

SUNDAY SERVICE PRETEENS



8:30 10:30	TEAM HUDDLE: Announcements, prayer, and service overview in the Explorers Room.
8:45 10:45	CHECK-IN: Welcome kids by name and invite them to join you at an activity. Let them choose a green or purple lanyard.
9:05 11:05	WELCOME & WORSHIP: Join the kids as you sing, dance, and model a heart of worship.
9:15 11:15	DISMISS PRETEENS: One leader is at the front of the line, the other at the back of the line as you go upstairs to your class.
9:20 11:20	CONNECT ACTIVITY: Introduce the topic we are learning this week.
9:25 11:25	BIBLE LESSON: Teach the Bible story and have the kids look up verses with you.
9:45 11:45	SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY 1: Half the group do one activity & half will do the other activity.
9:55 11:55	SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY 2: Have the groups switch activities.
10:05 12:05	CHECK-OUT: Invite kids to choose an activity while they're waiting to be checked out.

PRETEENS



October 4

4-6TH

Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:16-39

Key Verse: "Do not put any other gods in place of me."
Exodus 20:3 (NIV)

Big Idea: The Lord is the one and only God, so we can put Him first in our life.

CONNECT ACTIVITY

Hello everybody! I'm so glad you're here for the start of a fun new series called "The Fab Five"! For the next five weeks, we're going on a totally true comic book adventure through the Bible.

One of the things I love most about comic book heroes is their superpowers. Have you ever wished you could have a superpower? (Kids respond.) I have too!

Tell a personal story about a superpower you wished for as a kid and what you would have done with it. Ask the kids what kind of superpower they would like to have.

Wow — those are some super-sweet superpowers! The five prophets from “The Fab Five” didn’t have the power to fly or to (insert superpower suggestions from kids), but they had something way better! The prophets in the Bible had the power to see the future.

God would show the prophets what was going to happen and then they would tell the people about it. They would tell people about the bad things that were going to happen if they didn’t follow God and they would tell about the Savior who was coming to take away their sins.

Today, we’re going to look at the first of “The Fab Five” prophets and see how God’s power helped him stand up to a bunch of fakers and phonies.

PRETEENS



October 4

4-6TH

BIBLE LESSON

For the next five weeks, we're going on a totally true comic book adventure to learn about five fabulous prophets from the Old Testament.

And here's the best part — YOU get to draw the comics yourself! (Pause.) I was expecting more applause! Maybe you didn't hear me — I said, "YOU get to draw the comics yourself!" (Prompt kids in exaggerated applause.) That's better!

Give each kid some markers and a copy of the "Comic Sheet: Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal." The comic sheet will include panels with background scenery, but the primary drawings are missing. Read the story slowly and, when indicated, encourage the kids to draw the missing pictures.

Many years after King Solomon died, the 10 northern tribes of Israel were ruled by an evil king named Ahab. King Ahab had turned away from the one and only God and worshipped a fake god named Baal. Even worse, he had led the people of Israel to do the same. But not everyone worshipped Baal. There was a prophet named Elijah who stayed faithful to the one and only God.

(Tell kids to draw a picture of Elijah in panel #1.) One day Elijah told King Ahab to gather the people of Israel and the prophets of Baal together on a mountain top. These prophets weren't like Elijah, though, they were a bunch of phonies who worshipped a fake god — and Elijah was going to prove it! When the phony prophets finally showed up, there were 450 of them in all.

Read 1 Kings 18:22-24. (As you're reading tell kids to draw a bull on the altar in panel #2.) "Then Elijah said to them, 'I'm the only one of the Lord's prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the Lord. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God.'"

The prophets of Baal were so foolish — they actually thought their fake god could send fire down from heaven. So they said, "Okay — you've got a deal!" Just as Elijah instructed, the phony prophets put a bull on their altar and began praying out loud to Baal. They prayed from breakfast until lunch time, but guess what happened? Nothing — absolutely nothing!

So Elijah began to tease them. "'Shout louder!' he said. 'I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up.'" (1 Kings 18:27) So the phony prophets yelled louder and louder all the way

until dinner time, but guess what happened? Nothing — absolutely nothing!

Then Elijah said, “Step aside you phonies — let me show you how it’s done!” He picked up 12 big stones — one for each tribe of Israel — and he built an altar to the Lord with them. Then he put the bull on the altar. Then he dug a ditch around the altar. Then he told the phony prophets to pour water all over the bull. When they finished, the bull was soaking wet. In fact, there was so much water that it filled the ditch. (Tell the kids to draw water all over the bull and the altar and in a ditch in panel #3.)

Read 1 Kings 18:36-37. “When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He prayed, ‘Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I’m your servant. Let them know I’ve done all these things because you commanded me to. Answer me. Lord, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They’ll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again.’”

