



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 4

Showdown On Mt. Carmel

Take Home Point: *Worship the only true God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: I Kings 18:17-45

Key Verse: Matthew 4:10b, "... Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

We will help kids know:

- There is only one true God and we should worship only him.
- When others question God's existence, they can share their personal faith in God instead of trying to argue and prove God's existence.
- God is real and they can personally experience his love and power in their lives through Jesus as their Savior.

We will help kids feel:

- Respect for God and his exclusive claim to be the only true God.
- Confidence in knowing that they have a relationship with the one true God.

We will help kids do:

- Taste and enjoy an orange just as they might experience the joy of a relationship with God.
- Learn an illustration using an orange, to share with others how to know there is a God.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Small Group Warm-Up  | 3 | Kids play “How Do You Know?” to learn how experiencing an orange can point them to God. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper bag • napkin • peeled orange • blindfold • tissues |
| Large Group  | 4 7 9 10 | <p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Needs Proof” --- Jerry searches for evidence to prove the existence of God. Dr. Turner Round and Dr. Goofagain discover fire in the sands of time that point to a showdown between prophets of false gods and the prophet of the one true God.</p> <p>Video Presentation: The Bible event from 1 Kings 18:17-45 is shown in the video, <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah</i>.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Dude Needs Proof”—Jerry Dude realizes how he can experience God.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tub of sand • flash paper OR rubbing alcohol in a pan • butane lighter • Bible in a plastic bag • key with discovery point • video, <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah</i>, Nest Family Entertainment – cued to 3:07 |
| Small Group Application  | 4 | Kids learn an illustration with an orange that can help them point their friends to God. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an orange slice for each student |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed: paper bag, napkin, peeled orange, blindfold, tissue

In advance, peel an orange and put it in a paper bag out of sight.

Tell the kids you are going to play a game called, “How Do You Know?” Select a kid based on who has the closest birthday to today. Put a blindfold stuffed with tissues over the child’s eyes.

Ask the blindfolded child the following questions:

Do you know I am right here? How do you know? *(I hear your voice.)*

Do you know I am your shepherd and I like you? How do you know? *(Accept any response. Hopefully, they will say you have treated them like you like them.)*

Did you know I have a special gift for you? How do you know? *(Take any answer.)* **But you cannot see the gift!**

Can you guess what the gift is? I will place a bag in front of you. See if you can guess what is in it without touching the bag.

Hold the open bag near the child’s nose and let them guess.

You think it might be an orange. How do you know? *(I can smell it.)*

What do you think you will feel if you put your hand in the bag?

Let the child touch the orange. Then let him/her take his/her blindfold off and eat a slice of the orange. Pass out orange slices to all the kids and then ask:

How do you know there is a God? *(Let the kids talk.)*

How would you explain this to one of your friends if they asked you the same question? Can you hear, smell, touch, taste, or see God?

Today we will talk about ways God makes it clear to us that he is the only true God. We will learn to **worship the only true God.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



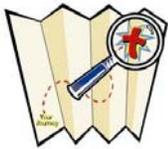
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Needs Proof” --- Jerry searches for evidence to prove the existence of God. Dr. Turner Round and Dr. Goofagain discover fire in the sands of time that point to a showdown between prophets of false gods and the prophet of the one true God.

Video Presentation: The Bible event from 1 Kings 18:17-45 is shown in the video, *Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah*.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Dude Needs Proof”—Jerry Dude realizes how he can experience God.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 1 Kings 18:17-45 in their Bibles for the following questions.

Elijah, the prophet of the one true God, challenged the prophets of Baal to prove the existence of their god. How many prophets of Baal met him on Mount Carmel? (1 Kings 18:19, 22. 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.)

What challenge did Elijah present to the prophets of Baal? (1 Kings 18:23-24. Both would cut up a bull as a sacrifice but not set it on fire. They would each call on their god and the one who answered with fire would prove to be the real God.)

What did the prophets of Baal do to try and get an answer from their god? How long did they perform these rituals? (1 Kings 18:26-29. They called on the name of their god. They danced around the altar they

had made. They kept shouting louder and louder and even cut themselves until they bled. They performed these rituals until the evening sacrifice.)

