

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Only True God

SCRIPTURE: [1 Kings 18](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Psalm 46:10a](#)

Take a moment to read [1 Kings 18:16–39](#), and as you do, picture what it would have been like to be there as an Israelite watching this showdown take place.

In 2012, I visited Israel and got to spend time on Mount Carmel, the place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. I imagined the reality of this story—Elijah calling hundreds of people to climb this mountain, and him spending all day watching these prophets flail around as they begged Baal to answer. I thought of Elijah's physical labor as he rebuilt God's altar, dug a trench, and slaughtered a bull. His passion for people to know the one true God was incredible.

Do you feel passionate about others knowing the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

After all Elijah's hard work, God did not disappoint. He sent fire from heaven, burning up the sacrifice, the altar, and the water. The people fell down in awe. Now they knew—God was the only true God.

As you prepare to teach and lead kids this week, spend a few moments worshiping the Lord. Move toward Him in your heart and let Him know again that you believe and know that He is the only true God. He is the One worthy of all our worship and awe.

—**Denise Morris Snyder**

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Sunday, October 11th

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Elijah was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel, mainly during the reign of evil King Ahab. Elijah served God faithfully, often running for his life. He didn't die a natural death—instead God took him to heaven in a chariot of fire.

WHAT?

King Ahab's wife, Jezebel, worshiped Baal (BAY-ul), a false god of storms and rain. Ahab promoted worship of Baal in Israel, even building Baal a temple. Baal worship in Israel was a persistent problem, as people worshiped him instead of or in addition to the one true God.

WHERE?

Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a duel of the gods on Mount Carmel in northwest Israel. The events were amazing—Elijah climbed, dug, built, slaughtered, and ran. His passion for God lived on, which is why he is mentioned in the New Testament Gospels.

WHEN?

In [1 Kings 17](#), Elijah announced a yearslong drought in Israel. Baal, the false storm god, should have been able to bring rain and produce fertile ground for crops. But Yahweh showed His power, and the drought ended right after this confrontation on Mount Carmel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God showed up in power on Mount Carmel—proving His strength over the false god, Baal. Later, through Jesus, Colossians 2:15 tells us He, yet again, defeated the spiritual forces at work against Him, triumphing over them by the cross! Our God is victorious!

Wonder Ink®

Curiosity

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Welcome & Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: [Elijah Welcome Question Slide](#)

At your start time ...

Invite all the kids to join you and let them know you're excited to spend time with them today. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is the most amazing thing you've ever seen?**



Wow, you've seen some awesome things! Today we're going to learn about a time God did something amazing, and large crowds of people got to see it. But first, it's time to be curious!

Ask the following "I'm curious" questions. Say, "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I'm curious ...

- **What do you wish you could see God do?**
- **What do you think is the most wonderful thing about God?**

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Declaration [Slide](#)

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

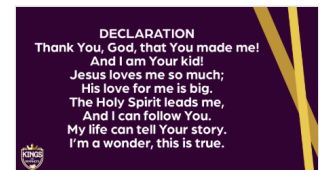
Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.



His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").

Wonder Ink®

Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles, [Bible Story Picture](#)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*

God's big story, waiting for me! *Point to yourself.*

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament in the Bible.

Read [1 Kings 18:16–29, 36–39](#) from the Bible. Show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Kings and Prophets Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

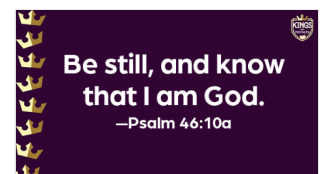
Be still, and know that I am God.

—[Psalm 46:10a](#)

This verse reminds us of what the people in today's story learned: God is the one true God. We can always remember that!

