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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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# Preschool 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.

## **Large Group Worship**

(15–20 minutes)

## **Small Group Activities**

(25–30 minutes)

## **Large Group Closing**

(10+ minutes)

# The BIBLE STORY

## Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab

*1 Kings 18*

**King Ahab was the king in Israel. He was a bad king. King Ahab did not worship God; he worshiped a false god named Baal (BAY uhl). King Ahab caused the Israelites to disobey God too. God was not happy with King Ahab. God caused a drought. During a drought, there is no rain for a long time. God wanted Ahab to learn that Baal had no power. Only God—the Creator of all things—is powerful and in control of all things.**

**When there was no rain, life was very hard for the people. People could not grow food in the fields. The lakes and rivers dried up. No rain fell from the sky for three years. Then one day, God was ready to send rain.**

First, **God sent a man named Elijah to talk to King Ahab.** When King Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said, “Is that you, troubler of Israel?” King Ahab thought it was Elijah’s fault that there was no rain. But it was not Elijah’s fault. God was not angry with Elijah; He was angry with King Ahab.

**“You have made trouble for Israel because you do not obey God, and you worship false gods,” Elijah said.**

**Elijah told King Ahab, the Israelites, and all of the people who worshiped Baal to meet him at Mount Carmel.**

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

Elijah wanted the people to see who the one true God is. **Elijah set up a contest to show who the one true God is. The worshipers of Baal made an altar for their false god. They put a bull on their altar. Elijah told them what to do.**

**“You call to Baal,” Elijah said to them, “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.”**

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

**It was Elijah’s turn. He dug a ditch around his altar and put a bull on a pile of wood. Then Elijah asked for four jars of water. Each jar was poured on the wood. One, two, three, four. The altar was very wet. Elijah asked for more water. Water was poured on Elijah’s altar three times. The water ran down the altar and filled the ditch.**

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

**God answered Elijah. God sent fire from the sky! The fire burned up the bull and the wood and the stones and the dust! It burned up the water that was in the ditch. God showed everyone that He is the one true God.**

**The men who were watching fell to the ground. They said, “Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!” Then all the people who had worshiped the false god Baal died.**

**Soon the sky grew dark with clouds, and God sent rain. God ended the drought and proved that He is the one true God.**

*Christ Connection: God sent fire from heaven. The people who did not worship God saw the fire and knew that God is powerful. One day, God would use His power to raise Jesus from the dead.*

# Large Group WORSHIP

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- Play "Mighty to Save" in the background as you welcome incoming preschoolers. Follow your church's security procedures.

- "I Can Say Hello" song

## Large Group Worship (15–20 minutes)

Play the song "Mighty to Save" as children join the large group. Greet each child by name and help kids find seats.

### Welcome and sing

With a welcoming smile, sing "I Can Say Hello."

**Say** • What is your favorite type of weather?

Encourage everyone to share an answer. Then mention that in today's Bible story we will hear about a time when God stopped the rain for three years.

### Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Open a Bible to Matthew 1.

**Say** • The Bible is divided into two parts; the Old

Testament and the New Testament. We read many stories about Jesus in the New Testament. [*Turn to 1 Kings.*] Two books in the Old Testament are named Kings. Our Bible story today is in 1 Kings. [*Turn to 2 Kings and display the key passage poster.*] These words are found in the other book of Kings, called 2 Kings.

Read the key passage aloud, and sing "God's Perfect Words" together.

- Bible
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "God's Perfect Words" song

- Timeline Map
- “Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab” video (optional)
- Bible

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Show the timeline. Remind kids that last session’s Bible story told about some evil kings. Today’s Bible story tells more about one of those kings, Ahab, and how he learned that Yahweh is the one true God.

Watch the video or hold the Bible open to 1 Kings 18 as you tell the Bible story in your own way.

## Review the Bible story

**Say** • *Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*

Remind kids of two ways God showed the people His power—God sent fire to burn up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust; later, God sent rain.

Make the sounds of a rainstorm. Begin by everyone rubbing their hands together. Then, snap fingers, change to hands slapping thighs, and end with slapping thighs while stomping feet. Reverse the actions to end the rainstorm.

## Worship by singing and praying

Sing the song “My God Is So Big.” Mention the Christ connection as follows.

**Say** • God showed His great power by sending the fire and the rain. God also used His power years later to raise Jesus from the dead.

Pray, thanking God that He is so big, so strong, and so mighty and that He raised His Son, Jesus, from the dead.

Collect an offering as you play “Mighty to Save.” Tell kids to listen for the words “He can move the mountains.” God is powerful!

## Transition to small groups

Describe the small group activities and guide each child to the activity of his choice.

- “My God Is So Big” song
- “Mighty to Save” song
- offering basket
- countdown video (optional)  
Tip: Do activities one of these ways:
  - as a group, all at the same time
  - in small groups that rotate through each activity
  - set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Tip: Select from the activities those you can staff and which your class will enjoy.



- "My God Is So Big" song

Note: Look online for a video of the sign.