What was the response of Baal? *(Nothing.)*

What did Elijah do to make an even greater challenge for his God? *(1 Kings 18:30-37. He built an altar with a trench around it. Then he had water poured on the sacrifice until it filled the trench. He prayed and called on the Lord to make himself known.)*

How did the one true God respond? *(1 Kings 18:38. The Lord sent a fire that consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, and dirt. The fire even dried up the water trench.)*

How did the people respond to the fire show? *(1 Kings 18:39. They immediately bowed to the ground and proclaimed, "The Lord is God!")*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Do you think it was easy or hard for Elijah to present this challenge to the prophets of Baal? Why?

What do you think gave Elijah the courage to give this challenge? *(Elijah had faith that our God is a powerful, mighty God and the false gods had no power. He had a relationship with God and knew God would not let him down.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Has anyone ever challenged you to prove that God is real? What can you say to them?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: an orange slice for each child

Pass out an orange slice to each kid. Then say:

Let me show you one way you can respond to someone who challenges you to prove God is real.

Ask this person to describe what an orange tastes like. *(Juicy, sweet, pulpy, orangey.)* Then ask him/her, "How do you know? How would you be able to describe an orange if you had never tasted it before? It is the same as with God."

We can describe God. We can point out all the things he has made in creation. We can even tell this person that everyone has a mark of God on his/her heart because we all have a sense of what is right and wrong. We might even have a feeling that God, who is bigger than us, is out there somewhere. But to know more about God, we need to learn who he is in the Bible.

In his word, we learn God made a way for us to know him personally when he gave us Jesus. The only way you can experience God is by tasting him yourself. The Bible says in Psalm 34:8, “*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*” So taste for yourself what it means to trust in Jesus.

Have each one take a bite of their orange.

If someone wants to know, we can explain who God is and what he has done for us personally. But to really experience God, they need to taste for themselves by putting faith and trust in Jesus.

To do this, one might tell God in prayer, “I admit that I am a sinner. Jesus, I need you in my life and want to know that you are real. I know that the Bible shows me you died for my sins. Please come into my life and be my leader. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

What are ways you have tasted the goodness of God? Or, how have you experienced that God is real?

When we know and experience God, we can be like Elijah and confidently **worship the only true God.* Just as Matthew 4:10b says, “*Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*”

Closing Prayer:

Encourage the kids to pray for their friends that may need to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”

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Large Group Presentation

God in a Flash

Discovery Digs – Dramatic Characterization

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *A tub of sand, at least six inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *flash paper OR rubbing alcohol in a pan*
- *butane lighter*
- *Bible in plastic bag*
- *key with discovery point*

Jerry Dude Needs Proof

Puppet Presentation

Jerry: Hi, Dudes and Dudettes. Welcome back to my show. This is Jerry Dude from California (*or Hawaii*). Rock on. Just cruising through town and hangin' ten. Where are my friends? Dr. T.? Dr. G.? Who's around? There they are. Far out, dude.

Dr. __: **Hi, Jerry Dude. Today, we will dig through the sands of time, exploring the Bible so that we can discover truth.**

Jerry: Like, dude, I have already discovered the truth, man. Like, I had an orange.

Dr. __: **What does that have to do with the truth?**

Jerry: Well, like you didn't have to prove to me that I'm eating an orange 'cuz like, uh, I chowed it down, man. But dude, we have a harder question today.

Dr. __: **What is that?**

Jerry: Like, how do you know there is a God, man? Like, prove it to me!

Dr. __: **So, Jerry, you want to know if there is a God?**

Jerry: Like, when I was in California (*or Hawaii*). Like, we have God out there. Like, well actually, we have a whole bunch of gods, dude.

Dr. __: **Whoa, Jerry. What do you mean?**

Jerry: Well, like some dudes think that mother earth is like a god, man. Other dudes think that all of us are gods and like some think that God is just out there somewhere, man. You know, far out?

Dr. __: **Whoa, Jerry. I think you need to pay attention to today's discovery digs because we will find out there is only one true God and we are to **worship the only true God.***

Jerry: Gnarly, dude. But like, prove it to me, dude.

Dr. __: **Okay, we will.**

Jerry: How are you going to do that?