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL**,—*Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.*
- **AND KNOW**—*Point to your head.*



- **THAT I AM GOD.**—*Point up.*
- **PSALM 46:10a**—*Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it make you feel to know that an all-powerful God is always with us?**
- **How would the world be different if everyone believed that God is the only true God and put Him first?**



Faith

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: dice

Have kids sit in a circle. **In today's story, God showed that He's number one. God is the only true God. The people tried to give an offering to their pretend god, Baal, but nothing happened. We can remember that God is real and powerful! We're going to use dice to help us think about the story. Everyone will get a turn to roll the dice. The goal is to get a "one." It looks like this, with just one dot.** Show kids what a one looks like on the die. **You'll roll the dice, and if you get a one on either of the dice, or both, pass them to the next person. If you do not get a one, you get to answer a question about the story. If you don't know the answer or need help, the other kids in the circle can help. But the person with the dice gets try to answer the question first.**

Show kids how to shake the dice in their hands and to drop the dice right in front of them. If they get a "one," they pass the dice to the next person. If they don't, they answer a question before passing the dice on. Some questions can be answered more than once.

We had to roll a "one" for this game to remind us that God is the true one who is important. He's the one true God, the most important in our lives! He deserves all our praise and worship!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What was the evil king's name?** (*Ahab*)
- **How many prophets of Baal were there?** (*450*)
- **What fake god did the people believe in?** (*Baal*)
- **What did Elijah do to his offering to make it even more impossible for a fire to start on its own?** (*poured water on and around it*)
- **How did God show that He is all-powerful and the only true God?** (*God burned up the offering, even when it was wet.*)
- **How would you feel if you were watching the offering and all the water burn up?**
- **What does this story tell us about God?** (*God is powerful; God can do anything; God wins; God is the one true God.*)
- **What kinds of things get in the way of worshiping God as the only true God today?** (*being busy; things we love, such as sports, toys, friends, family, shows, etc.*)
- **How can you remember that God is worthy of our worship all the time and that He is the only true God?**

Sometimes, like the people in the story, we need to remember that God is the only true God. He loves us and cares for us, and He's worthy of our worship. Let's take some time to pray and thank God that He's so amazing!

Game: Fire Versus Water

SUPPLIES: painter's tape or floor tape, [Fire and Water Sheets](#)

Use painter's tape or floor tape to mark a line on the floor long enough for all kids to stand on. Have all kids line up standing shoulder to shoulder on the line.

In today's story, the prophets of Baal gave their pretend god an offering and Elijah set out an offering for God. Then Elijah poured water all over it and trusted that God could send so much fire and that nothing—not even water—would stop the fire and God.

Then Elijah prayed. And God sent fire down from heaven! The fire burned up the gift, the stones, and even the water! When you see a picture of fire, wiggle like a flame in a fire. When you see a picture of water, pretend to swim. Invite the kids to practice each motion.

Hold up the pictures, transitioning pictures slowly at first, then faster. You can have them get from one side of the room to the other side doing the "fire" and "water" motions as you hold up the pictures. Then add more movement by having the kids do the water motion on one side of the line and the fire motion on the other side of the line.

Normally fire and water don't go together, but God used this unexpected pair to show that He is the only true God!





Identity

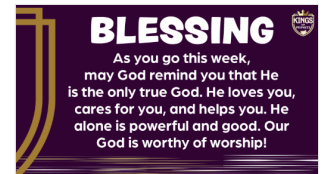
Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Blessing Your Kids

SUPPLIES: [Elijah Blessing Slide](#)

Display the [Elijah Blessing Slide](#).

Blessing: As you go this week, may God remind you that He is the only true God. He loves you, cares for you, and helps you. He alone is powerful and good. Our God is worthy of worship!



Closing Game: Last One Left

Tell kids they will wander around the small group area until you call out a number. When you call out a number (from two to five), they have to get themselves in groups of that number. If you call out the number two, they will pair up; if you call out the number three, they will put themselves in groups of three; and so on. The last person to get into a group, or the one left out, will become the new number caller. Remind the kids that the numbers called must be from two to five. Younger kids may need help getting into groups, so have leaders ready to help. Or keep the numbers low and simple, like “two” or “three.”

It's time to wander around the room! When I call a number, you must get into a group with other kids to make the number I call. If I call number three, you find two other kids, making a group of three.

When you're not supposed to be in a group, you must be moving around the room at all times. You can't stand still or stay by other kids. There were lots of other prophets on Baal's team, but Elijah was on a team by himself. He had the most important person on his team—God! That made him a winner because God is number one!

Play until there are only a few kids left or all kids are gone.