

Small Group Leader Guide



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.

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: VCourage Stick

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

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



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.

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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

True or False Flip

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

- ☐ "True or False" Activity
- ☐ Page Paper plates
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Large craft sticks
- ☐ Scotch or masking tape
- ☐ Smiley face stickers & sad face stickers



Inclusive Pro Tips

Pre-make a few face plates for kids who may feel overwhelmed or need assistance with the drawing step.

Lay both faces on a table or tray and allow children to point to each face.

①

What You Do

1. Give every kid a paper plate and a marker.
2. Invite the kids to draw:
 - A happy face on one side of the paper plate.
 - A sad face on the opposite side of the paper plate.
3. Assist the kids with taping a large craft stick to the back of their plates.
4. Say, "I'm going to read several true or false statements from today's Bible Story. If you think the statement is true, hold the smiley face side of your paper plate high! If you think the statement is false, hold the sad face side of your paper plate high!"
5. One by one, read the statements from the "True or False" Activity Page aloud, pausing for the kids to show their responses.
6. If the statement is false, lead the kids to tell you the true answer.
7. Continue until all the true or false statements have been answered.

②

What You Say

Why do you think Elijah told Ahab to bring 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to pray and cry out to their false gods? (PAUSE.) We know that the 450 prophets of Baal came. Imagine being Elijah, the ONLY one standing up against all of those prophets! But Elijah knew that God could do the impossible.

"God is the One who held back the rain for all those years to try to get King Ahab's attention. He's the One who sent fire down from heaven to completely obliterate the sacrifice, the altar, even the stones. And God is the One who sent heavy rain after three long years of NO rain. There isn't anything God cannot do! But the best news yet? That same strong God goes with us in every situation we face."

"When we put our trust in Jesus, God's very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside of us. He can help us remember that the strong God faces everything with us, and since God is the strongest, we can be confident no matter what we're up against. Elijah was confident because he trusted and believed that God is strong. He was facing hundreds of prophets! We can be confident no matter what we are facing too, because God is with us and God can do the impossible."

Make It Personal → Tell your group about an age-appropriate time when you needed help and trusted God to do the impossible. Maybe you decided to make a big job change, and it was scary. Or maybe you decided to invite a friend to church, but you were nervous. How did trusting God give you the confidence to do something that felt impossible?

ACTIVITY TWO

Fly Like an Eagle

Memory Verse Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Isaiah 40:31
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each group a Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31.
3. Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

1. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to teach the kids motions to Isaiah 40:31.
2. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
3. Repeat the verse with the motions for several rounds. For each round, call on two kids each time to perform the motions like:
 - Kids who like chocolate ice cream
 - Kids with a winter birthday
 - Kids who have a pet
 - Kids who are left-handed
 - Kids who wore sneakers today
4. Gather the group to discuss.

② What You Say

"The Bible is one big book full of truth! It's got two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our Memory Verse this month comes from the book of Isaiah, which is in the Old Testament! Isaiah was someone God chose to send a message from Him to His people. They were feeling really tired and weak. But Isaiah reminded them of this awesome truth: When you trust in God, He gives you new strength! And guess what? That promise is for us too!

"Whatever you're facing, God can give you strength. Maybe you've been doing the right thing over and over and over, like being kind to the new kid, and you're tired. Maybe you've been working really hard to learn how to read and write, and you're tired. Life is hard, and we can get tired! We need new strength!

"But God is the strongest! And when we trust that the strong God is with us, this verse promises that He will give us strength. If you are feeling all wimpy and tired, God is the strong One. You can pray to Him, and He can help you be stronger because He is strong. When you trust in Him, He will give you new strength so you can keep going and not get so tired! Keep practicing these motions at home and remember: God can do the impossible!"

K-1st Grade

Small Group

November — Week 1

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

Prayer

"God, we love You and we believe that YOU can do the impossible. Thank You for listening to every prayer from my friends in this group. Thank You for hearing the prayers of all Your people, all over the world! Today we discovered that what might be completely impossible for us is possible for You. Help us to walk confidently knowing that You are with us in everything that we face. Thank You for loving us, God. We love You so much. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off the motions to Isaiah 40:31 from the Memory Verse Activity.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



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

True or False Review

1.King Ahab trusted God and led the people to follow God.

False: King Ahab led the people away from God.

2.There was no rain for over three years. The crops died, and the people were hungry. *True*

3.King Ahab was leading the people away from God to follow the false prophets of Baal and Asherah. *True*

4.Elijah challenged King Ahab, along with his 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to compete in a foot race—the fastest runner would be the winner! *False: Elijah challenged King Ahab to meet him, along with all of the prophets of the false gods, on Mount Carmel. Elijah proposed a test to prove who the one true God was.*

The prophets of Baal prepared a sacrifice, but did not light the fire. The prophets of Baal prayed to their false god Baal from morning till noon and then all through a good part of the afternoon, but nothing happened. *True*

6.Then, Elijah rebuilt God’s altar. He put the sacrifice on it and then dug a ditch all around the altar. Then he instructed people to pour water over the altar three times. *True*

7.Elijah prayed to God. But nothing happened *False: God answered Elijah right away. God completely burned up the soaked sacrifice, the wood, and even the stones! There was no doubt in that moment that God is the one TRUE God!)*

8.Before it started to rain, Elijah could hear it! He sent his servant to check seven different times. *True*

9.After Elijah sent his servant to look for rain clouds seven times, it did not rain. *False: Heavy rain began to fall after more than 3 years of NO rain. The drought was finally over!*

10.Elijah trusted God and put all his confidence in Him, knowing God could do the impossible. *True*