

Template 2: Main Lesson, Activity and Discussion Questions | Ages 5 to 11, Read Aloud Lesson, Scripture Centered, Apologetics Rich, Christ Centered

WEEK 31 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

Elijah, God Is the One True God

Primary Scripture: 1 Kings 18

BIBLE TIMELINE PLACEMENT

Last week's overview introduced King Ahab and Jezebel, who filled Israel with Baal worship. This week we slow down to focus closely on one dramatic day, when God settles the question of who is truly God, in front of the entire nation.

BIG IDEA

God alone is God, and He proves it not through human bravery but through His own unmatched power, calling His people to undivided devotion.

1 OPENING BIBLE FOUNDATION

Before we begin, let's remember something wonderful. The Bible is not just one book. It is sixty six books, written by more than forty different people, across a very long time, in different places, facing different situations. And yet every single page tells one true story, God's story. Today's story is one of the most dramatic in the whole Bible, and it points us straight to Jesus.

2 MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse today comes from the very end of this story, but let's learn it now so we can watch for it.

MEMORY VERSE
1 Kings 18:39
<i>The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.</i>

Let's say it together. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God. Keep this verse in your mind, because you are about to see exactly why the crowd said it that day.

3 SETTING THE SCENE

Israel has been suffering a drought for three long years, exactly as God warned would happen because of Israel's unfaithfulness. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel have filled the land with worship of a false god named Baal, believed to control rain and storms. Today Elijah, God's prophet, is about to settle the question of who is really in control, once and for all, in front of the whole nation.

4 MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE

Picture the sky. Not a single cloud anywhere, not one, for three whole years. The ground is cracked and dry, splitting apart in the summer heat. Rivers that used to flow are nothing but dust and stone. Crops have failed. Animals have died. Families are hungry and desperate, wondering if it will ever rain again. This is Israel, right now, in today's story, and it did not happen by accident.

Last week we learned that King Ahab became one of the worst kings Israel ever had, married to a woman named Jezebel who filled the land with worship of a false god named Baal. God had warned, through a prophet named Elijah, that a drought would come because of this. And it did, exactly as God said. For three long years, not one drop of rain has fallen.

Now, on this particular day, Elijah walks straight up to King Ahab. Ahab sees Elijah and says, is that you, you troubler of Israel? Elijah does not back down for even a second. He tells Ahab the truth. It is not me who has troubled Israel, Elijah says. It is you and your father's house, because you have abandoned the LORD's commands and followed the Baals instead.

Then Elijah proposes something enormous. Gather all of Israel to Mount Carmel, he says. Bring the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal too. Let's settle this, once and for all, in front of everyone.

Our memory verse today comes from what happens at the very end of this story, but let's learn it now so we can watch for it. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God. Say that with me. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God. Keep that verse in your mind, because you are about to see exactly why the people said it.

Mount Carmel was a tall, well known mountain, easy to see from far away, the perfect place for a massive crowd to gather and watch something important happen. And on that day, an enormous crowd does gather. Four hundred fifty prophets of Baal on one side. Elijah, one single man, on the other.

Elijah stands in front of everyone and asks a question that cuts straight to the heart of the matter. How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him, but if Baal, follow him. Nobody answers. Not one word. The people want to keep both options open, worshipping God sometimes and Baal other times, and Elijah will not let them hide there any longer.

So Elijah proposes a test. Two altars will be built, one for Baal's prophets, one for Elijah. Two bulls will be prepared as offerings. Whichever god answers by sending fire from heaven, that god is the true God. Everyone agrees. This is fair. This is exactly the kind of proof that would settle everything.

The prophets of Baal go first. They build their altar, prepare their bull, and begin crying out to Baal, from morning all the way until noon. Nothing happens. Not a flicker. Not a sound. They dance around their altar, calling louder and louder, working themselves into a frenzy. Still nothing. The sky stays exactly as empty and silent as it was three years ago, the very first day the drought began.

At noon, Elijah cannot resist teasing them a little. Cry louder, he says. Surely he is a god. Maybe he is thinking, or busy, or traveling somewhere. Maybe he is asleep and needs to be woken up. Can you imagine the crowd's reaction? Some of them probably could not help but laugh, even in the middle of

something this serious.

The prophets of Baal cry louder. They shout until they are hoarse. They even cut themselves, hoping their god might notice their desperation. Nothing happens. Nothing has ever been there to answer. Baal cannot respond, because Baal was never real to begin with, just wood or stone shaped into an idol, unable to see, hear, or save anyone.

