
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.”

Preschool BIBLE STUDY 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.

Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

Snack and Transition

(20 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.”

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.

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab

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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.

- "Mighty to Save" song
- offering basket
- puzzles and blocks
- Allergy Alert

Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)

Play "Mighty to Save" in the background. Set an offering basket near the door. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity Page: Find the Names

Read 1 Kings 18:36-38 aloud and with great expression; it is a dramatic scene. Help kids find names of God on the activity page. (*God, Lord, Yahweh*) Talk about colors seen in flames. (*yellow, orange, red, blue*)

You may want to help older kids recall other times that God showed Himself in fire. He led the Israelites for 40 years in a pillar of fire. (See Exodus 13:21-22.) He came down on Mount Sinai in fire when He gave the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 19:18.) Fire fell on the sacrifices at the dedication of Solomon's temple. (See 2 Chronicles 7:1.)

Say • Elijah called to God, and fire fell on the altar. Draw flames of fire around names of God, or circle them with flame colors.



- "Find the Names" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

- large sheet of paper
- tape
- marker
- orange, red, yellow, blue tissue paper
- glue sticks

Glue a fire mural

Tape a sheet of paper to the wall within reach of your preschoolers. Draw an altar made of 12 stones (one for each tribe of Israel, 1 Kings 18:31). Provide orange, red, yellow, and blue tissue paper for kids to tear into “flames” and glue to the paper, making a “fire” on the altar.

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

Practice for the Bible story

Practice saying two lines in the Bible story. As the “prophets of Baal,” kids pretend to look at the sky and call out together: “Answer us, Baal.” As Elijah, kids may bow down as they say “Answer me, God.” Practice this before you tell story. Signal for each answer.

Say • Baal was an idol, a thing people made. It couldn’t hear and answer. *Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.* Whose prayers were answered? (*Elijah’s prayers*) Then all the people who watched said, “Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!”

Transition to Bible study

- countdown video

Transition cue: Ring the bell, show the countdown video, flip the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for children to copy to gain attention. Another way to gain attention is to ask the big picture question and guide kids to respond with the answer.

Large Group BIBLE STUDY

Session Title: Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab

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Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

Introduce the Bible story

Add “flames” to the fire mural kids began in the welcome time. Listen to “God’s Perfect Words” as kids add flames.

Say • Sometimes God showed His power, and sometimes He sent prophets to give messages to His people. God wanted people to know He is the one true God. [*Read the key passage.*] Elijah was one of the prophets whom people didn’t listen to. But in today’s Bible story God showed His power in an amazing way.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Point to the Bible story in your Bible. Point to Bible stories on the timeline beginning with “Solomon Asked for Wisdom.”

Say • In this book of the Bible, we have heard Bible stories about King Solomon, a bunch of evil kings and a few good ones, and an especially bad king named King Ahab. Can you guess the name of this Bible book? [*Take guesses.*] This book is called 1 Kings! It is about kings and the prophets God sent to them.

- fire mural
- tissue paper or sticky notes
- glue sticks
- “God’s Perfect Words” song
- Key Passage Slide or Poster

- “Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab” video
- Bible
- Timeline Map

Watch the Bible story “Elijah Confronted Evil King Ahab,” or tell it with your Bible open.

• Big Picture Question
Slide or Poster

Talk about the Bible story

Say • God sent a drought to the land. No rain fell for three years. Why were people miserable? (*poor crops, no food*)

Why did God send the drought? (*The people were worshiping idols.*)

Elijah suggested a contest to prove who was the one true God—the false god Baal or Yahweh. The prophets of Baal would put a sacrifice on their altar. Elijah would put a sacrifice on his altar. What would the true God do? (*send fire to burn the sacrifice*)

Which god wasn’t real and could not win the contest—Baal or Yahweh? (*Baal*)

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

God sent fire from heaven. The people who did not worship God saw the fire and knew that God is powerful. God showed His power many more times. One day, God would use His power to raise Jesus from the dead.

Transition to small groups

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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Small Group Activities (20–25 minutes)

Play name games

Game 1: Point to a child and say this rhyme:

“Say your name and wave.

Now say the name that is able to save.” (*Jesus!*)

Game 2: Make the initial of each kid's first name using one or more preschoolers to do it. Begin with *Y* for *Yahweh*.

