**Large Group October 29**

**Bible Teaching: Elijah on Mount Carmel**

**Bible Passage: 1 Kings 18:16-45**

# **Bible Teaching Summary**

Israel was ruled by evil King Ahab. He and his wife, Jezebel, worshiped Baal and had gotten rid of most of the prophets of God. Elijah told Ahab to send the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel. Elijah asked the prophets to call on Baal to send fire to burn up a sacrifice. They cried and prayed and danced, but nothing happened. Elijah prepared his altar and even drenched it with water. He prayed to God, and the Lord sent down fire, burning up the sacrifice and everything around it – including the water! God showed all of the people that He was the one true God.

**brite\* Idea: The Lord is the one true God.**

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6b**

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god.*

**Focus Verses: Hebrews 11:6, Isaiah 44:6b, John 17:3**

**He Question: Is God real?**

The God of the Bible is the one true God. He exists. He is the Creator of everything and He loves us.

**We Question: How does God show people that He is the one true God?**

God reveals Himself through His creation. Also, the Bible which tells us all we need to know about Him. God also revealed who He was by sending Jesus to live on the earth.

**Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

# **Leader Tips: Ask for Help**

There may be times when you encounter behaviors that become quite challenging. Perhaps you have tried different ways of redirecting the kid, but the situation hasn’t improved. Perhaps, the behaviors are making the group feel unsafe or are impacting the group’s ability to learn together. Perhaps, the kid’s behaviors feel triggering to you, and you are struggling not to respond out of anger or frustration. If any of these are the case, please don’t hesitate to seek out help. Talk to your ministry leader/supervisor, and be honest about the struggles you are encountering. Let them know what you have tried and where you feel stuck. Consider speaking with the kid’s parent(s) as well. Share the observable behavior(s), and ask for their help and ideas to support their kid in upholding the group expectations. Most importantly, ask God for what you need, such as wisdom, patience, courage, or the eyes to see the kid the way God does.

# **Navigating a Broken World: Pluralism**

In a survey by Barna, 50% of adults indicated that they believe that Muslims and Christians worship the same God.[\*](https://www.barna.com/research/what-americans-believe-about-universalism-and-pluralism/) As our society touts religious tolerance, pluralism accepts that all religious beliefs can be true and co-exist. Pluralism says that you can believe what you believe, and I can believe what I believe, and we can both be right. Kids in your group have likely been exposed to this messaging through social media, YouTube, or even the shows or movies they watch. Our world says there are many gods. Today’s story can help kids understand that in a world that says any god is good enough, the Lord is the one true God. Be sensitive to kids who may come from other backgrounds or who might have relatives who are of another religion. It is important that kids don’t feel that you are being condescending or judgemental towards other faiths. Speak truth in love.

**https://www.barna.com/research/what-americans-believe-about-universalism-and-pluralism/**

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: Craft sticks (3), dice (20), one minute timer, video player*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

A brief overview of the Bible teaching will go here.

*Supplies Needed: Bible, spray bottle with water, red and yellow tissue paper*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**Welcome**

**Supplies:** craft sticks (3), dice (20), one minute timer

**Prep:** Choose three pairs of kids to participate.

**Say:** We have a big competition today with three pairs of friends competing. The younger of the partners will hold the craft stick between their teeth. The older partner will stack dice on the end of the stick. We will set a one minute timer. Whoever has the most dice stacked up will be the winner.

*Set the timer and allow kids to play. Determine the winner.*

**Say:** That was a funny game to watch. Competition can be a lot of fun. Today, we are going to learn about a competition that was extremely serious. But first, let’s find out what happens in today’s Sugar Rush episode.

**Intro Video**

*Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Sugar Rush was able to prove that they were the ones with the real recipe! Sometimes in life it is hard to know what is real and what isn’t.

**Ask:** Have you ever wondered if something was real or fake?

**Say:** Today’s Brite idea reminds us that God is real. He is the One, true God.

**brite\* Idea: The Lord is the one true God.**

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Is God real?

How does God show people He is the one true God?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

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# **Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned, so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it, and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**Where is today’s Bible story?**

Today’s story is found in 1 Kings. 1 Kings is a historical book in the Old Testament. We don’t know who wrote this book. 1 and 2 Kings tell us about many of the kings who ruled Israel and whether or not they followed God.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of 1 Kings. Then show them how to get to today’s Bible passage (1 Kings 18:16-45).*

The Old Testament shares with us how God created the earth and about His special family. God made promises to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob that He would bless the whole world through their family, the Israelites. He rescued the Israelites from Egypt and gave them the Promised Land to live in. They rebelled against Him over and over, but He raised up judges to save them. Then, the people demanded a king. Last week, we learned about David, Jonathan, Saul, and God’s plan for the kingship of Israel. In this week’s story, we will discover that Israel’s kings were not always good.

**Bible Teaching: Elijah on Mount Carmel**

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 18:16-25

**Supplies:** Bible, spray bottle with water, red and yellow tissue paper

**Say:** The nation of Israel was in bad shape. The people continued rebelling against God and eventually the kingdom split into a northern kingdom and a southern kingdom. An evil king named Ahab reigned over Israel. He married Jezebel who worshiped Baal, a false god. Jezebel had many of the prophets of the Lord killed, trying to wipe out all worship of the one true God.