- brown heavyweight paper
- washable markers
- stickers
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors

## Small Group Activities (25–30 minutes)

### Sing "My God Is So Big"

Sing "My God Is So Big" using motions on the video. If you are not using the video, make "mountains" by touching palms above the head. Teach the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for *mighty/strong*: make fists, bend elbows, and bounce hands forward. Shoulders and head should be tall and strong, with lips pursed, looking tough.



**Say** • Who won the contest, God or Baal? God won. He is strong and mighty. He won the contest in such an awesome way that everybody knew God is the greatest.

### Make name plaques

Use brown paper to resemble wood. Cut cards and print each child's name on a card. Provide stickers and markers to decorate the name plaques. Punch holes to hang the plaques with yarn.

**Say** • In the contest between the prophets of a false god and Elijah, the prophet of the one true God, what name did the prophets of the false god call for help? (*Baal*) What

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name did Elijah call for help? (*God, Yahweh*)

***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

### **Play name games**

- cards cut from colored construction paper
- markers
- music
- paper bag

Let each child choose a colored card; print his name in large letters on the card. Place all cards in a bag. Draw a name from the bag and describe the child for the others to guess who it is. Include a card with *Jesus* on it.

Use these cards to play musical chairs, providing a chair for each child. Place each name card on a chair. Play music as kids walk around the chairs. When you stop the music, each kid must find his name card and sit in that chair. To play another round, do not remove a chair, but shuffle the cards and place them in different chairs.

**Say** • What is another name for God? (*Yahweh*) ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

### **“Build an altar” relay**

- blocks or boxes, 12

Form two teams to build “altars.” Place blocks or boxes at the beginning line and help kids one at a time carry a block to stack in a pile. Count each block. Cheer for every effort. No losers! Play again, trying to build faster each time.

**Say** • The number 12 is used often in the Bible. Elijah built his altar using 12 stones—one for each tribe of Israel.

### **Discover whose name?**

- white paper
- white crayon (not washable)
- finger paint, watercolors, or markers
- paint brushes or small sponges

Print *Jesus* in white crayon on white paper. Guide kids to color on paper with watercolors, finger paints, or markers to discover the hidden name. Use large brushes or small sponges to apply paint to the page.

**Say** • ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

- countdown video (optional)

### **Transition to large group closing**



# Large Group CLOSING

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## Large Group Closing (10+ minutes)

- strips of paper
- paper cups, blocks, toy logs or bricks, or smooth rocks
- marker
- tape

- review questions on hidden items
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Before kids arrive, prepare review questions, one per strip. Attach each strip to a paper cup, block, smooth rock, or construction toy log or brick. Hide the items in the room.

### Review the Bible story

As kids locate the hidden items, invite them to pantomime building the altar with rocks, laying wood on the altar, and pouring water over the sacrifice. Read each question aloud. Help kids recall whose name is powerful to save. (*Jesus*)

- What had the people not seen for three years? (*rain*)
- What did Elijah pour over the altar? (*water*)
- How did God show His power? (*He sent fire from the sky.*)
- *Who is the one, true God? Yahweh is the one true God.*

### Worship by Praying and Singing

- "My God Is So Big" song
- "Whose Side Are You Leaning On?" song

**Pray** • Thank You, God, that You are so powerful that You sent fire from the sky. Thank You, God, that You are so powerful that You raised Your Son, Jesus, from the dead. Sing "My God is So Big."

For fun, sing "Whose Side Are You Leaning On?"

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**Missions story:** God still shows His power

When Vimal was young, he could not walk. His parents tried everything. They took him to doctors. They took him to Hindu priests. They took him to Muslim and Buddhist religious leaders. No one could help Vimal.

When Vimal was 10 years old, a Christian came to his town in South Asia to tell people about Jesus. He prayed for God to heal Vimal's leg. The next day people noticed the cast on Vimal's leg was cracked. When they took off the cast, Vimal could walk for the first time. God had healed Vimal's leg.

The Hindu leaders were angry. They told the Christian to leave town. They threatened to hurt Vimal and his brothers if they told anyone what God had done. Vimal's father was scared. He only allowed Vimal to go to church at Christmas.

Ten years later, college students from America told everyone in Vimal's family about Jesus. The family destroyed their idols (statues of false gods like Baal). They were glad that Jesus' name was powerful to save them. They started a church in their home. Now they tell everyone about Jesus.

Pray, thanking God that He shows His power and His love. Thank Him for healing Vimal.

### **Play "Name That Kid"**

Sit in a circle. Give clues describing one of them, such as clothing, hair color, or anything positive you observe. Invite everyone to "Name That Kid." When they guess correctly, encourage everyone to change places, then play again. Invite volunteers to take turns giving clues as time allows.

- Follow church security rules for dismissing children.

**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah ... “Turn from  
your evil ways and keep  
My commands.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

**The LORD testified  
against Israel, and against  
Judah, ... Turn ye from  
your evil ways, and keep  
my commandments. ...  
Notwithstanding they  
would not hear.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah, ... “Turn from  
your evil ways and keep my  
commandments.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**





**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah ... : “Turn from  
your evil ways. Observe  
my commands.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**



**The LORD testified  
against Israel and against  
Judah, ... “Turn from  
your evil ways, and keep  
My commandments.” ...  
Nevertheless they would not  
hear.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

# Who is the one true God?

## Yahweh is the one true God.