Evening comes. Baal's prophets are exhausted, and still, complete silence from heaven.

Now it is Elijah's turn. But watch what he does next, because it is remarkable. Elijah does not want anyone, ever, to wonder if there was a trick involved. He repairs the LORD's altar using twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel, reminding everyone this is the God of their whole nation, not some new or foreign god. He places the wood and the bull on the altar. Then Elijah does something that seems to make his own test even harder. He has the people pour water over the whole thing. Once. Then again. Then a third time, until the water runs down and fills the trench dug all the way around the altar.

Think about that for a second. Wet wood does not catch fire easily. Elijah is making sure that if fire falls, absolutely nobody can claim there was some hidden trick, some spark, some hot coal secretly waiting underneath. He is removing every possible natural explanation, on purpose.

Then Elijah prays. Not a long, dramatic prayer. A short, simple one. LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, LORD, are God.

And God answers immediately. No waiting. No silence. No seven hours of crying out like Baal's prophets endured. The moment Elijah finishes his simple, short prayer, heaven responds.

Fire falls from heaven. Not a small flicker, a massive, overwhelming fire that consumes the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, even the dust on the ground, and licks up every last drop of water in the trench. There is nothing left. Nothing but ashes where the altar used to be.

The whole crowd falls face down on the ground. And they cry out, together, with one voice. Do you remember our memory verse? Here it comes. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.

Let's say it together, the exact same way the crowd said it that day. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.

Now, someone might wonder, could this really have happened? Could fire truly fall from the sky like that, right out of a clear, cloudless afternoon? That is a fair question. The Bible does not ask us to believe in magic or superstition. It records a specific, public, historical event, witnessed by an enormous crowd, at a specific place, on a specific day, and the record of it has been carefully preserved in Scripture for thousands of years. If Elijah had made this up, or if nothing had actually happened, the story would never have survived, because too many witnesses were standing right there.

Here is something important to notice as we finish this part of the story. What happened to Baal's prophets after all of this is something for grown ups to understand fully at another time. What matters most for us today is what this moment proves beyond any doubt. There is no other god. There never was. The LORD alone is God.

After all of this, Elijah prays once more, this time for rain. He sends his servant to look toward the sea, again and again, seven times, before the servant finally sees a small cloud, no bigger than a person's hand, rising up. Before long, the sky turns black with clouds, and a mighty rain falls, ending the three year drought at last. The LORD who sent fire also sends rain, because He is God over everything, not just the dramatic moments.

Here is where we begin to see our need for Jesus. This entire day was never really about Elijah being brave, even though it took real courage to stand there. It was about revealing who God truly is, powerful, faithful, and utterly alone in being God. Hundreds of years later, Jesus said something that sounds almost exactly like Elijah's challenge on Mount Carmel. No one can serve two masters, Jesus said, you cannot serve God and money, or God and anything else that competes for first place in your heart. Jesus was asking Israel, and is still asking us today, the very same question Elijah asked that day. Will you follow Him completely, or will you keep limping between two opinions?

There is something else wonderful to notice. Many years after Mount Carmel, on a mountain again, Jesus stood together with two men from Israel's past, Moses, and Elijah, the very same Elijah from our story today. God the Father spoke from heaven and said, this is my beloved Son, listen to him. The same undivided devotion Elijah demanded for the LORD on Mount Carmel belongs completely to Jesus.

So what does this mean for you, this week? Maybe you are not tempted to bow down to a carved idol named Baal. But all of us are tempted to divide our hearts, giving God some of our devotion while saving the rest for other things, our own comfort, our own popularity, our own plans, a screen, a sport, a friend group whose approval matters more to us some days than God's does. Jesus is asking you the same question Elijah asked Israel. Is the LORD your God, completely, or are you still limping between two opinions?

Let's say our memory verse one more time, because it is the whole point of this entire story. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God. Not one god among many. Not an option alongside other options. The LORD, and Jesus, His Son, alone are worthy of our whole hearts.

Elijah stood alone that day, but he was never really alone, because the God he served was, and is, the only true God there is, ruling over fire and rain and every single thing in between. You do not have to stand alone either. The same God who answered by fire on Mount Carmel is the same God who sent His Son to answer for us completely, once and for all.

