

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

Activity: Look and Listen

Activity: Jump for One

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Standing on the One

Activity: Look and Listen

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Fire and Water Sheets, Fire and Water Sound Effects (Spotify or Youtube sound)

Ahead of time, print the Fire and Water Sheets. Cue the Fire and Water Sound Effects.

Welcome, kids! I'm so glad you're here! Today we're going to hear a story about how God used fire and water to show people that He is the one true God.

Display the Fire Sheet. **This is what fire looks like and sounds like.** Play the fire sound effect. **Have you seen a fire? It's hot! Say, "hot," with me.** Pause for kids to say, "hot." **Good job!**



Display the Water Sheet. **This is what water looks like and sounds like.** Play the water sound. **Water can feel cool and wet. Water normally puts out fire! When we're done with a fire and want it to go out, we put water on it. Firefighters spray water to put out fires that get out of control.**

We'll hear more about the way God used the fire and water in today's part of God's big story.

Activity: Jump for One

SUPPLIES: marker, paper (8 sheets)

Leader Tip: Older toddlers could shout, "God, You're number one!" when they jump up.

Ahead of time, use a marker to make a big dot on a sheet of paper. On the second sheet, make two big dots. On a third sheet, make three big dots, and so on. Continue making dots on every sheet of paper until you have dots on eight sheets. (You will want to save these sheets for the closing Activity.)

Today in God's big story, we're going learn that God is number one. That means God is the most important. Show me number one on your fingers. Demonstrate holding up one finger for kids to mimic. **Yes, that's number one!**

Here is what one dot looks like. Hold up the paper with one dot. **When you see the picture with one dot on it, jump up and hold up one finger! Then you can sit back down.** After showing kids the paper with one dot, mix the paper up and keep the one dot separate. Hold up the other papers interspersed with the one dot picture. You can say or count the number of dots on each picture to help the kids. Remind them when you get to number one, they must jump and hold up one finger, then sit back down.

You did a great job paying attention to the pictures and especially to the important number one! Number one is important to our story today, so it's great that you know what number one is. There's only one true God.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

IS THE ONLY—Hold up one finger, out in front of your body.

TRUE GOD—Point up with both hands.

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 from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, white cardstock or thick paper (prep only), scissors (prep only), craft sticks (5, prep only), glue (prep only), orange tissue paper

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Elijah and the Prophets Puppet Sheet, [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Elijah and the Prophets Puppet Sheet onto white cardstock or thick paper. Cut out the puppets and glue them onto craft sticks to make puppets. Tear the orange tissue paper into strips or pieces.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Elijah. Can you say, "Elijah"? Pause to allow the kids to respond. Good job! Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Elijah and how God used fire and water!



Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

A long time ago in Israel, an evil king told all the people in Israel to worship a fake god named Baal (BAY-ul) instead of the true God. This made God angry and sad. God sent a messenger named Elijah to remind the people that He was the one true God. Use the king and Elijah puppets to act out the story as you're telling it.

Elijah challenged the prophets, or messengers, of Baal to a contest. He told them to put out an offering, or gift, and to pray to their fake "god," Baal, to come and send fire on the offering. Elijah said he would do the same except that he would pray to his God. Use the Elijah puppet to act out the story as you're telling it.

The prophets of Baal did what Elijah challenged them to do. They prayed and danced and sang, but nothing happened. Make the prophets of Baal puppets dance and sing. **Even though there were hundreds of them, and Elijah was by himself, he teased them and said, "Is your god sleeping or busy? Why isn't he coming or paying attention?"** Use the puppets to act out the story.

Then finally the prophets of Baal gave up, and it was Elijah's turn. Elijah dumped lots of water

on and all around his offering. Make the Elijah puppet dump pretend water on the offering. **What happens when we try to burn something that's wet? Will it burn easily?** Allow kids to answer. **No! That's right!**

Elijah wanted to show that God is real by doing something that seemed impossible. So after Elijah got his offering really wet, he prayed to God and said, "God, show everyone that You are real," and immediately, God sent down a giant fire that burned up the offering and dried up all the water! Toss the shredded orange tissue paper down like fire. **The people were amazed and believed in God! They knew that God is the one true God!**

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

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.

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.

Prayer and Blessing

While I'm praying, hold one finger up high in the air to show that God is number one. Allow kids to hold up one finger.

Let's talk to God.

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 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.

Activity: Standing on the One

SUPPLIES: numbered dots papers from the other Activity, marker (optional), paper (8 sheets, optional), tape (optional)

If you haven't already, make the numbered dots papers from the Activity by using a marker to make a big dot on a sheet of paper. On the second sheet, make two big dots. On a third sheet, make three big dots. Continue making dots on every sheet of paper until you have dots on eight sheets. Lay or tape the pictures across the floor.

Play music from the [Kings and Prophets Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). **In today's story, the people danced to try and get the attention of their pretend god. But God is the only true God, and God showed that when He burned up the offering. We can worship and praise God because He's number one. Everyone is going to dance around the room while the music is playing. When I stop the music, go to the number one dot and stand on or by it.** Remind the kids what the picture with one dot looks like. If you have a lot of kids, make a few extra "number one" papers.

Play the music and encourage kids to dance around the room. Stop the music and encourage kids to run to and stand on or by the picture with one dot. Young kids will need a leader to lead them to the right picture.

Today we learned that God is the most important and that God is number one! There's only one true God, and that's our God! We can stand on the promise that God is the one who's always there for us and know that God is powerful and real.