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# 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). The things that Ahab did made God angry. God wanted His people to be faithful to Him, but King Ahab led them away from God.

Enter Elijah the prophet. God was going to use someone to get Ahab’s attention, and He chose Elijah. 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 the false gods 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 to the people who the true God is. Elijah faced off against the prophets of Baal. Each group 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. Then Elijah poured water on and around his altar. He called to God, and God sent fire from heaven. Everything was burned up.

The prophets could not deny that the God of Elijah is the one true God. God sent a great rain, ending the drought in the land.

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, whose name means, “God (Yahweh) saves.”

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# Kids WORSHIP OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 18

**Big Picture Question:** Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.

**Key Passage:** 2 Kings 17:13-14

**Unit Christ Connection:** The prophets called God's people to repentance as Christ calls people to repentance. Sin continued to divide and ultimately destroy the Northern Kingdom, but Christ's perfect kingdom is forever.

## Kids Worship

Countdown

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

Key passage (5 minutes)

Timeline map (1 minute)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Group game (10 minutes)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Sing and offering (3–12 minutes)

Review (4 minutes)

Group demonstration (5 minutes)

Missions (6 minutes)

Announcements (2 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes)

Additional idea

# The BIBLE STORY

## Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab

*1 Kings 18*

**King Ahab was king over Israel. He was an evil king, leading the Israelites away from God. They worshiped Baal (BAY uhl), a false god, instead. The things King Ahab did made God angry, and God caused a drought.** The drought would show King Ahab and all the people that God—not Baal—is powerful and in control of all things.

A drought made life very hard. **No rain or dew fell in the land. Without rain, people could not grow crops in the fields. The lakes and rivers dried up.** Finally, after three years, God was ready to send rain.

**God used a prophet named Elijah to send a message to King Ahab.** When Ahab met Elijah, Ahab said, “Is that you, troubler of Israel?” King Ahab blamed Elijah for the drought and the hard times in the land.

**“You have caused this trouble by disobeying God and worshiping false gods,” Elijah replied. Then Elijah invited King Ahab, the Israelites, and all of the people who worshiped Baal to gather at Mount Carmel.**

Elijah stood in front of the crowd and said, “Make up your minds! If you believe the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.”

Elijah set up a challenge to show who the one true God is. The worshipers of Baal set up an altar for their false god. They prepared a bull and put it on their altar.

**“You call to Baal,” Elijah told the people, “and ask him to send fire to your altar. I will call on the Lord. The God who answers by fire is the one true God.”**

**The worshipers of Baal agreed. From morning until noon, they cried out to Baal. “Baal, answer us!” But no one answered.** The people danced and cried and cut their bodies. Still, no one answered.

**Elijah gathered the people around him. He dug a trench around his altar, prepared a bull, and put it on a pile of wood. Then Elijah asked for four jars of water to be poured on the wood. When the wood and the bull were wet, he asked for more water. A third time, water was poured over the altar, and it ran down and filled the trench.**

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**Then Elijah prayed to God, “Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that these people will know that You, Yahweh, are God.”**

**God answered Elijah. He sent fire from the sky, and the fire burned up the bull and the wood and the stones and the dust. It burned up the water that was in the trench.** There was no doubt that the Lord is the one true God.

**The men who had worshiped Baal fell on their faces and said, “Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!”** Then Elijah killed all the people who worshiped Baal.

Elijah saw a little cloud over the sea. **Then God sent rain. The sky grew dark with clouds, and there was a great rain. Yahweh ended the drought and proved that He is the one true God.**

*Christ Connection: Elijah called on the power of God to prove to the worshipers of Baal that Yahweh is the one true God. By sending fire from heaven, God displayed His great power. God would use His power years later to raise Jesus from the dead, showing that Jesus is the Son of God.*

# Kids Worship LEADER

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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

## Introduce the session (2 minutes)

• leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing a raincoat and/or carrying an umbrella.]*

**Leader** • Hey there, rafters! How's it going? Are you having a good morning? I sure hope so. Maybe you can cheer up ole' River-ridin Rick *[Ruby]*. I'm a little disappointed. You see, I was planning on taking a little rafting ride this morning down my favorite rapids, but it rained very hard last night! It rained so hard that the water in the river has risen, and I can't go down the rapids safely until the water levels go back down. I know that God gives us rain as a blessing from Him, but I'm still disappointed that I cannot go rafting.

Have you ever been disappointed because rain kept you from doing something you wanted to do, like swimming or hiking? I know I have! Even though rain can change our plans, we need rain to keep us and our world healthy.

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In our story today, a group of people really, really, really wanted it to rain. They were under a drought, which means it had not rained in a long, long time. Before we hear more, let's take a look at our key passage!

### Key passage (5 minutes)

- "Keep My Commands" song
- Key Passage Slide or Poster

Tip: You may want to pass out pieces of paper or index cards with the key passage written on them so kids can practice the passage at home.