Dr. __: Well, let us see what the “sands of time” have in store for us and then we will look for a discovery dig in the Bible.

Jerry: Radical, man. Like, what are you going to dig in and find this week? I hope it's not like a mousetrap or anything.

Dr. __: Let me see. Today's Bible event has to do with... what do I have here?

Pull the lighter and flash paper from the sand and quickly touch the lighter to the flash paper, tossing it out in a brilliant flash (or light the pan of alcohol).

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| CAUTION: either gimmick must be practiced beforehand and used with caution. Both should have spectacular results. |
|---|

Jerry: Whoa! Totally awesome! Dude, like, totally trippindicular, man! So do you find that in the Bible?

Dr. __: In a way, yes. You see, today's Bible event is going to have a showdown between the prophets of the false gods and the prophet of the one true God.

Jerry: Who are the good dudes?

Dr. __: Think about it, Jerry. It is Elijah, the prophet of the true God.

Jerry: Gnarly, we learned about him last week. Like he was the one who gave the warning to the president and...

Dr. __: No, Jerry, it was the king. King Ahab.

Jerry: Oh, right on. I remember now and, uh, it stopped raining for like three days or something.

Dr. __: Actually, it was three years. Ahab and Jezebel worshiped the false god, Baal, who they thought could control rain and, therefore, give life. But God showed he was the true God by stopping the rain. Because of this, we also should **worship the only true God*. Let's take a look at it on video...

Jerry: Yo, dude, I'm in the groove. I'm kickin' back. Pass the popcorn, man.

Video

Show the video, *Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah*. Cue to after Elijah heals widow's son at: "Now I can see that Baal was waiting for this moment to prove..." Approximately 3:07 from opening credits.

Jerry Dude Needs Proof

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Jerry: So like, Dr. __, can you do that fire thing again? I'd like you to prove that God can burn stuff up.

Dr. __: I don't think it works that way, Jerry.

Jerry: Well then, how do you prove that like there's a God?

Dr. __: It is kind of like an orange.

Jerry: What?

Dr. __: You have to experience it, like you did in your small group.

Jerry: But you can't like taste God or touch him or hear him or feel him.

Dr. __: In some ways you can.

Jerry: Like how, dude?

Dr. __: You cannot see him, but you can see what he has made. All of creation points to the fact that someone made it. That someone is the God of the universe.

Jerry: Oh, total connection. But you can't like feel him, can you?

Dr. __: Well, have you ever felt inside that God was near you? Or have you ever felt bad when you did something wrong?

Jerry: Well, like uh, one time I got caught in like a bad undertow on a wave and I thought I was a goner and it felt like God was there to kind of, like, bail me out. I kind of know what you mean. I kind of felt him but I mean like, how do you hear him? How do you know enough about who he is?

Dr. __: Well, God gives us this. (He reaches into the sand and pulls out the Bible.)

Jerry: I know what that is, Dr. __. That's what we call the wor-r-rd. (Draw out "the word")

Dr. __: That's right, Jerry. This is the word, which is called the Bible. God's word shows us God's complete personality or who he is. God is the Creator of all. He is the one who is all around us. Sometimes, we can even sense his presence. But most importantly, God is the one who loves us so much that he sent his own Son Jesus.

Jesus took all of our sin on himself so that we can be friends with God. Now our sins will not get in the way of our friendship with God. Because of God's great love for us, we want to **worship him as the only God.* God's word reminds us of this in Matthew 4:10b, "*Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'*"

Jerry: Like, dude, you mean there is only one God?

Dr. __: **Yes, Jerry, there is only one God in three persons: God the Father, his Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to trust him.**

Jerry: But like, dude, what about proof? I need proof.

Dr. __: **What more proof do you need?**

Jerry: Well, like, fire from heaven.

Dr. __: **Well, how about his promise from the Bible. He will be your God and you can be his child if you simply trust him.**

Jerry: Gnarly, dude. I can do that.

Dr. __: **Then would you have a closing prayer?**

Jerry: Oh, man, I've been practicing that. (*Bow's head*) I'm hip to you God. Thank you. Like, you are totally awesome. Like, you are the only dude God there is. Thank you for Jesus. We're in the groove with him. Help us like trust and follow you in all we do. In Jesus' name. Amen.