

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Activity 1: Moses's Journey

Activity 2: Courage Stick

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



BUDGET FRIENDLY SUPPLIES

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

Bottom Line

God can do the impossible.

Memory Verse

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.

Isaiah 40:31 NIRV



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.



Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

The One and Only God

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared cups with “Firm Foundation” Activity Page cards on them

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat or rephrase questions as many times as needed.

Offer a brief story recap before having the kids begin.



①

What You Do

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Give each team a set of six clear cups labeled with the story parts from today's Bible story about Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

Imagine Together:

Say:

“Each cup shows an important part of today's Bible story about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Your team's mission is to stack the cups in the correct story order — from the beginning to the end!”

1. Encourage the kids to work together to stack the cups in order while they talk about what's happening in each part of the story.
2. After all teams finish, gather everyone together and review the story as a group, stacking the cups again in front of everyone to show the correct order.

Story Cup Order:

1. The Challenge
2. No Fire. No Answer. No Baal.
3. God's Altar
4. Soaked with Water
5. God Sends Fire
6. Rain After the Fire

Talk Together:

*Ask: → What did God show us about who He is when the fire came down?
→ How can we live like we believe the truth that God is with us too?*

②

What You Say

God's people started worshiping a false god named Baal because King Ahab and Queen Jezebel led them away from the one true God. Elijah wanted to help the people turn their hearts back to God.

So, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a “God showdown.” The prophets of Baal prayed and shouted all day, but their god never answered. Then it was Elijah's turn. He rebuilt God's altar, placed an offering on it, and even poured water all over it until everything was soaked.

Elijah prayed to God, and immediately, God sent fire from heaven! The fire burned up the wet offering, the wood, and even the stones. A little while later, God also sent rain to end the drought.

Through this, God showed that He alone is the one true God who can do the impossible. Elijah's prayer helped the people see God's power and love so they would turn their hearts back to Him.

ACTIVITY TWO

Built to Stand

Application Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Trust Test" Activity Page
- ☐ Soft item (pillow or folded blanket)
- ☐ Firm item (cardboard or a sturdy book)
- ☐ Blocks



Inclusive Pro Tips

If the sound of blocks falling or stacking is too much, set the blocks aside and review the "Trust Test" challenges verbally instead.

① What You Do

1. Set the two "foundations" down—the soft item and the firm item.
2. Instruct the kids to form a circle around your two "foundations."
3. Keep the blocks nearby.

Explore Together:

1. Point to the soft item and ask: "What do you think will happen if we try to build a tall tower on this?"
→ Most will say it will fall. Agree!
2. Point to the firm item and ask: "What do you think will happen if we try to build a tall tower on this?"
→ Most will say it'll stand strong. Agree!
3. Let the kids help you build two towers simultaneously, one on the soft foundation and one on the firm foundation, as you read the "Trust Test" Activity Page challenges.
4. Say, "Each of the Trust Test Challenges describes a tough situation, something that might shake our confidence. As we build a tower on each base, we'll see how trusting in ourselves can feel shaky, but when we trust in God, we're built to stand!"
5. Let the tower built on the soft foundation fall and wobble. Celebrate the tower with the firm foundation holding steady!
6. Keep adding blocks until you've read all the challenges.

Talk Together:

1. *Is it easy or hard to have confidence in God in these circumstances?*
2. *What would happen if we only trusted ourselves?*
3. *How does trusting God make a difference, even when it's hard?*

② What You Say

Elijah stood in front of everyone and prayed to God, asking Him to show that He is the one true God so the people would turn their hearts back to Him. Elijah trusted God completely, even when he was the only one standing for what was right. He didn't rely on himself but put his confidence in God's power.

We can have that same confidence too! God is the strongest, and when we follow Jesus, His Spirit lives in us. That means we never face hard things alone. Trusting in God is like building your life on a strong foundation that never falls. When we feel scared or unsure, we can pray, "God, help me be confident in You," because God is always with us and can do the impossible.

Pray and Dismiss



Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Say

"God, thank You so much for all of my friends here today! Thank You for showing us that You can do the impossible through the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Teach us how to live knowing and believing You are with us, and You are the strongest!"

"God, if there are any friends here who are curious to know more about putting their faith in Your Son, Jesus, help them know how much You love them! Thank You for sending Jesus to save us and make a way for us to be close friends with You! Help us all take a step closer to You today, whether we're just starting or we've known You for a long time. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their Wisdomland Fast Pass and recite the Memory Verse on it to their grown-up!

Inclusive Pro Tips

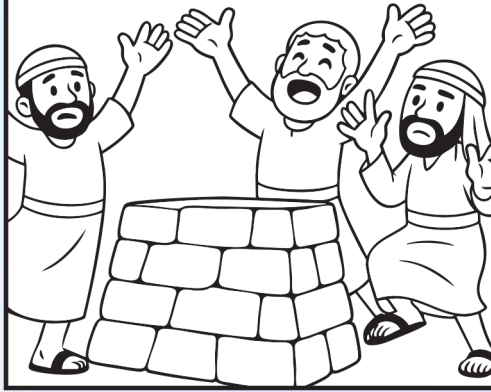


As kids think about what they need wisdom for this week, make sure they don't feel the pressure to share! Give them the opportunity to process quietly.

The Challenge



No Fire. No Answer.
No Baal



God's Altar



Soaked
with Water



God Sends Fire



Rain After the Fire



Trust Test Challenges

- When friends laugh at your faith.
- When you feel like you should pray out loud during Small Group.
- When you're scared to try something new.
- When you want to give up.
- When you have to wait on something.
- When your prayer isn't answered right away.
- When life feels unfair.
- When you don't feel good enough.
- When you feel lonely.
- When someone else gets what you wanted—before you. (i.e., a teammate scores their first goal of the season before you.)