**Leader** • Do you remember our key passage from last week? We have four more weeks to memorize it! Let's say it aloud together three times.

Read the passage aloud together three times. On the fourth time, you may encourage kids to cover their eyes and recite the passage from memory. Sing the key passage song.

**Leader** • Great job! When you go home, you may look up these verses and study them. You may even post them somewhere in your home where you will be able to see and read them, like on your bathroom mirror. If you practice saying your key passage at home, you will know it by heart in no time!

### Timeline map (1 minute)

- Timeline Map

**Leader** • Last week, we learned about the evil kings of Israel. After God split the nation of Israel into two kingdoms, the kings of Israel chose to disobey Him and worship idols, or fake gods. Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, and Omri all led the Israelites away from God. Omri's son Ahab was the most evil king of all. This week, we will see how God chose to show Ahab His mighty power.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**Leader** • Our big picture question is, *Who is the one true God?* Let's say it together! *Who is the one true God?* Great! Let's whisper it. *Who is the one true God?* Fantastic! Let's look for the answer in our story today.

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## Group game (10 minutes)

### Bring on the rain

- flat-topped umbrellas, 1 per team
- paper cup or plates, 1 per team

Form two or more teams. If you have enough supplies, allow all of the kids to play by assigning each adult helper a team to supervise. Instruct teams to line up. Explain what path each team member must travel while balancing a paper cup on top of an open umbrella above his head. If the paper cup slides off the umbrella, he may pause and place it back on top before continuing down the path. Provide teams ample room to play so umbrellas won't touch in passing.

**Leader** •Great job! You did a great job walking carefully with your umbrellas. I can tell you have probably been in a rainstorm before and used an umbrella to protect yourself from the rain.

Rainstorms are an awesome display of God's power. Have you ever watched lightning strike across the sky, or listened to deep rolls of thunder? God can use rainstorms to show us how mighty and strong He is. Let's open our Bibles and read about how God used a rainstorm and some fire to show the Israelites who is the one true God.

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- "Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab" video (optional)
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18. Tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or watch the Bible story video "Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab."

**Leader** •What an incredible story! Our God is very powerful. He kept it from raining in Israel for three years. Three whole years! That might sound kind of nice—no rained-out swim parties or ruined rafting trips. Even though the drought may sound nice at first, plants cannot grow without rain. Without plants like wheat and barley, the Israelites could not get the food they needed. They could not make bread. They couldn't swim because

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the water in the creeks and rivers dried up. King Ahab believed the drought was Elijah's fault, but the real reason that God sent a drought was because King Ahab had sinned. King Ahab led the Israelites to worship false gods. Elijah challenged the false gods Ahab worshiped because Elijah knew God would win.

Our God, Yahweh, showed everyone at Mount Carmel that He is the one true God when He sent fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice, the altar, the stones, the water in the trench, and even the dust. God then showed His power when He sent rain to the land of Israel. Hey, does that remind you of our big picture question? ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*** Let's say it together! ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*** God showed Ahab and the Israelites how powerful He is.

This is not the last time that we will see God display His might and power. In the New Testament, God used His power to raise Jesus from the dead and show that Jesus is the Son of God. God sent His Son to earth to save us from all our sins.

## **The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)**

**Leader** • The people of Israel witnessed God's amazing power over the false god Baal. Throughout the Bible, God showed His people just how powerful, holy, awesome, and wonderful He is. But do you know how God chose to ultimately show how amazing He is? By sending His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

Use your Bible and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Encourage kids to ask their parents or other adults any questions they have about becoming a Christian. Anytime you share how to become a Christian in



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a large group environment, try to have counselors available to meet one-on-one with kids. Make sure kids know who they can talk to and when they can talk.

• “Running” song and other songs of your choice

## **Sing and offering (3–12 minutes)**

**Leader** • Like the Israelites, we all choose to disobey God sometimes. Even though you and I may not worship fake gods like Baal, we still sin, and we still need God’s forgiveness. Isn’t it wonderful that God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins? Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are forgiven! That’s wonderful news! Let’s sing and praise God for His love and forgiveness.

Sing “Running.” Choose other songs as time allows. You may choose to collect an offering during this time.