**Say:** God raised up a prophet named Elijah. God worked miracles through Elijah and sent him to confront King Ahab. Elijah told Ahab to send all of the prophets of the false gods to Mount Carmel and to gather all of the Israelites around to watch.

*Explain to kids that they’re going to help you tell what happened in the Bible story. Have kids sit in groups. The size of the group doesn’t matter; you’ll just multiply the number of kids in each role, for larger groups. As an alternative to groups, you can bring kids to the front to act it out.*

**Read 1 Kings 18:20-21 directly from the Bible,** *So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow Him.” And the people did not answer him a word.*

**Say:** Elijah told them to bring two bulls, one for him and one for the prophets of Baal.

*Have one or more kids in each group pretend to be bulls and have them move like bulls into the center of their circle and lie down.*

**Say:** They would each put their bull on the altar and then ask their god to send down fire. The people would know God was real when they saw which god answered. The prophets of Baal put their bull on the altar.

*Have one or more kids in your group, pretend to be wood logs that make up the altar. They’ll lie straight like logs around the bulls.*

**Read 1 Kings 18:26 directly from the Bible,** *And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.*

**Say:** Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal. He said, “Maybe you need to be louder. Maybe BaAal is busy or in the bathroom or asleep.”

*Have kids who haven’t yet volunteered as part of the scene make laughing sounds like Elijah.*

**Say:** The prophets cried even louder, but no one answered. It was Elijah’s turn. He placed twelve stones around the altar, symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel.

*Have one or more kids in your group, pretend to be stones. They’ll lie in a ball like a rock near the altar.*

**Say:** He dug a trench around the altar and laid the wood and bull on it.

*Have kids pretend to dig a trench around the scene.*

**Say:** Then he asked for four jugs of water to be poured on the altar and the wood. *Spray kids with water.* Then he asked for it again. *Spray kids with water.* The water soaked the altar and filled the trench. *Spray kids with water.*

**Read 1 Kings 18:36b directly from the Bible,** *Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word.”*

**Say:** Immediately God sent fire down from heaven that burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and even the dust.

*Give some tissue paper to each kid who is part of the altar scene. Have them wave it about themselves like a burning fire.*

**Say:** When the Israelites saw this, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”

*Invite all the kids to repeat this after you a few times.*

POINT TO JESUS

God showed that He was the one true God. When Elijah called out to Him, He answered in power. God is real and He loves us so much that He provided one way for us to be forgiven of our sin. He sent His Son Jesus. When we pray to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us, He answers us powerfully. He forgives our sins and makes our relationship right with the one true God.

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Watch the Bible Story Review video and then play the game below.**

**Have kids partner up and stand back-to-back. After you read the question, they will show their answer on their fingers and turn to show each other.**

1. Who was the evil king ruling over Israel?
2. Elijah 2) Saul 3) Jezebel **4) Ahab**

*Ahab was the evil king and his wife was Jezebel. They worshiped Baal and had*

*tried to wipe out worship of the one true God in Israel.*

1. Where did Elijah gather the prophets and the people?
2. Ahab’s palace **2) Mount Carmel**  3) The river 4) The grocery store
3. What happened when the prophets of Baal called out for fire?
4. **Nothing happened**  2) Fire fell 3) It rained 4) They ran away

*Despite all of their crying and pleading, nothing happened when the prophets of Baal prayed. Elijah even made fun of them, saying that maybe their god was busy.*

1. What did Elijah add to his altar?
2. Matches 2) Candy 3) Nothing **4) Twelve jugs of water**

 *Before Elijah prayed, he had people pour four jugs of water on the altar, three times. This doesn’t make sense if you are starting a fire, but he wanted to show how very powerful the real God is.*

1. When Elijah prayed, what did the fire burn up?
2. The bull 2) The water 3) The dust **4) All of the above**

*Not only did God answer Elijah’s prayer to send fire to burn up the bull sacrifice, He burned up everything else as well. He left no doubt that He was real.*

6**.** Is God real?

1. **Absolutely**  2) Maybe 3) No 4) Who knows?

*The God of the Bible is the one true God. He exists. He is the Creator of everything and He loves us.*

 7. How does God show us He is real?

1. The Bible 2) Creation 3) Jesus **4) All of the above**

*God reveals Himself to everyone through His creation. He also gave us the Bible which tells us all we need to know about Him. God showed the world who He was by sending Jesus to live on the earth.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** The Lord is the one true God.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Isaiah 44:6b*

Watch the Memory Melody video.

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**HE QUESTION: Is God real?** The God of the Bible is the one true God. He exists. He is the Creator of everything and He loves us.

**WE QUESTION: How does God show people that He is the one true God?** God reveals Himself through His creation. Also, the Bible tells us all we need to know about Him. God also revealed who He was by sending Jesus to live on the earth.

**Prayer**

God, we know that You are real. You are hearing us right now. You are with us. You are ruling over the whole earth and You love us more than we know. When doubts creep in, remind us who You are through Your creation, Your Word, and the truth of what Jesus did for us. Amen.