



PreK/Kindergarten

Leader Prep Page 1

Sunday, October 4th

FOR LEADERS

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

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!



Curiosity

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

Play Stations (you can save this for the end of class to fill time if you want!)

SUPPLIES: brown, red, and orange pipe cleaners; blue streamers or paper; coloring utensils; sandcastle pails (optional); sand shovels (optional), [Elijah and the Prophets of Baal Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

- **Play Station: Fire and Water**

Set up: Set out brown, orange, and red pipe cleaners, as well as blue streamers or paper.

Play: Encourage kids to twist together the brown pipe cleaners to make sticks or logs for the base of the fire. They can wrap orange and red pipe cleaners around the brown "logs" to look like flames of a fire. Invite them to make streams of water from the blue streamers or paper and put the water on the fire.

- **Play Station: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal Coloring Sheet**

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of fire and water.

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood 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.*)

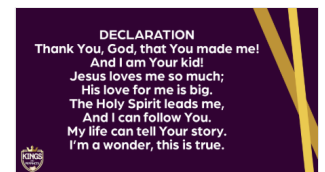
Put your hands on your hips.

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").



Belief

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

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for always being with us. May Your Holy Spirit help us put away all the things that fill our minds and distract us from You. Thank You that You are real and that You are the only true God. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, [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 the God's Big Story Script provided below. Show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

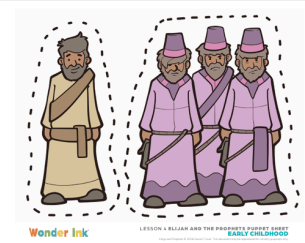
SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), glue (prep only), craft sticks (5), orange tissue paper (1 sheet), blue paper or disposable tablecloth, [Elijah and the Prophets Puppet Sheet](#), [Elijah and the Prophets of Baal God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print the [Elijah and the Prophets Puppet Sheet](#) onto cardstock and cut the puppets out. Glue them to craft sticks to make puppets. Tear or cut the orange tissue paper into strips and set out a

blue paper or disposable tablecloth.



I'm going to need five volunteers to help tell the story. Select five kids from the group and distribute puppets as you continue. **There were 450 prophets of Baal, but we'll only use three puppets to represent all of them! We also have one King Ahab and Elijah.** Puppet masters, follow along with your puppets and use them to act out the story as I read it.



A long time ago, God's people, the Israelites, asked God to give them a king. King Saul was the first king of Israel. David was the next king. Then David's son, Solomon, became king. King Solomon built a temple for God. A temple is a big, beautiful building where people went to worship God.

Many years after Solomon was king, there was a new king called Ahab. He was a bad king! Invite the kid with the King Ahab puppet to make it walk out in front of everyone. **King Ahab told God's people that there was a new god named Baal (BAY-ul). Ahab said that everyone needed to worship Baal, the fake god. That made God sad. God didn't want His people to worship a fake god.**

God sent a man named Elijah to help. Elijah was a prophet, which means God's messenger. Invite the kid with the Elijah puppet to come out and wave to everyone. **Elijah had a hard job—to tell the people the truth about God, even if they didn't want to listen.**

Elijah told King Ahab to bring all of God's people together. King Ahab and Elijah both built an altar, which is a pile of stones, with a gift for their god. Pause to give the kids time to act this out. Encourage them to use their puppets to pretend to build. **Elijah said that if Baal was real, the people could pray to Baal and ask him to send down fire to take the gift.**

The people prayed and prayed. They shouted and prayed all day. Encourage the kids playing the prophets of Baal to make their puppets jump and shout. **But nothing happened. No fire came.**

Then Elijah called the people around him. Elijah dug all the way around the altar. Pause to let the person with the Elijah puppet pretend to dig around the altar while the other puppets gather around. **He asked the people to bring lots of water. Elijah got the entire altar wet.** Pause to allow the Elijah puppet to put the blue paper or tablecloth down. **Elijah trusted that God could send so much fire that nothing—not even water—would stop the fire and God.**

Then Elijah prayed. And something amazing happened. Suddenly—WHOOSH! God sent fire down from heaven! The fire burned up the gift, the stones, and even the water! Pause and invite a kid to throw the orange tissue paper pieces all over the pretend altar (including the blue paper or tablecloth or remove the blue paper or tablecloth quickly).

When the people saw this, they knew that Baal was not a real god. The people knew that King Ahab lied. They knew that God is the only true God. They even fell down and cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!" ([1 Kings 18:39](#)). Invite the kids with the prophets of Baal puppets to act this out.

This shows us something important: There is only one real God. God is strong. God is powerful. God loves His people. We can always choose God first and trust Him with our whole hearts. God is the only true God.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Elijah and the Prophets of Baal God's Big Story!](#) & worship songs available also.



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](#)

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). **Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from [Psalm 46:10a](#). Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to [Psalm 46:10a](#) and practice the verse with the kids.



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.

Circle Time: Roll a One

SUPPLIES: dice

Leader Tip: If you have a large group, you may want to split into two circles. If you only have a pair of dice, give each circle one pair.

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 that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

Pray with them and praise God for being the one true God!

While we're praying, hold one finger up high in the air to show that God is number one.

God, You are so powerful and amazing. You showed Elijah and the Israelites long ago that You're the one true God. Help us remember that You're number one! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go today, knowing that God is real, powerful, and worthy of all our praise because He is most important in our lives. May He be your number one!

Closing Game: Last One Left (save this if you need to fill more time!)

Tell kids they will wander around the room 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.