

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2021, Week 4

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Fire on the Mountain (Elijah and the Prophets of Baal) • 1 Kings 18:16-46 **Today's Bottom**

Main Theme: God can do the impossible.

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*
Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

Monthly Life App: Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for being a God who can do literally anything. Ask Him to help your few have confidence in who God is, especially when they're facing an impossible situation or challenge. Ask God to give them confidence to meet head-on whatever they're facing, knowing they serve and are loved by a God who can do the impossible.

What You Do:

Welcome kids by name as they arrive.

Invite any kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.

Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.

Kids make paddles for Paddle Bop Activity - please write their names on their paddle

Opening Activity

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: "Confidence Rating Characters" and "Confidence Ratings Chart" Activity Pages, pens or pencils

What You Do:

Set out the "Confidence Rating Characters" in the center of your small group area.

Give each kid a "Confidence Rating Chart" and a pen or pencil.

Ask the kids to read the "Confidence Rating Chart" and rate the characters in those categories from 1 to 10. Explain that:

Rating a character at number one means that you are not confident at all in that character in that situation.

Rating a character at number ten means that you are super-confident in that character in a situation.

Once the kids complete their charts, let them share their ratings with each other.

What You Say:

"We have confidence in different people for different situations. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to learn about someone you can have confidence in, no matter what the situation—even if the situation seems impossible.**"

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown

Leader enters with lots of energy, dancing and singing.

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Helloooooo, everyone! It's fantastic to see all your faces today...."

Video: Theme Transition to Life App

"Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

Video: Life App Transition to Theme

"We've had a fun summer so far learning exactly how God sees us. God loves us! He has a good plan for our lives. He can use us to do big things and make a difference in the world around us. We've got another incredible story of confidence that I'll tell you a little bit later. But first, let's keep getting in the mix together as we play a game with Balloons.

ACTIVITY - Paddle Bop **THESE ARE MADE BY KIDS AHEAD OF TIME**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Paper plates, plastic spoons, masking tape, and inflated balloons

What You Do:

Give each kid a paper plate and a plastic spoon.

Show the kids how to tape the plastic spoon onto the back of the paper plate to make a paddle.

Instruct everyone to make a paddle. Help younger kids if necessary.

Ask the kids to pair up.

Have the partners stand, facing each other, about six feet apart.

Give one kid in each pair a balloon.

Direct the kids to use their paddles to bop the balloon between themselves a few times.

Instruct the kids to take a step back, away from their partner, and bop the balloon.

Play this a few times, stepping back a little each round, until no one can reach their partner with the balloon.

Set aside the paddles and balloons.

What You Say:

"There are a lot of factors that make this game tricky, and after a while it seemed impossible to keep going. What things did you have control over? What things could you change about how you played? (*Invite responses.*) What things were out of your control? (*Invite responses.*)

"When you face something in your life that's out of your control and impossible for you to change, who can you have confidence in? Why? (*Invite discussion. Prompt answers like: you can have confidence in someone who can exert control like your parents who can drive you somewhere, a doctor who can help you get better, a teacher who can adjust a lesson or let you retake a test, etc.*)

"Because **[Bottom Line]** **God can do the impossible**, we can have confidence that He can help us in any situation. He might not change what's going on, but He can change how we face it. If you're scared of thunderstorms, you can't always change how you feel when you're in the middle of one. But if you talk to God and ask for His help when you're scared, how is God likely to help you? (*Invite responses.*)

"God can remind us that He is with us in every situation and we don't face anything alone. We can lean on Him when we go through something hard."

WORSHIP

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) "I love these words that Paul wrote to encourage Timothy, a younger Jesus-follower. Paul wrote, 'Even if we are not faithful, he remains faithful.' (2 Timothy 2:13, NIV) God's love is never failing. He never turns away from us. We can have confidence in Him! Sing this with me.

VIDEO: "You Are Faithful"

"It's true! God is faithful to us, always! That's how I know **[Basic Truth]** **I can trust God no matter what**. Before we continue singing, let's watch this.

"True confidence comes from our relationship with Jesus. We know that we can take on anything in life because Jesus loves us, and because He's always right there with us. Through it all, we can trust Him! Let's sing and praise Him together.

