Teaching Slide.

Say: Who is greater than everything? We will find out in today's Bible story!



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? Allow kids to respond.

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of 1 Kings. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about God's creation, His people and the things that happened before Jesus came to Earth.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

There are lots of fun actions for kids to do in today's story. Encourage everyone to do the motions for a short time, then stop to prevent disruptions.

ELIJAH AND MT. CARMEL

(1 KINGS 18:16–45)

Say: Israel had a very bad king named Ahab and a bad queen named Jezebel. Can you hold up two fingers to show this evil king and queen?

Lead kids to hold up two fingers.

Say: Jezebel believed in a fake god named Baal and wanted everyone to stop worshiping the real God. She wanted people to bow down and worship Baal. Sadly, many people did. Can you curl your two fingers to make it look like Ahab and Jezebel are bowing down?

Lead kids to curl their two fingers.

Say: But God sent Elijah to speak true things to people and show God's power. Elijah went boldly before Ahab and Jezebel. Let's all hold up another finger in front of our two Ahab and Jezebel fingers.

Lead kids to hold up one finger on the opposite hand in front of their two fingers.

Say: Elijah told the king and queen to bring all the **prophets** of Baal to a big mountain for a challenge. They even invited all the people of Israel. Can you touch your hands over your head like you're a big mountain?

Lead kids to bring their hands together over their heads and then fold them back into their lap.

Show teaching image: Elijah says, "It's Time to Choose!"

Say: Elijah said, "It's time to choose—do you believe in the Lord or Baal?" No one answered. So Elijah said, "Let's see whose God is real. We will pray and the God who answers by sending fire from the sky is the true God."

Lead kids to wiggle all the fingers in both hands while their fingers face upward to represent fire.

Say: The followers of Baal went first. They shouted and prayed all day, but nothing happened. Elijah teased them: "Maybe your god is away or asleep!" Let's put our hands together and rest our heads on them as if sleeping.

Lead kids to put their palms together, lay their heads on their hands and make snoring sounds.

Say: Elijah's teasing made the **prophets** cry even louder. They danced around the **altar** and did everything they could to get their fake god to answer them. But no fire fell from the sky—not even a little spark. Then it was Elijah's turn. Elijah built an **altar** with 12 stones and some wood. Then he dug a big hole around the **altar**. Let's all pretend to dig.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Altar: a place where people worship

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people



Lead kids in pretending to dig a ditch.

Say: Next, Elijah did something surprising. He asked some helpers to pour water on the **altar**. They poured four jugs of water. Let's pretend like we are pouring water. Then Elijah said, "Do it again!" Pour some more water! And they did. Then Elijah said, "Do it one more time!" Pour some more water! Water was everywhere. The wood was wet. The stones were wet. The ditch around the **altar** was full of water.

Lead kids to pretend they're pouring water from a bucket.

Say: Then Elijah prayed, "God, please show everyone that You are the true God."

Say: Immediately, fire fell from the sky! Make more fire with your fingers.

Show teaching image: Fire Falls.

Lead kids to wiggle all the fingers in both hands while their fingers face upward to represent fire.

Say: The fire burned up everything! It even burned up all the water in the ditch! God proved He is the one true God. He answered Elijah's prayer! The people fell down and shouted, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God is real, and He is powerful! He answered Elijah's prayer in a powerful way! The most powerful thing He ever did was sending Jesus to make a way for our sins to be forgiven. Jesus died for our sins and beat death by rising again after three days.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, You are real and true! Thank You that we can talk to You in prayer and You always hear us. Amen.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching and Answer Image.

Say: Who is greater than everything? God!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that God is bigger and stronger and greater than anyone or anything!



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Great (make a V with your arms)
- is the LORD, (point to the sky)
- and greatly (bring arms in and extend out to one side)
- to be praised. (bring arms in and extend out to the other side)
- Psalm 145:3 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised.*

(PSALM 145:3)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God is real."

Have the kids point up and say, "God is real."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can talk to Him."

Have kids reach out and say, "We can talk to Him."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can talk to Him."

Have kids point to themselves and say, "I can talk to Him."



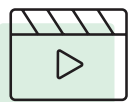
God is real.



We can talk to Him.