Each person can make a *Y* by standing straight with arms up, or three kids can make a *Y* by lying on the floor in a *Y* shape.

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

Move water

Place a towel under two dishpans. Fill one dishpan with a couple of inches of water and drop two or three sponges in it. Challenge kids to fill sponges with water from the first dishpan and squeeze it out into the second. Talk about fire and whether it could burn up the water. What would water do to fire? Guide kids to help tell this part of the story.

Say • Elijah dug a trench around the altar that held four



- dishpans, 2
- sponges
- towels
- water

gallons of water. He told people at the contest to pour 12 water pots full of water on the whole thing, and the water filled the trench. Everything was wet. What amazing thing happened? (*God sent fire from heaven, and everything burned up.*) Who could send fire from heaven? (*God*) ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

Glue seeds

- construction paper
- marker
- sunflower seeds or popcorn kernels
- glue
- paper plate
- cotton swabs

Print *Jesus, Yahweh, God*, or *Lord* in large letters on a page for each kid. Kids may glue large seeds, like sunflower seeds or popcorn kernels, along the lines of the letters. Pour glue on a plate; give kids cotton swabs to spread the glue on the lines. If you use *Lord*, talk about what *Lord* means.

Say • *Lord* is a name used for someone who has power and authority over others. People serve and obey him because of who he is. Who is the Lord of everything and everybody? (*God!*)

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

Decide impossible or possible

- masking tape
- hula hoop (optional)

Tape a square on the floor or use a hula hoop. Name different tasks. If a child thinks a task is possible, he should jump into or out of the square or hoop. If the task is impossible, he should jump twice in place. Begin with tasks like these: lift a house, lift a block, jump over the church, jump over a taped line, eat a salad, eat a big rock. Conclude: Was it possible for Baal to hear and answer prayer? (*no*) Is it possible for God to hear and answer prayer? (*yes*)

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

Go around and around

Guide kids to walk in a circle using different types of motions you call out: walk fast, slowly, lightly, heavily; stomp; toddle like a baby. Let them make up other ways to walk.

Say • The prophets of Baal walked around their altar calling to him, crying out, and dancing. Do you think Baal heard them? Why not? (*Baal wasn't real. He wasn't God.*)

Talk about anger

Say • Does anything make you angry? [*Listen to responses, if any.*] If you told the truth and people didn't believe you, would you be angry? Do you think God is ever angry? God told people the truth about the world and about Himself. Some people don't listen. They decide not to believe the truth. Some people pretend to love God but don't act like it. These things make God angry.

God is our Creator. He shows His power. He gives us what we need. He deserves all our thanks. God deserves ALL the glory. He will not share His glory with anyone or anything else. He protects His name. When people worship idols or anything else that isn't God, God is angry. (Isaiah 42:8) ***Who is the one true God? Yahweh is the one true God.***

Note: If it seems that the prophets are filled with God's anger and punishment and that doesn't fit with a good and loving God, reread Romans 1. Omit this activity if kids don't worry about making God angry.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins
- pretzel sticks

Snack and Transition (20 minutes)

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities time and gather for snack time. Take a bathroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack; remind kids during snack time to say please and thank you. Thank God for the snack.

Consider serving pretzel sticks. Give each child a handful and suggest that he arrange them like logs on a fire before eating them one by one. Ask who built a fire in today's Bible story. (*the prophets of Baal, whose wood didn't burn; Elijah, whose wood burned with fire from heaven*)

Transition

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books, puzzles, and play dough
- crayons

When a child finishes her snack and throws away the trash, she may select a puzzle or book to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring picture. Offer the journal page for drawing something related to the Bible story.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session, such as "Emma helped clean up after snack today." If new teachers are arriving, quietly share useful information about the kids who are present.

Israel, the Northern Kingdom

Key Passage: 2 Kings 17:13-14

Session 1: Israel's History of Evil Kings
1 Kings 16

Session 2: Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab
1 Kings 18

Session 3: Elijah Ran from Jezebel
1 Kings 19

Session 4: Elisha and Naaman
2 Kings 5

Session 5: The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed
2 Kings 17:1-23



**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

Find the Names

Instructions: Read 1 Kings 18:36-38 aloud. Help kids find names of God on the page. (God, Lord, Yahweh) Draw flames of fire around those names, or circle them with flame colors.

