



LESSON 4

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Only True God

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 18

GOD'S BIG STORY: Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal to a showdown, and God shows up in power. He defeats Baal and proves that He is the only true God.

WORD OF WONDER: Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10a

- Play Stations:
 - Make a Moat
 - Make a Fire
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- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Roll a One
- Craft: Make a Fire
- Game: Fire Versus Water



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!



LESSON 4 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 worshipping 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

LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**

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

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Only True God

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 18

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10a

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: bin of sand; pitcher of water; brown, red, and orange pipe cleaners; blue streamers or paper; coloring utensils; sandcastle pails (optional); sand shovels (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Elijah and the Prophets of Baal Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

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: Make a Moat

Set up: Set out a bin of sand and a pitcher of water. You could also set out a small sandcastle pail and sand shovels.

Play: Encourage the kids to make a moat. If they don't know what it is, tell them it's a river that goes in a circle around something like a sandcastle. They can use their hands or small shovels to dig the moat. Help the kids pour water in the moat when it's ready.

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.

Curiosity Activity: Who's on Your Side?

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, bowls or containers (4), bags of cotton balls (2), timer, table (optional)

Leader Tip: Be sure to choose a kid who is a strong leader and is confident to be on a team alone. It could be scary for a first-time guest or kid who is shy to be on a team alone, up against the rest of the group.

Before kids arrive, use painter's tape to mark a line on the floor on one side of the room. Set up two bowls or containers on a table or on the floor on the line and others across from them, a few feet away.

We're going to play a game to help us get curious about the part of God's big story that we're going to hear today. In this game, you'll have two minutes to try to get as many cotton balls as you can in the bowls across from you. I need three volunteers. Two people will be scorekeepers, and one person will be on a team alone. Everyone else will be on the other team.

Select two kids to be scorekeepers and position them behind the bowls that are not on the line. Select one person to be on a team alone at one bowl that is on the line and have the rest of the group line up at the other bowl on the line. Fill both bowls with half a bag of cotton balls.

The team with all the kids is going to take turns so everyone gets a turn. You toss a cotton ball into your team's empty bowl and go to the back of the line, and the next person will go. Which team do you think will win? Allow kids to answer. They'll most likely guess the team with the most kids on it. Direct your attention to the team with just one kid.

You keep throwing the cotton balls in. Everyone should stay behind the line, and when I say, "Go," start tossing! Start a timer for one minute and say, "Go."

After one minute, dump a whole bag of cotton balls into the bowl the kid on a team alone, but not the other team. Have a leader jump in and start helping the team with just one kid, throwing multiple cotton balls until the timer goes off or all cotton balls are gone. The team with just one kid should be the clear winner.

When the timer goes off, have the scorekeepers count the cotton balls in each bowl with the help of a leader. **Did the team you thought was going to win actually win?** Allow kids to respond. **We're going to hear a story today about a competition that didn't seem fair at first. It was one person against a whole bunch of people, but the one person had the most important teammate on his side—God! It doesn't matter what you're up against when you have God on your side! God is the only true God, and God is powerful. We'll hear about it in our story today. We're going to learn that God is the only true God.**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape (prep only), orange paper, scissors, flashlight, **Word of Wonder Posters**

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

Ahead of time, print the Word of Wonder Posters and tape them to the wall where kids can see them. Cut out a flame-shape from the orange paper and tape it to a flashlight.

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.



Have kids sit where they can all see the posters. **In today's story, God used fire to show that He's the one true God. Follow along with me as I read our Word of Wonder. After we say it several times, we'll use this pretend fire** (hold up the flame -flashlight) **to help us remember our Word of Wonder. First, listen and watch as I point to each poster and the words, then repeat after me, and then we will say it together.** First read the words slowly and point to the words as you read them, while kids listen. Then have kids repeat the words on each poster after you say them. Then have kids read with you as you point to each poster. Even kids who cannot read can still learn and benefit from seeing and saying these words.

Now we'll do it again but with the pretend fire (hold up the flashlight with the flame) **Helping us say the words. When I shine a flashlight on the poster, we're going to say the words together.**

Leader Tip: If kids are afraid of the dark, or if your room gets completely dark, consider leaving a light on, if possible, or turning off only some of the lights. Or you could open a door so light from the hall or another room shines in.

Turn off the lights. Point the flashlight onto each poster and say the words with the kids as the light lands on the words. To make it more fun or challenging, move the light faster and faster. You could shine the light out of order or backward after the kids know the verse. Turn the lights back on when finished.

You all really know that verse well now! Great job! 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?**

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks!



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the [Early Childhood Declaration Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

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

Make prayer hands, then point up and then 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").

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.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God showed that He's the only true God. We can worship and praise Him because God is amazing, and He's our only true God. He deserves our praise.

Play songs *Closer*, *Over & Over* and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week 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 or read 1 Kings 18:16-39 from the Bible. You can 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

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Elijah and the Prophets Puppet Sheet](#)

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.

Leader Tip: In this passage are several instances of "the LORD," a common phrase in most Bibles. This is how English translations handle the Hebrew name of God: Yahweh (sometimes vocalized "Jehovah"). When reading, try replacing "the LORD" with "Yahweh" to get a better feel for the contest between Yahweh and Baal (pronounced "BAY-ul").



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.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask kids the following question to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

God showed up in power on Mount Carmel—proving His strength over the fake “god,” Baal. Many years later, Jesus conquered death when He died and then rose again! We can win over sin and death through Jesus too. Our God always wins!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, 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!

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!

Invite kids to share things they want to thank God for and things in their lives that are hard and that they want prayer for. Pray for all requests mentioned and thank God for being all-powerful and the only true God who is worthy of our worship and praise.

Craft: Make a Fire

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), blue tissue paper (1 small piece per kid), orange tissue paper (1/2 sheet per kid), brown markers or crayons, glue sticks

In the part of God's big story that we heard, Elijah got an offering wet by pouring water all around and over it. Normally, things that are wet do not burn well. God sent fire to burn up the offering, water and all! God showed how powerful He is and proved to everyone that He's the only true God! We're going to draw some brown sticks, glue blue tissue paper on top to be water, and then glue orange tissue paper on top to be the fire.

Give each kid a sheet of paper and some blue and orange tissue paper. Show them how to draw sticks with the brown markers or crayons. Invite the kids to tear the blue and orange tissue paper into small pieces. The orange pieces can be bigger than the blue pieces. Encourage the kids to glue the blue tissue paper first, to represent the water Elijah poured on the offering. Then have the kids glue orange tissue paper to their paper on top of the blue paper pieces to represent the fire God sent.

Take your pictures home to remind you that God showed in today's story that He's the only true God and we can worship Him.



Game: Fire Versus Water

SUPPLIES: painter's tape or floor tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Fire and Water Sheets](#)

Ahead of time, print a set of the 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. 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!

Make It Inclusive: If a kid has mobility issues, have them hold up the cards or say “fi re” and “water” as the kids move from each side of the room.