



Date: _____

Series: God Is Powerful
Fall Year 1, Lesson 24

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Bible Event: 1 Kings 18:16-39

Take Home Point: *GOD IS POWERFUL – *Pray to God for help.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: We pray in Jesus' name.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God is so powerful he can tackle any problem! When we pray for his help, he will always come to our aide. Nothing on earth, or anywhere else, can compare to the power of God's love for us. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD IS POWERFUL** – *Pray to God for help.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love, as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Today, I have a true Bible story for you about Elijah. Elijah was a prophet of God. A prophet was a person who told about the future and was always right. He loved God and always did what God wanted him to do. God wanted Elijah to tell wicked King Ahab to stop making people worship false gods. So he told King Ahab, "You have disobeyed God and worshipped an idol, Baal. That has caused problems all throughout your land. You must stop worshipping your false idol and start worshipping the true God."

But wicked King Ahab did not believe Elijah. He thought his idol Baal was very strong. Elijah suggested that they should have a contest to see which god was the true God. They met on the top of Mount Carmel and this is what they did: Elijah said, "Gather twelve stones and build an altar." So they did. Elijah gathered twelve stones and built himself an altar.

Pull out twelve imaginary boulders and pretend to build an altar. Have the kids count along.

Wicked King Ahab had 450 prophets of Baal come to Mount Carmel. They built their own altar, too. Then, Elijah told them to gather wood to place on the altars. Stack imaginary wood on the pretend altar. Next, Elijah told them that they needed a sacrifice to place on the wood. So, they put some meat from a bull on the altars. Place imaginary sacrifice on the altars. Finally, they were ready for the contest.

Elijah told wicked King Ahab, “Whichever god is able to send fire down from heaven, to burn this sacrifice on this altar, will be the true God!” Wicked King Ahab agreed and the prophets of the false god Baal began to dance. Dance around the pretend altar.

They danced and shouted and sang and prayed to try to get the attention of their god in heaven. But does their fake god live in heaven? No! Does their fake god live here on earth? No! Is he alive at all? No! He’s not the true God! But the prophets of Baal kept yelling louder and louder and even hurting themselves trying to get their god’s attention. Elijah began to laugh at them. He yelled out to them, “Maybe you should yell louder! Maybe your god is on vacation! Maybe he’s out to lunch!” The prophets kept trying, but it didn’t work. Their idol did not answer.

Then it was Elijah’s turn. Do you know what he did? He asked for water. “What?” asked the people. “Water doesn’t burn.” But Elijah really wanted to show them how powerful God was. So he poured huge barrels of water onto his altar three times in a row. Pour pretend barrels of water and have the kids count along.

The altar was dripping wet! Then Elijah looked to heaven and said, “You are God! Let everyone know today that you are the only living and true God and that I am your servant!” And fire fell from the sky and lit Elijah’s altar and sacrifice on fire! Use flash paper to show the fire.

Everyone was amazed! Now they were sure that Elijah’s God was the real, true God! And the prophets of the idol Baal were chased away. That is how powerful God is! Remember: **GOD IS POWERFUL – Pray to God for help.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Fire and water snack. Add blue food coloring to vanilla pudding to create 'water.' Add some red licorice nuggets to represent fire.

Drama Zone: Use cardboard bricks or boxes to have the children build an altar. Provide red, orange and yellow tissue paper to create a fire on top of the altar. Have the children practice prayers, asking powerful God for help with problems.

Puppet Zone: Have the children use puppets to act out the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal from today's Bible Event.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal from today's Bible Event. (For example, use Lesson #75, "Elijah on Mount Carmel," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Messy Zone: Provide play dough for children to sculpt altars, fire, and people praying.

Craft Zone: Provide red, yellow and orange paint for children to sponge-paint flames on a blank sheet of paper. Tear brown construction paper into 2-3 inch pieces for children to glue under the flames they have painted. Attach a pre-made sticker (Avery 5160 label) saying, "God is Powerful – Pray for God's Help." Option: Cut a "flame template" out of card stock for the children to use when they sponge-paint.

Play Zone: Provide blocks to build an altar.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that contain stories about Elijah.

Music Zone: Set up a "prayer zone" with quiet music and pillows to kneel on.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a new necklace on. It is a crystal-type necklace that his friend gave him. The large group presenter asks if it does anything special. Bubba explains that the friend who gave it to him doesn't go to church, but stays home instead and prays to Mother Earth. His mom reads peoples' palms to tell the future and uses these special rocks called crystals. Bubba's friend told him that if he holds onto this crystal and wishes for something, it will come true.

The large group leader's eyes get big as he tells Bubba that that is not right! He tells Bubba that there is only one powerful God. Mother Earth and palm readings and crystals are not what God tells us to do! Those are like false gods! The large group presenter reminds Bubba about today's Bible story. Elijah believed in God and he was able to do great things with God's help. The prophets of Baal believed in false gods and look what happened to them. Kids, do you remember what happened in today's story? *(Let the children help explain.)*

The large group presenter helps Bubba take the necklace off. Bubba knows that he doesn't want to have anything to do with false gods. He knows that God is powerful enough for him! Remember: ***GOD IS POWERFUL – Pray to God for Help.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- flash paper
- matches or lighter

Action Zones:

Snack Zone:

- vanilla pudding
- blue food coloring
- red licorice nuggets
- spoons
- bowls

Drama Zone:

- cardboard bricks or boxes
- red, orange and yellow tissue paper

Puppet Zone:

- puppets to act out the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal from today's Bible event

Felt Zone:

- felt board materials to show the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal from today's Bible event (For example, use Lesson #75, "Elijah on Mount Carmel," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from www.bettylukens.com)

Messy Zone:

- play dough
- newspaper

Craft Zone:

- blank paper
- red, orange and yellow paint
- sponge brushes
- brown construction paper
- glue
- newspaper, smocks and paper towels
- pre-made sticker* (Avery 5160) that says, "God is powerful – Pray for God's help"

Play Zone:

- blocks

Quiet Reading Zone:

- basket of books, including any stories about Elijah

Music Zone:

- soft music (to play in background as children pray)
- pillows

Coloring Zone:

- crayons and markers
- "Elijah and the Prophets of Baal" coloring page[†]

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- necklace with a crystal-like stone

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books