

3-6 | November 2

Today's Bible Story: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal • 1 Kings 18:16-45

Conversation Starter: What seems impossible to you?

Today's Bottom Line: God can do the impossible.

Monthly 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 (NIV)

1. Opening Activity

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that your confidence is grounded in Him, not in how capable or impressive you feel. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you felt outnumbered or unsure but chose to trust God anyway. Thank God for how He showed up! Ask God to meet preteens in their moments of self-doubt or peer pressure. Pray they would believe that trusting God when it's not popular is still worth it, and that He can do the impossible in their everyday lives.

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Image Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ Scotch tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.

Play Together:

- Before you begin, show and name each "Image Cards" Activity Page card.
 - *Fire, water, a log, and a jar.*
- Encourage the kids to stand in separate areas of your group space.
- Tape one card (face out) on each kid's back. Tell the kid what is on their back, but try not to let anyone else see the card that is on the kid's back.
- Share the goal:
 - "One at a time, one person will come to the center. All of the other kids will try to figure out what's taped to that kid's back by moving quickly enough to see it! If you're in the middle and someone shouts out what's on your back, you're out, and I will choose another kid to go."
- Repeat until every kid has had a chance to play.

What You Say:

"You all are SO fast, and that was really fun! You had no idea what was on the other kids' backs, but you went for it! Water, fire, logs, and a jar?"

"This might've seemed like just a silly game, but we'll hear more about these things today in our true story from the Bible, where a man named Elijah showed us what it means to put our confidence in the one and only true God. Come with me!"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- *Instead of running, try this seated version:*

- Give each kid a card and divide the group into two teams. Tell them not to show anyone yet.
- Teams take turns helping their teammates guess what's on their cards using clues.
- The first team to guess all of their cards correctly wins.

[Lead your group to do worship and watch today's video lesson.]

2. Elijah & the prophets of Baal

What You Need:

- ☐ "Elijah & the prophets of Baal" Activity Page
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Markers, crayons/color pencils

What You Do:

- Give every kid an activity page and have them write their name on it.
- Invite the kids to color their page.
- When they're done coloring, the kids will need to cut out the fire by cutting along the dashed lines.
- Insert the fire into the precut slit above the altar.
- The children can move the fire up and down representing the fire God sent down from heaven to burn up the water-soaked offering and even the stones too!

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?

What You Say:

"Elijah and the prophets of Baal were having a god showdown. King Ahab and his wife Jezebel had led God's people to worship false gods like Baal, and Elijah wanted to turn the people's hearts back to worshiping the one, true God. The prophets of Baal tried hard to get their god to listen, but after hours and hours, he didn't respond. Then, it was God's turn. Elijah rebuilt God's altar and put the offering on it. Then God's altar was soaked. When Elijah prayed to God, God answered right away! God sent fire from heaven, burned up the water-soaked offering and the stones too! Then, a little while later, God sent the rain because He is in charge of all things!

"God showed up! He showed everyone there that He was the one and only true God. This is what Elijah prayed:

"LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. ... Let them know I've done all these things because you commanded me. 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." —1 Kings 18:36-37 (NirV)

"When the people in Elijah's day were giving their hearts to other gods, that would not do! There is one, true God, and He loves us so much! God wanted to show His presence and His power,

and He answered right away when Elijah prayed. God wanted all of the people to turn their hearts back to Him. He wants that or us too! God wants us to love and follow Him!

“And that altar was soaked, soaked, soaked. There was no way fire could light it! But it didn’t matter to God. He burned up the soaked altar and all of the stones too! God wanted the people to see Him, and to see that He can do the impossible. They could trust Him because He is the one, true God. And we can have the same trust. Even when things ‘look’ impossible, God is ALWAYS able—because **God can do the impossible!**”

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- ☐ “Confidence Cards” Activity Page
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ Plain paper
- ☐ Pencils

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into teams of 3-4.
- Give every group:
 - One plain piece of paper
 - One pencil
- Use floor tape to mark a start line for each team.
- On the opposite end of your group space, scatter the “Confidence Cards.”

Move Together:

- Say: “Each team will take turns sending one kid to grab a card from the far side of the room. When you get a card, bring it back to your group. Read it out loud and work together to complete what it says.”
- Encourage each group to discuss the questions and follow the prompts to either:
 - Write or draw their response on paper.
 - Act it out.
- Once their group finishes that card’s challenge, the next teammate can go!
- Continue until every kid gets a chance to grab a Confidence Card.
- Gather the kids and review possible answers to each challenge.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about an age-appropriate time you chose to trust God during a tough season. Did you move to a new city? Maybe choosing to trust God didn’t make you feel better right away, but it made you feel stronger—because you knew God was with you!)***

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Instead of running, give each team 3-4 cards and invite them to complete the challenges sitting at a table or on the floor.

4. Pray and Dismiss

“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!