Video: "Press Play" Dance Moves Music Video

"That was so fun! Have a seat, and we'll check out our story."

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

RE-ENACT STORY WITH THE KIDS

(I'm bringing small wooden logs, 12 small stones, water to pour, 2 trays, pictures of bulls, flashlight with red strips to represent fire, spray bottle for rain, red tissue paper for "fire")

LEADER: *(Hold up the Bible.)* "Back in Biblical times, Israel was ruled by many kings who didn't always listen to God. But King Ahab was the worst. He even built a temple for a false god called Baal.

"God sent a prophet named Elijah to deliver a message to Ahab. Here's what Elijah said.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 17:1 (NirV) and read.

"I serve the LORD. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land. There won't be any during the next few years. It won't come until I say so.

"After Elijah delivered this bad news to the king—that there would be no rain for several years—God told him to leave and hide east of the Jordan River.

"Sure enough, for three years, it didn't rain in Israel. Crops failed. Rivers and streams dried up.

"King Ahab became desperate. In fact, his wife Jezebel even hunted down most of the prophets of God left in Israel and had them killed! But through it all, God provided food and water for Elijah."

ELIJAH'S PLAN

LEADER: "Finally, in the third year of the drought, God told Elijah to speak to Ahab. God promised that after Elijah spoke with the king, He would send rain on the land.

"Elijah did as God commanded and found Ahab. The two met on a road.

"Ahab wasn't pleased to see Elijah.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:17 (NirV) and read.

"When he saw Elijah, he said to him, 'Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel.'

"Elijah explained that he wasn't the one who had caused trouble for Israel, but rather King Ahab and the kings before him. They had turned away from God and followed false gods like Baal. Elijah had a plan to show Ahab and all of Israel just how great the one true God is. Here's what he told Ahab to do.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:19 (NirV) and read.

"Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god named Baal."

"Ahab went along with the plan. He sent a message through the land, and the Israelites gathered on Mount Carmel, along with 450 prophets of Baal.

"Elijah stood in front of the people and spoke. He said . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:21 (NIRV) and read.

"How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the LORD is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only God, worship him."

"No one said anything. So Elijah continued and presented the people with a challenge. He reminded everyone that he was the only one of God's prophets left, but Baal had 450 prophets. Elijah challenged the people to bring two bulls.

"He allowed Baal's prophets to choose the one they wanted, prepare it, and place it on an altar to Baal. He put the other bull on an altar to the Lord. But neither he nor the prophets of Baal would light their altar on fire. Elijah said . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:24 (NIRV) and read.

"Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the LORD. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God."

NICE TRY, PROPHETS OF BAAL

LEADER: "Everyone agreed this was a good plan. The prophets of Baal prepared a bull as a sacrifice and placed it on the altar to Baal. From morning to noon, the prophets danced around the altar, calling on their false god to light the bull on fire.

"But, of course, nothing happened. As the prophets danced, Elijah teased them.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:27 (NIRV) and read.

"'Shout louder!' he said. 'I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up.'"

"The prophets of Baal danced harder and shouted louder, all through the afternoon. But there was still no answer. At last, Elijah stood up."

THE ONE TRUE GOD

LEADER: "Elijah took 12 large rocks—one for each tribe of Israel—and rebuilt an altar to the Lord.

"Then he placed the bull and sticks of wood on top of the stones and dug a deep trench around the whole altar. He told several of the Israelites to fill four large jars with water and pour them on the offering and the wood.

"Did you catch that? Elijah was about to ask God to bring down fire on a completely SOAKED altar. This must have seemed impossible!

"The men did as Elijah asked. But then Elijah asked them to pour MORE water. And then more! The wood became so wet, water even flowed down the altar and filled the trench!

"Then Elijah called out to God.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:36-37 (NirV) and read.

"LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all these things because you commanded me to. Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again.

"Then . . . FLAMES came down to the altar!

"They instantly burned up the wet wood and the sacrifice, even drying the water in the trench. The people fell on their faces, calling out, *'The LORD is the one and only God! The LORD is the one and only God!'* (1 Kings 18:39, NirV)

"The prophets of Baal tried to escape . . . but the Israelites captured them. Elijah turned to King Ahab. He said . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:41 (NirV) and read.

