

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 46:10–11](#)

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

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 Question

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?**

Multisensory Activity: The Real Thing?

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Real Thing? Slides, [Elijah Wonder Truth Slide](#)

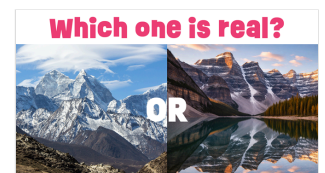
Display the [first of The Real Thing? Slides](#), which shows the activity title.

Gather the kids together. **Let's see how good you are at telling the difference between something fake and the real thing! In a moment, you'll see two images on the screen. One is a real photograph, and the other is fake.**



Invite kids to gather at the center of the room. Display [The Real Thing? Slide 2](#).

If you think the image on the right side of the screen is the real thing, when I say, "Go," you'll point to it. If you think the image on the left side of the screen is the real thing, when I say, "Go," you'll point to that side.



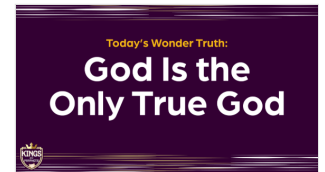
Ready, go! Give kids time to think. Then display [The Real Thing? Slide 3](#), which reveals which image is the real thing.

Invite kids back to the center of the room. Proceed through all of The Real Thing? Slides, giving kids time to cast their votes by pointing to either side of each set of images. There are five sets total.

Gather all the kids back together. Pause after each question for kids to answer freely:

- **Did you find it easy or hard to tell which images were the real thing and which were fake?**
- **Which fake image was the easiest to spot? Which was the hardest? Why do you think that was?**

Computers can generate some pretty amazing FAKE images, but they still don't compare to the real thing! Display the [Elijah Wonder Truth Slide](#). **Today we're going to learn about a time when a lot of people in Israel were worshiping a false god called Baal, but they discovered in a very dramatic way that no one compares to the one true God! Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD.****



Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Elijah Declaration Slide [Option](#)

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You are God over all. (Kids repeat.)

You are the only true God! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Belief

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

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), [Elijah Title Slide](#),

Show the [Elijah Title Slide](#). Invite the kids to open their Bibles to [1 Kings 18](#). Remind them that this book is in the Old Testament in a section about all the different kings who ruled in Israel and Judah, the land where God's people lived.



Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Invite three or four volunteers to take turns reading [1 Kings 18:17–29, 36–39](#) aloud to the group while the other kids follow along in their Bibles.

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

Imagine you were there that day, watching this showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. At what point would you have thought, "Wow!"? Invite kids to answer freely.

At the end of the day, what word would you have used to describe God? Invite kids to answer freely.

Word of Wonder Activity

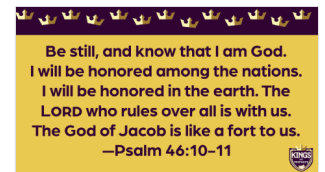
WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The Lord who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us.

—[Psalm 46:10–11 \(NirV\)](#)

SUPPLIES: Bible, [Word of Wonder Slide NirV](#)

Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series reminds us that God is the only God and ruler of everything. One day, everyone will recognize that He is the only true God! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to [Psalm 46:10–11](#).



Display the Word of Wonder Slide [NirV](#). Read [Psalm 46:10–11](#) several times together.

Elementary Questions

- **Elijah told King Ahab there was going to be a contest between the false god, Baal, and the only true God. What kind of contest was it going to be?** (*Whichever god sends fire to burn the bull on the altar is the one true God.*)
- **What did the prophets of Baal do to try to get Baal to send down fire on their altar?** (*They danced and prayed to Baal.*)
- **What did God do?** (*He responded to Elijah's prayer by sending fire from heaven to burn up the bull, altar, dirt, and water!*)
- **What do we learn about God from this part of His big story?** (*Possible answers: He is the only true God; He answers prayer; He turns people's hearts back to Him.*)

- **How did knowing that God is the only true God change the Israelites?** *(Possible answer: They worshiped Him instead of a false god.)*
- **How can you remind yourself every day, especially on hard days, that God is the only true God?**

Sometimes, just like the Israelites, we need to be reminded that God is the only true God. He loves us and cares for us, and He is the only One worthy of our worship. Let's take some time to pray and thank God that He is powerful and amazing!



Identity

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

Preteen Responding in Worship: God Alone

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, writing utensils, bucket, [God Alone Slide](#), [God Alone Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

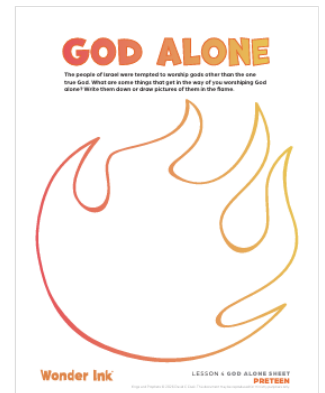
Display the [God Alone Slide](#) and gather the kids. Set out coloring and writing utensils and place the bucket at the front of the room. **God's people, the Israelites, often struggled with worshipping false gods. They had trouble honoring God and worshipping Him alone. We probably aren't tempted to worship other gods, but there are some things that can get in the way of worshipping God alone. What are some of those things?** Invite kids to answer and then offer some ideas—maybe things like money, comfort, friends, phones, wanting to be popular, etc. Give a [God Alone Sheet](#) to each kid and read the instructions at the top of the page out loud. Invite kids to take some personal time to write down or draw things that sometimes get in the way of them worshipping God.

After a few minutes, call everyone back together. **What are some of the things in our lives that get in the way of worshipping God alone?** Invite kids to share their answers from their God Alone Sheets, if they want.

In God's big story today, we saw that God sent fire from heaven and burned up Elijah's offering. When we give our struggles to God, He helps us work through them through the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Let's give to God anything that keeps us from knowing that He is the only God.

Invite the kids to crumple up their flames and throw them into the bucket to symbolize God's amazing work in their lives.

Pray, thanking God that He is the only true God and that He's always willing to help us.

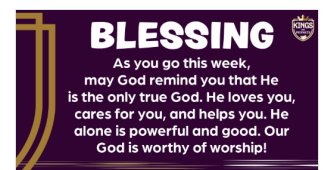


Blessing Your Kids

SUPPLIES: [Elijah Blessing Slide](#)

Show 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!