Song suggestions:

- “Running” (unit theme song)
- “Nothing Is Impossible”
- “10,000 Reasons”
- “Amazing Grace”
- “95”

## **Review (4 minutes)**

Invite the kids to answer the following questions:

1. What false god did King Ahab and the Israelites worship? (*Baal, 1 Kings 18:18*)
2. Because King Ahab disobeyed God, what did God send to Israel? (*a drought, 1 Kings 17:1*)
3. Who did God send as a messenger to King Ahab? (*Elijah, 1 Kings 18:1*)
4. What contest between Baal and Yahweh did Elijah suggest? (*The prophets of Baal would offer a sacrifice to their god, and Elijah would offer*

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*a sacrifice to Yahweh. The god who sent fire to consume the sacrifice would be the one true God; 1 Kings 18:23-24)*

5. Where did this contest take place? (*Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:19*)
6. ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***
7. How did God use His power to show that Jesus is the Son of God? (*God used His power to raise Jesus from the dead, showing that Jesus is the Son of God.*)

## **Group demonstration (5 minutes)**

- graham crackers, 1 per kid
- caramel squares, 2-4 per kid
- red string licorice, 1 strip per kid
- paper plates or napkins
- ziplock bags, 1 per kid (optional)
- Allergy Alert

**Leader** • Let's make some altars to remember how God showed His power to King Ahab and the Israelites. We are going to use caramel candies as the stones of our altars to help you remember the name of the mountain where this contest took place—Mount Carmel! Let's say the big picture question and answer together. ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

Give each kid a graham cracker, 2-4 caramels, and a piece of licorice. Guide kids to arrange caramels on top of the graham crackers to represent altar stones, and then guide them to position licorice on top of the caramels to represent fire. Kids may eat the snack, or you may provide ziplock bags for them to take their "altars" home.

## **Missions (6 minutes)**

**Leader** • Can you say our big picture question and answer? ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*** Wonderful! Many people do not know that Yahweh is the one true God. Some do not even have Bibles to read about Him. We can pray that these people will learn about

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Yahweh, the one true God.

Read the following missions story, “Is That God?”

**Leader** • Bill, a member of a church in Orlando, Florida, went to Madagascar and worked with Jeremy, a missionary. They headed out to a village in the countryside; they drove part of the way, and then they had to park and walk for an hour. They found the village and two teenage boys. Within minutes, 10 more people appeared. Older women brought mats for Bill and Jeremy so they could sit on the ground and visit with the people.

Twenty more people showed up. They were from the Antemoro people group who live off the land—caring for fruit trees, coffee, rice fields, cattle, pigs, chickens, and so forth. When they need water, they simply dig a well. None of the Antemoro children go to school.

Jeremy asked, “Do you worship God or have a church?” They said no. When asked if they had heard of Jesus, one asked, “Is that God?” One man in the group could read, so Jeremy and Bill gave him a Bible written in a language that he could understand. Please pray for the man to understand the Bible when he reads it and to share what he learns with everyone in his village. Pray that they will soon learn for themselves that yes, Jesus is God!

## **Announcements (2 minutes)**

**Leader** • You know, I think I’ll go check on those rapids. Maybe the water level has gone down and I can go rafting! Before we say goodbye for today, River-ridin’ Rick [*Ruby*] has a few announcements. Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry.

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## Prayer (2 minutes)

**Leader** • I am so glad we got to talk about God's power today. He sure did show King Ahab that He is the one true God! Let's say the big picture question and answer together one last time. *Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*

Close in prayer.

## Dismiss

### Additional idea

#### Fire challenge

- lunch-size bags, 1 per kid
- scissors, 1 pair per 2 or 3 kids
- red, yellow, and orange crayons or markers
- straws (optional)

Distribute a lunch bag to each kid. Invite kids to cut out a zigzag line across the open end of their bags to create flames. Older kids may choose to create more of a flame-like pattern. Adult leaders may assist younger kids with cutting. Then ask kids to color their bags to resemble fire.

Once the kids have finished creating their "flames," guide them to line up on one side of the room. Kids may open their bags and place them on the floor. Invite kids to blow their bag across the floor to the other side of the room. You may opt to challenge kids to use straws to blow the paper bags. Kids may not use their hands to assist them as they cross the room, except to pick up a bag that may have fallen over. The first kid who reaches the opposite side of the room wins.

**Leader** • These bags represent the powerful fire God sent to burn the offering on Mount Carmel. Can you imagine waiting with the Israelites as the false prophets of Baal offered their sacrifice? They waited a long time for nothing! The prophets of Baal even cut their bodies to try to make Baal answer them. Still, nothing happened!

Can you imagine what the people must have thought

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when Elijah poured water on the altar? Wet wood doesn't burn, and Elijah poured water on the altar four times! The Israelites and the prophets of Baal probably thought he was crazy, but Elijah knew what he was doing. Even though Elijah poured water on the altar to make it more difficult to burn, God burned it anyway—just like Elijah knew He would. God listened to Elijah and answered his prayers. God showed the people the answer to our big picture question. ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

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## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

The background of the poster features a scenic view of a river with white-water rapids. In the lower-left corner, a group of people are seen rafting down the river in yellow inflatable rafts. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and rocky banks. The sky above is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid on this background, with the main passage in large, bold, red letters with a white outline.