"Go. Eat and drink. I can hear the sound of a heavy rain.

"Though the sky was completely clear, in a short time, a tiny cloud appeared.

"More clouds quickly joined the first one.

"They grew dark and black.

"The wind rose. Fat drops of rain splatted onto the dry earth for the first time in three years!"

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Filled with God's strength and joy, Elijah raced ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way back to the city. God had done the impossible!

"The same God that Elijah trusted to call down fire is the same God we worship! God is always in control of all things . . . even though we may not be able to see it. So when things seem impossible, remember this . . .

[Bottom Line] "God can do the impossible.

"We can have confidence when we remember just how strong and powerful God really is! Let's talk to God right now and thank Him."

PRAY

LEADER: "Dear God, You ARE all-powerful. We know that You can do things that might seem impossible! Help us have faith like Elijah—to trust that no matter how hard things get, no matter how impossible they seem, nothing is impossible with You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

I combined Musical Hop with Prayer Activity

Musical Hop & Pray [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Construction paper, device to play music, upbeat music, and Bibles

What You Do:

Lay the pieces of construction paper down in a circle. Put down about same number of pieces of paper as there are kids in your group.

Instruct the kids to walk from paper to paper as you play the music.

Stop the music suddenly and call out a color of construction paper.

Direct the kids standing on that color to share

What You Do:

Tell kids that you will lead them in a responsive prayer. A responsive prayer is when you pray and the kids respond to what you pray.

Instruct the kids to say **[Bottom Line] “God can do the impossible,”** when you prompt them to say it as you pray.

Make sure everyone has plenty of room.

(Optional) Ask the kids to listen carefully and to move their bodies to sort of pantomime each situation as you pray about it.

What You Say:

“Dear God, please help us remember that You can do the impossible.

“When I lie in bed and feel afraid, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I take a test that makes me nervous, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I clean out my closet and it’s too big of a job for me to do alone, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I play video games and my mom tells me it’s time to stop, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I’m afraid to stand up for what’s right, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I play sports and I’m frustrated, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When I’m in a line and I feel like I can’t wait another minute, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“When someone says something rude and I want to be rude back, I’ll remember that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!**

“Thank You God that You can do the impossible! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”

As adults arrive to pick up, send kids home with the candy altars they built. Ask the kids to tell the adults about the Bible story the candy altars illustrate and how **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible.**

CRAFT ACTIVITY: Gingerbread Impossible

Kids do this last and take them home to eat.

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: Graham crackers, cookie icing in squeeze bottles, decorating items, plastic spoons and knives, paper plates, wipes, and hand sanitizer

NOTE: Be aware of allergies to the ingredients you use today and provide alternatives, if necessary.

What You Do:

Instruct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.

Give each kid a paper plate, plastic spoons, and plastic knives.

Set out the other supplies where kids can reach what they need.

Challenge the kids to build a “box” with graham crackers and icing that they think might look like the altar to God that Elijah made in the Bible story.

If the kids need suggestions, explain they can stand graham cracker squares up and “glue” them together on the four sides with cookie icing then place another square on top.

After the altars are built, direct the kids to add decorations.

Explain that the chocolate bars can be the logs, the Starburst® candies can be flattened and trimmed to be fire. They can surround the altars with the blue candies for water.

Talk about the story while the kids work.

Set the treats aside for the kids to take home later.

What You Say:

“Sometimes, things feel impossible. What feels impossible to you, right now? *(learning to tie shoes, a subject in school they don’t understand, parents not getting along, a sick family member, etc.)*

“Those things can feel impossible, and they are really hard! In our Bible story today, God did the impossible for Elijah. He showed that He is the only God worth following, the only true God. We can have confidence in Him because *[Bottom Line]* God can do the impossible. God can even do the impossible in your life! How could God help you with the impossible situations you mentioned before?” *(Pause for responses.)*

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God did the impossible in your life. If you can, focus on something that was more “ordinary” than miraculous. Has God healed a relationship? Brought peace to what was a painful memory? Given you the strength to keep your word or finish what you start? Invite kids to share as well.)