Instantly, God sent fire down from the sky. (Tell kids to draw fire coming down from the sky in panel #3.) The fire burned up everything: the bull, the wood, the stones, the soil and every drop of water. When the people saw what had happened, they fell to the ground & cried out “The Lord is the one & only God!”

THE ONE AND ONLY GOD

In our story for today, Elijah came up with some pretty funny reasons why Baal might not be sending fire down from heaven. Who remembers what some of those reasons were? (Answers include: too much to think about, on the toilet, away on a trip, and sleeping.)

Elijah was just kidding, though. He knew there was only one reason that Baal couldn't send fire down. What was it? (Take answer.) That's right — Baal wasn't real. And when the people saw what happened with the fire, they realized they had been worshipping a fake god and cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God!"

You know what? In the end, the people were right. The Lord is the one and only God! And although some people might say that Allah is God, or that Vishnu is God, or that we are all God, the Bible says that the Lord is the one and only God.

We can learn from the Israelites' mistake — we shouldn't put any fake gods in place of the one and only God. In fact, that's what our Bible verse for today says. Let's take a look.

(Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 20:3. Be prepared to give younger kids more time and assistance in finding the verse. When ready, choose a kid to read the verse aloud or read it aloud yourself as the kids follow along.) "Do not put any other gods in place of me." Exodus 20:3 (NIRV)

PRETEENS



October 4

4-6TH

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY 1

Set up: **Divide the group into 2 teams (you can split them up using purple and green lanyards, but try to make the teams have an equal number of kids).**

- **One team will go with one leader in the other room and do Small Group Activity 1.**
- **The other team will stay with the other leader and do Small Group Activity 2.**

OH GREAT AND MIGHTY BASKETBALL!

You might be thinking, “Hey — that’s no problem! I never put Baal or any other fake gods in the Lord’s place.” But sometimes we might put other things in God’s place without even realizing it. Let me show you what I’m talking about. Place a basketball, a popular book, and a video game system in a row on a table.

We’re going to run an experiment to see if these things can help us. What are some problems that you have or things that you need help with? (Take an answer from one kid.) Thank you for sharing. Let’s see if the basketball can help you with that. (Turn to the basketball and talk to it in a dramatic voice.) Oh great and mighty basketball, please help... (Fill in the name of kid and the problem they shared.)

When finished, pause dramatically as if waiting for the basketball to do something. Ask the kid if they feel any different or if the problem is solved. Next, move on to the other items. As with the basketball, for each item ask a kid to share a problem, then turn to the item and ask it for help. Have fun with it and be silly.

That seems pretty silly, doesn't it? We might never pray to these things or ask them for help, but they can still be like gods in our life. You see — whenever we love something more than we love God, it becomes like a fake god that we put in His place. (Stand behind basketball.)

For some of us, we might love sports so much that we skip church so that we can watch or play in a game. (Stand behind book.) For some of us, we might love reading popular books so much that we never read our Bible. (Stand behind video game system.) For some of us, we might spend so much time playing video games that we never spend any time talking with God. Can you think of any other things we might love more than God or put in His place? (Take answers.) Great answers!

(Sit or kneel near kids.) None of these things are bad things when we put them in their right place. But the Lord is the one and only God, so we should put Him first in our life. We shouldn't let anything get in the way of us loving and following Jesus. Let's pray right now and ask God to help us put Him first.

PRETEENS



October 4

4-6TH

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY 2

Set up: **Divide the group into 2 teams (you can split them up using purple and green lanyards, but try to make the teams have an equal number of kids).**

- **One team will go with one leader in the other room and do Small Group Activity 1.**
- **The other team will stay with the other leader and do Small Group Activity 2.**

BIG BIBLE STORY REVIEW GAME

Let's look back to what's already happened in the Big Bible Story. You are going to take turns drawing a picture. If you think you know what it is, just shout it out and I'll tell you if you're right.

Cover the Big Bible Story pictures with the whiteboard so they can't see it. Pick different kids to come up and draw the following pictures on the white board. After the kids guess what someone is drawing, tell them that part of the Big Bible Story.

Draw the earth. **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

Draw a tree with fruit. **Everything was perfect until Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit from a tree God had told them not to touch. Their sin separated people from God, but God came up with a plan to fix things.**

Draw stars. **God told a man named Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as the stars in the sky. His family would one day be called the Israelites and they would give birth to a Savior who would wipe those sins away.**

Draw three pyramids. **While in Egypt, the Israelites were made slaves by Pharaoh, but God sent Moses to lead them out of slavery and into a new home called the Promised Land.**

Draw a sword. **When the Israelites reached the Promised Land, the Canaanites were already there. But God helped the Israelites defeat the Canaanites and take the Promised Land.**

Draw a crown. **Because of King Solomon's sin, God tore the nation of Israel in two. The 10 northern tribes were called "Israel" while the two southern tribes were called "Judah."**