Daniel

Noah

Lord

God



Mia

Sophia

Ethan



Emma



Yahweh

Ava

Jacob

Michael



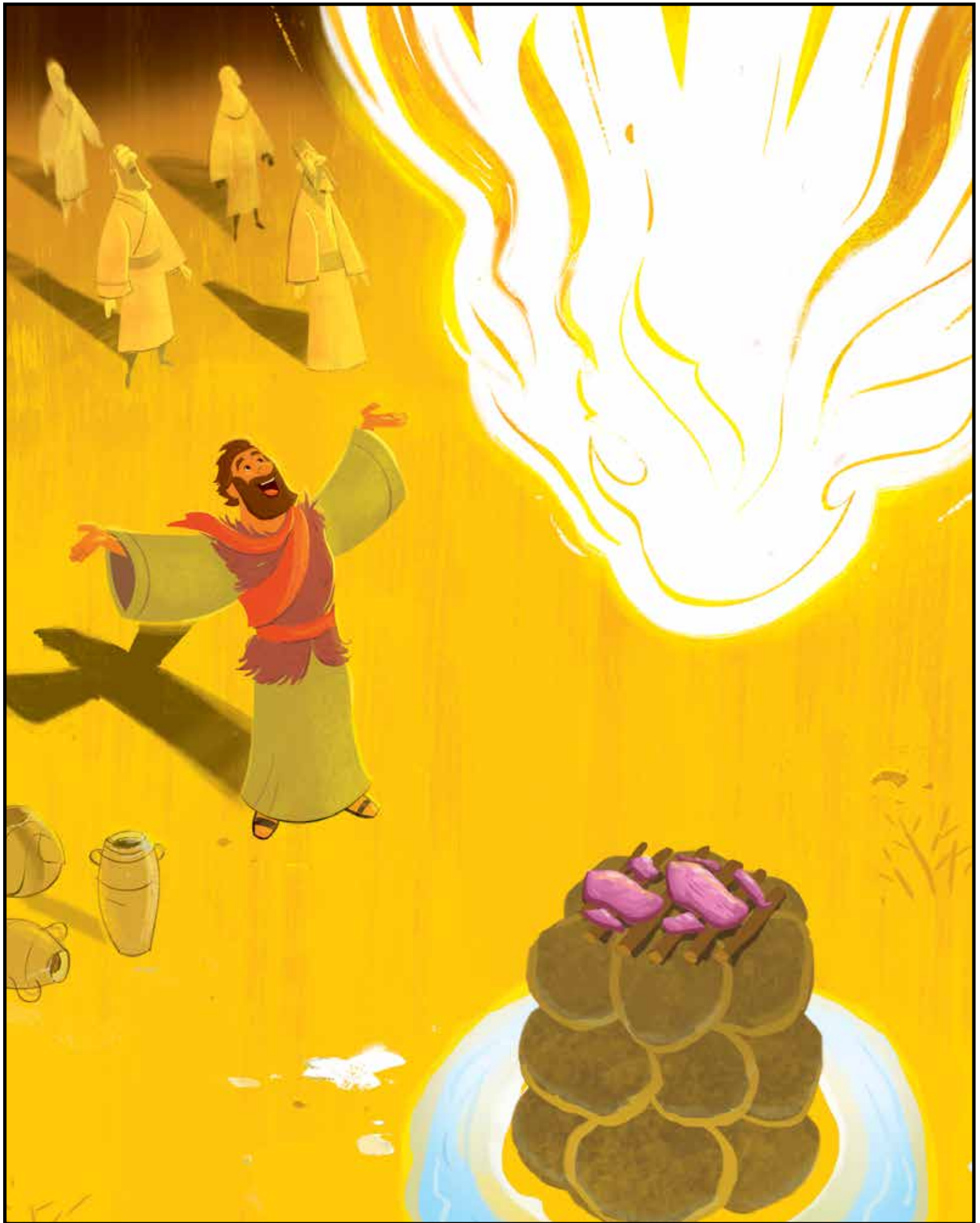
Olivia



Who is the one true God?

Yahweh is the one true God.





Today your child will be
tasting/touching/sniffing

Please notify a teacher if
your child should not
participate in this activity.



Instructions: Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.