I can talk to Him.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



WORSHIP WITH SCARVES

SUPPLIES:

Scarves (1 per kid), Memory Verse Song, music player

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Be mindful of the music volume to support the needs of all kids. Have noise-cancelling headphones available as needed.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is real and showed His power on Mount Carmel.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's praise God with our scarves while we listen to our Memory Verse Song.
2. *Hand each kid a scarf.*
3. **Say:** When the song starts, wave your scarf around!
4. *Start the song.*
5. *Model motions and encourage kids as they move.*
6. **Say:** That verse tells us that God is great and He is real!
7. *Repeat the song having a kid lead the rest of the group with different motions to follow along to.*
8. **Ask:** Who shows us He is the one true God?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did a great job praising God with our memory verse! God is real, and He is worthy of all our praise.



WHO IS THE TRUE GOD?

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is real and He answered Elijah when Elijah prayed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will play a call-and-answer game to help us remember who the one true God is!
2. **Say:** When I ask a question, you shout the answer.
3. **Say:** Let's start!
 - **Say:** Who is the one true God?
 - **Say:** Did Baal answer?
 - **Say:** Did God answer Elijah?
4. *Repeat several rounds. Add the motions below.*
 - *Jump for "God!"*
 - *Shake head for "No!"*
 - *Clap for "Yes!"*
5. **Ask:** How do we know God is real?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You answered so well! God is the one true God, and just like He heard Elijah, He hears us too. We can always talk to God.



WE CAN TALK TO GOD

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, white paper cups (2 per kid), yarn, scissors (prep), paper clips (2 per kid), tape (optional)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the yarn into 24 inch pieces (1 per kid). Cut a hole in the bottom of both cups.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will make a prayer phone to remind us that God hears us anytime we talk to Him.
2. *Give each kid two precut cups and coloring supplies.*
3. **Say:** Color your cups, then I will help you connect them to make your phone.
4. *Walk around and help kids as needed.*
5. *When the kids are done, stick the string into the hole of each cup and tie a knot on the paper clips (or tape the string to the bottom of the cup).*
6. **Say:** You can talk to God anywhere, anytime. You can talk to God when you wake up in the morning, when you take a nap, before eating a snack and even at bedtime.
7. *Write each kid's name on their craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who heard Elijah when he prayed?
- Does God hear you when you talk to Him?
- When can you talk to God?
- What is something you want to tell God today?

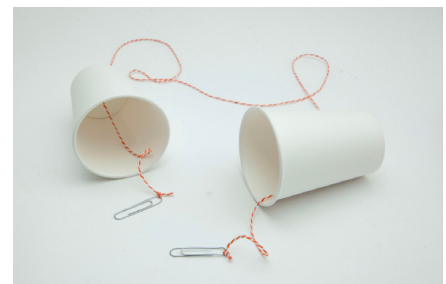


PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You that You hear us anytime we talk to You. Help us remember we can pray to You anywhere. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.





TALK TO GOD

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and place them on the floor in a simple trail around your space.

LEADER TIP: In a small space, place the picture cards in a circle and have kids point to them.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Partner kids who have mobility needs with a buddy to support them while walking, if needed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will walk along the trail and talk to God. Each picture will help us talk to God about something.
2. **Say:** When you step on a picture, say a short prayer, such as "Thank You, God, for (fill in)," "Help me with (fill in) God!" or "God, I love You!"
3. *Lead kids to walk along the trail one at a time or in small groups.*
4. *After they are done, gather them together for the discussion questions.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who heard Elijah when he prayed?
- Does God hear you when you talk to Him?
- When can you talk to God?
- What is something you want to tell God today?



PRAY TOGETHER:

God, thank You that we can talk to You anytime and anywhere. Thank You for hearing our prayers just like You heard Elijah. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Dramatic Play:** Set out items that you would see around a campfire, such as a foam blocks (stones), toy pots/watering cans, orange/yellow tissue paper (the fire), etc. Lead kids to play with the various items as they retell the Bible story.
- **Block Center:** Set out blocks and encourage kids to build and rebuild altars.
- **Modeling Dough Center:** Set out red, orange, yellow and blue modeling dough; rolling pins; and simple dough tools. Lead kids to form flames, raindrops and mountains.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: Elijah went to a big mountain called Mount Carmel. The people didn't know who the real God is. The prophets of Baal called and called to their pretend god, but nothing happened. Then it was Elijah's turn. He poured water all over the altar. When Elijah prayed, God sent real fire from heaven, and it burned up the altar and everything around it. Everyone saw that God is real and God is powerful. God is the one true God!



BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!