**The LORD testified against Israel  
and against Judah, by all of His  
prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn  
from your evil ways, and keep My  
commandments and My statutes,  
according to all the law which I  
commanded your fathers, and which  
I sent to you by My servants the  
prophets.” Nevertheless  
they would not hear.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

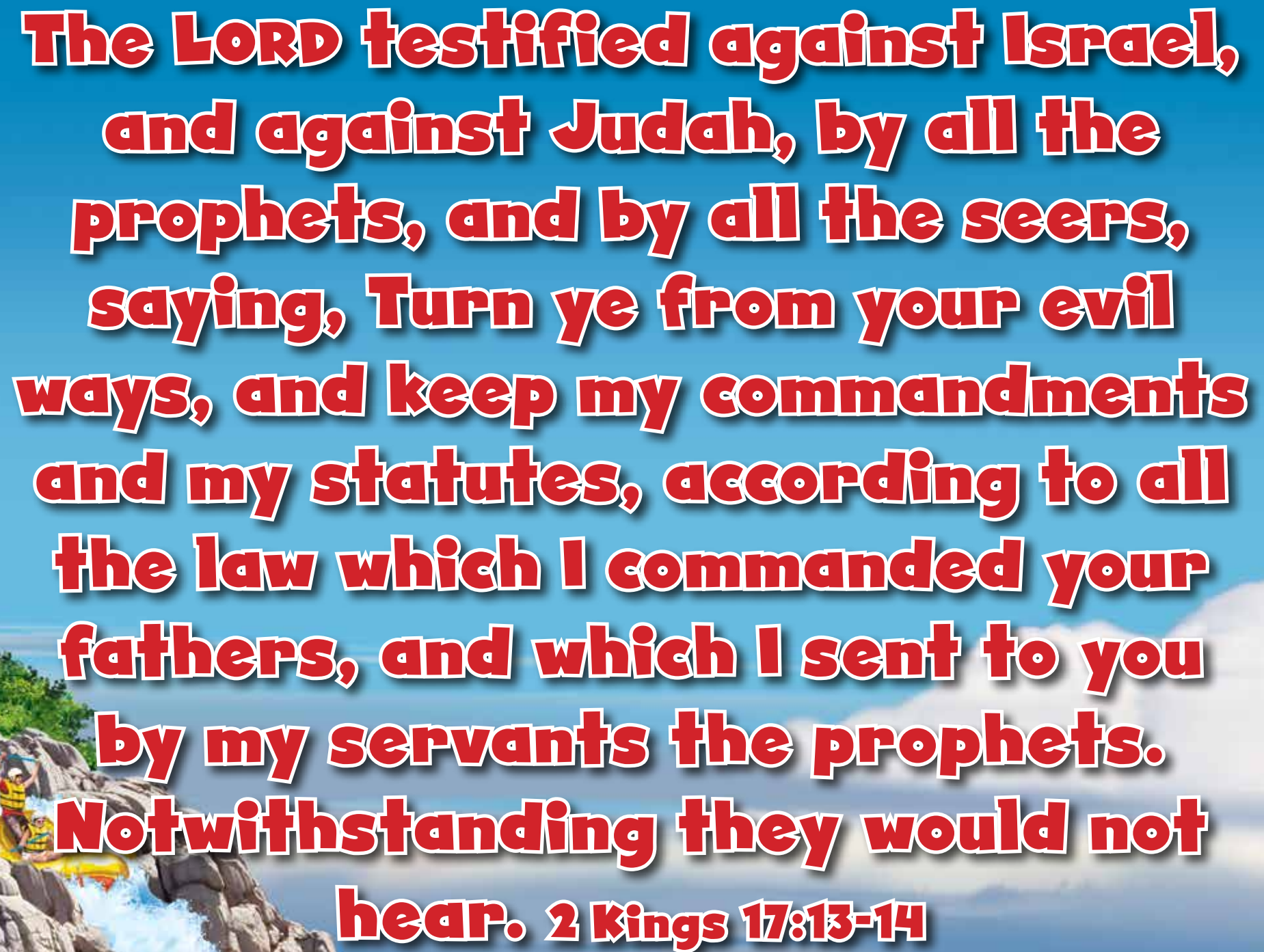




**The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**





**The LORD testified against Israel,  
and against Judah, by all the  
prophets, and by all the seers,  
saying, Turn ye from your evil  
ways, and keep my commandments  
and my statutes, according to all  
the law which I commanded your  
fathers, and which I sent to you  
by my servants the prophets.  
Notwithstanding they would not  
hear. 2 Kings 17:13-14**

**The LORD warned Israel and Judah through every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep My commands and statutes according to all the law I commanded your ancestors and sent to you through My servants the prophets.” But they would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**



**The LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

# Who is the one true God?

## Yahweh is the one true God.







# ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/  
touching/sniffing:

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**Please notify the leader  
if your child should not  
participate.**

**Instructions:** Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.