



# Kids Club

Leader Guide

June  
Week 2

June 9, 2024

## **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

Beach ball

Coloring pages cut into "puzzle" pieces (1 per 2-3 kids), scissors and paper clips

## **SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:**

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break

20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up

30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer

10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

## **TODAY'S FOCUS:**

We need to put our hope in God.

## **WEEKLY VERSE:**

"He will fill your mouth with laughter. Shouts of joy will come from your lips."

Job 8:21 (NIRV)

## **KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Kings 18:22-39, Elijah Calls Fire from Heaven

## **ROCK BRIDGE MISSION:**

As we interact with others and realize their need for the one true God, we get to tell them stories of how we experience Him in our lives! This is a huge part of our mission to love others - letting them see that our God is real and available!

## **PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank you for listening when we call your name. Help us to remember we were made to serve you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## INTRODUCTION:

**ASK THIS AS KIDS ARRIVE:** What's the funniest cartoon you ever saw?

**SAY THIS:** If you call someone and they are not available, what happens? You get a voicemail. You get a recorded message that says that person is unavailable, but if you'd like to leave a message, you can.

In today's true story from the Bible, the prophets of Baal learned a hard lesson. If you call on Baal, you get... nothing. Not even voicemail. There's no one to answer because there's no Baal.

There are many false gods. Some have been long forgotten. Some are still worshiped today. But there is only one God who always answers, who never fails, and never disappoints. If you call on any God but the God of the Bible, you will be disappointed. When you call on the one true God, you will never fail.

**ASK THIS:** What are some ways you have called on God and He has answered you? Have you ever called on Him and He didn't answer? *(If kids respond "yes", please take a moment to explain to them that He ALWAYS answers - not always with what we want to hear - but without a doubt, He tells us Yes, No, or Wait.)*

**SAY THIS:** Have you ever noticed that a lot of the things that make us laugh actually wouldn't be that funny if it happened to us? In fact, a lot of comedy comes from situations that aren't very funny. We laugh at all sorts of things in movies, cartoons, and stand up comedy that would not be so funny if they happened to us. Falling off a cliff would not be very funny. But watching the Wile E. Coyote fall off a cliff over and over in the pursuit of the Roadrunner? That's very funny!

Today we're going to look at a story from the Bible that really isn't funny. It's the story of a group of people who trusted in someone other than God. God had freed these people from slavery and led them to a beautiful promised land. He had promised they would live in this land and have peace as long as they worshiped Him alone. These people had forgotten God and followed an evil king and his queen in worshipping a false god.

But then, there is one man in this story who hasn't forgotten God. His name is Elijah, and he's one of the last prophets of the one true living God. Why? Because the evil king and queen had hunted down most of his friends. Elijah was

sick of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel leading God's people in worshipping a false god. Elijah wanted to settle the matter once and for all. They would have a contest to see whose God was supreme. There's some really, really funny stuff in this story, including some really funny jokes. But I hope you'll notice the very serious story behind the comedy.

**READ:** 2 Kings 18:22-39

**TALK ABOUT THIS:** Baal's prophets must have looked pretty funny. They sang. They danced. They cried out to a god who wasn't there and could not answer. They begged and pleaded with this false god to send a fire, but no fire came. Adding insult to injury, Elijah starts to crack jokes at them. Not only does he say, "Shout louder! Maybe he's asleep!" But he even cracked a potty joke, saying "Maybe Baal is on the toilet!"

As silly as all this seems, the sad truth is these people really believed in a false god. They had given their hope to a god who would never answer them. Elijah wanted the people to turn back to the one true God. That's why he let the prophets of Baal look so silly. That's why he also built an altar. That's why God answered His prayer alone. If we trust in false gods, we will fail, but the one true God never fails!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**READ THIS:** 1 Kings 18:16-39

**NOTE THIS:** *If your kids are struggling to engage in the discussion questions, consider adding some movement to this section! Ie: Sprinkle these questions throughout one of the activities below; two kids race to pick up a ball first and then play/pass the question, move "like this" if you think the answer is "A", etc.*

**DO THIS:** Ask kids the following review questions and let them indicate their answers in creative ways.

1. Elijah challenged the prophets of what god?
  - A. Thor
  - B. Zeus
  - C. Baal\*
2. Baal's prophets asked him to

- A. smite Elijah.
  - B. send fire from the sky.\*
  - C. send a flood.
3. When Baal did not answer, what did Elijah do?
- A. He tried to help the prophets of Baal call Baal.
  - B. He fell asleep.
  - C. He made jokes about Baal.\*
4. What happened when Elijah prayed for fire?
- A. The prophets of Baal made jokes.
  - B. God sent fire from Heaven.\*
  - C. Nothing.
5. God wants us to know that
- A. He is the only God who answers.\*
  - B. All gods are powerful if the person believes in them enough.
  - C. We can call fire from the sky any time.
6. Elijah challenged all of the prophets of Baal to a showdown at?
- A. Mount Carmel
  - B. The Nile River
  - C. Mount Sinai
7. True or False. The fire sent from God consumed everything, even the water in the trench. (true)
8. True or False. After the Israelites saw the fire, they still insisted that Baal was their god. (false – they declared that the Lord is God)

**DRIVE IT HOME - SAY THIS:** The same theme we see in the story of Elijah appears in many, many comedies. We see it in movies where the rich and powerful put their trust in their wealth and power, only to be humbled and made to look silly. It's all a reflection of the real world where people will put their trust in money, power, fame, possessions, false religions, and yes even false gods rather than surrender to the one true God.

The first three of the Ten Commandments tell us to put God first, to worship Him alone, and to honor His name. God knows if we place our trust in anyone or anything other than Him, we will fail.

The people of Israel learned the hard way that there is only one God. They saw with their own eyes who sent fire from Heaven and who did not. They knew they

looked silly praying to idols that could never answer them, and many of them turned back to the one true God.

Our challenge to you is to never be taken in by such things. We must ignore the people who tell us we have our religion wrong. We must ignore the public voices that tell us that one more possession, a little more money, a little more power, a little more fame is all we need.

If we put our faith in anything but God, we will fail. Only God answers our call. Only God is worthy of our praise. Only God never fails!

### **ACTIVITY:**

**DO THIS:** Prepare by using the coloring page to make a puzzle by cutting it into pieces and paper clipping the pieces together. Give each group of 2-3 kids a puzzle to assemble together.

Instruct kids to race to complete the puzzle, representing the rebuilding of the altar by Elijah.

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 2:**

Toss a beach ball in the air and see how long the kids can keep it up in the air - without touching it with their hands. They can use other parts of their body like head, feet, elbow, etc.

**SAY THIS:** Just like keeping the ball in the air required trust that someone else would come through and hit it before it touched the ground, all of the men in our story had trust. But Elijah trusted God completely and God did not let him down!

### **MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**

“He will fill your mouth with laughter. Shouts of joy will come from your lips.”  
Job 8:21 (NIRV)

**DO THIS:** Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

**SAY THIS:** I love that this verse reminds us that God wants to fill our mouth with laughter! Do you do more asking for things in prayer or asking what God wants in prayer? Today, I challenge you to ask God what HE wants when you pray this week.