

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

1 KINGS 18-19

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent fire down from heaven to prove that He alone is Lord. God sent the Holy Spirit like flames of fire on Jesus' disciples to empower them to tell others that **Jesus is God's Son who saves people from sin.**

LEADER DEVO

What is the boldest request you've ever made to the Lord? Have you ever experienced God answer your prayers in a uniquely powerful way? In this week's Bible story, we see how God answered Elijah's prayers.

King Ahab led the people to worship Baal. The prophet Elijah condemned Ahab for leading the people astray and instructed him to gather all the people and prophets of Baal for an epic showdown. The test was simple: both Elijah and the prophets of Baal would offer sacrifices to see if Baal would respond or if God would respond.

The prophets of Baal cried out, danced, and prayed all day with no response or hint of fire on their altar. When Elijah's turn came, he prepared the bull on the altar but took his trust in the Lord a step further by asking for water to be poured on top, saturating it completely. Elijah prayed, "LORD, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the LORD, are God."

Immediately, fire fell from heaven and completely consumed the offering along with the wood, the stones, and even the water! After the showdown at the altar, Jezebel sought to kill Elijah, and Elijah fled. This time, Elijah's prayer was one of weariness and desperation. Again, God proved faithful to Elijah and answered his prayer. The Lord spoke to Elijah in a whisper and encouraged him, reminding him that the Lord would save those who remained faithful to Him.

The people of Israel knew that the Lord is the one true God when He answered Elijah's prayer and sent fire down from heaven. In the same way, people would know that Jesus is God's Son when the Holy Spirit came down like a dove when Jesus was baptized. Jesus is the Son of God and gave His life up for us.

Remember that God hears and answers the prayers of those who belong to Him. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness to listen and respond to our prayers. Remind boys and girls that through Jesus, we can boldly take our requests to God!

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

...that all the peoples of the earth may know
that the Lord is God; there is no other.

1 Kings 8:60



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

SEPT 28

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, John 3:16 will look like:

F G S L T W T H G H O A O S T W B I H W N P B H E L

LESSON

After King Baasha, Israel had many wicked kings. One of those evil kings was Ahab. He killed the prophets of God and led the people to worship a false god named Baal. The word of the Lord came to the prophet Elijah and said, “Go and present yourself to Ahab.”

The prophet Elijah came to Ahab and said, “You have ruined Israel because you have abandoned the Lord’s commands and followed Baal instead. Gather the entire nation, and bring the prophets of Baal, too.”

Once everyone had gathered, Elijah said, “How long will you go between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him. Bring two bulls—one for me, and one for the prophets of Baal. We will each prepare them on an altar as a burnt sacrifice. Prophets of Baal, you will call on your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers with fire is the one true God.”

The prophets of Baal cried out to their false god from morning until noon, but nothing happened. Elijah made fun of them, saying, “Maybe your god is taking a walk, or maybe he is sleeping!” They danced and shouted all day, but there was no sound; no one answered; no one paid attention.

Then it was Elijah’s turn. He repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. He then prepared the bull on the altar and asked that water be poured on top. So much water was poured that it gathered in a trench around the altar. Elijah prayed to God: “Lord, today, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and you have turned their hearts back.”

Then the Lord’s fire fell. It completely consumed the burnt offering, the wood and stones of the altar, and even the water gathered in the trench. The people were amazed, falling facedown and saying, “The Lord, he is God!”

Ahab told his wicked wife, Jezebel, everything that had happened. Jezebel sent word to Elijah saying she was going to kill him. Elijah ran for his life. When he was far enough away, he prayed and said, “Lord, I have had enough. I’m no better than the prophets before me.”

The next day, the Lord spoke to Elijah. He told Elijah to go out to a mountain. A great wind passed by. Then an earthquake. Then fire. But the Lord was not in any of these. Then there was a soft whisper. In that whisper, God said, “What are you doing here, Elijah? Go and anoint a new king over Israel. I will preserve for myself people who still worship me and who have not bowed down to Baal. Go and anoint a new king and follow me.” Elijah obeyed God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

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SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS

QUESTION:

What fun or exciting thing have you done lately? If you can't think of something, then what fun or exciting thing are you looking forward to in the future?

ACTIVITY: OVER THE MOUNTAIN

Have everyone sit in chairs in a circle, except for one person, who will stand in the middle. The person in the middle will share a fact about themselves or something they've done. If what they say is true for anyone else in the circle, they have to get up and go to a new chair. The person in the middle will also try to sit in a chair and whoever is left standing says a new fact.

Reminders/rules:

- You can't move to a chair right next to you. It needs to be at least two seats over.
- Be careful when running! Watch where you're going.

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) Read 1 Kings 18:20-24. What is Elijah doing?
- 2) Why would Elijah have the people pour water on his altar to God? What does this communicate about Elijah's confidence in God?
- 3) What is faith? (See also Hebrews 11:1)
- 4) Imagine you were there as this showdown happened. What would you conclude about God and Baal?
- 5) Read 1 Kings 19:18. Who does God leave in Israel? Why?
- 6) What does God leaving a remnant tell us about His character and who He is?
- 7) If you were the only person left who believed in God, would you find it difficult to speak openly about your faith?
- 8) What can you do this week to grow in your confidence and boldness for God?

PRAYER

Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

Listen for names as they are called out on the mic. If you hear the name of a kid in your area, take them to the main doors of the Large Group room.

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!