5 WHY WE CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD

This event was witnessed publicly by a massive crowd gathered from across Israel, not a private vision only one person saw. The record of it has been preserved carefully in Scripture for thousands of years. When the Bible tells us fire fell from heaven that day, we can trust that fully. If you ever wonder whether something in the Bible really happened, that is a good question, and it is always welcome here.

6 WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

This contest reveals that God alone is God, with no rival, no equal, and no competitor. Elijah stood for the LORD's exclusive claim on Israel's worship, and centuries later Jesus made an even greater claim about Himself, that He alone is the way to the Father. Jesus lived a perfectly faithful life, never dividing His devotion, then died on the cross and rose again, proving He truly is worthy of the same undivided devotion Elijah demanded that day on Mount Carmel.

7 GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

This passage shows God the Father answering by fire in response to Elijah's prayer. The whole Bible helps us see the larger picture, since Jesus the Son later makes the same claim to exclusive devotion that Elijah made for the LORD, and appears alongside Elijah at the Transfiguration, where the Father commands that Jesus alone be listened to. The Holy Spirit is the one who today helps God's people choose wholehearted devotion instead of limping between two opinions. God is one God in three Persons, always at work, always worthy of everything we have.

8 LIFE APPLICATION

This week, think honestly about where your own heart might be divided, giving God some devotion while saving the rest for other things. God does not ask for part of your heart. He proved on Mount Carmel that He alone is worthy of all of it, and Jesus asks the exact same wholehearted devotion today.

9 DEFENDING THE TRUTH

What if a friend says this story sounds like a legend, not something that could really happen?

This event happened publicly in front of an enormous crowd, not in secret, and the record of it has been carefully preserved in Scripture ever since. It reads like careful historical reporting, not like a legend.

Scripture to remember, 1 Kings 18:39. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, the LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.

How to say it kindly. You could say, this happened in front of a huge crowd of witnesses, not just one person alone, which is exactly the kind of event that gets remembered accurately.

10 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**Core Questions for All Ages****What did Elijah challenge the people to decide on Mount Carmel?**

Whether the LORD or Baal is the true God, and to stop limping between two opinions.

Why did Elijah pour water on his sacrifice three times?

So that no one could claim the fire happened by some natural trick, removing every possible explanation except God.

What happened when Baal's prophets cried out to their god?

Nothing. Baal never answered, because Baal was never a real god.

What did the people say after fire fell from heaven?

The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.

Optional Deeper Questions**What did Jesus say later that sounds like Elijah's challenge on Mount Carmel?**

No one can serve two masters, meaning we cannot divide our devotion between God and anything else.

Where else does Elijah appear in the Bible, alongside Jesus?

At the Transfiguration, where God the Father commands that Jesus be listened to above all others.

Is there an area of your life where you feel like you are limping between two opinions?

Personal reflection, no single right answer. Encourage honest sharing.

Why do you think the fire falling made such an immediate difference in what the people believed?

Personal reflection. Encourage children to talk about the power of clear, undeniable proof.

11 HANDS ON ACTIVITY**Activity Name**

Fire From Heaven Response Cards

Purpose

Help children process the drama of the story, and practice recognizing what wholehearted devotion looks like versus divided loyalty.

Supplies

Index cards or paper cut into cards, markers.

Time Needed

10 to 12 minutes.

Preparation Before Class

Prepare a short list of everyday scenarios showing divided or wholehearted devotion.

Step by Step Instructions

Read each scenario aloud, for example, a child prays before a test but also wears a lucky bracelet just in case, or a child tells the truth even though a lie would be easier. Have children hold up a card that says wholehearted or divided, based on the scenario. Discuss what wholehearted trust in God looks like in ordinary, everyday choices, not just dramatic ones like Mount Carmel. Close by having each child write or

draw one way they want to trust God wholeheartedly this week.

Scripture Connection

1 Kings 18:21, how long will you go limping between two opinions.

Debrief Questions

Was it easy or hard to tell the difference between wholehearted and divided in some scenarios? Why do you think God cares about our whole heart instead of just part of it?

How to Adapt for Younger Children

Use only two or three very clear scenarios, and act them out instead of reading them.

How to Adapt for Older Children

Have children come up with their own scenarios from their own lives to share with the group.

12 OPTIONAL REVIEW GAME

Game Name

The LORD, He Is God

Purpose

Reinforce the memory verse and key facts in a fun, high energy way matching the story's drama.

Supplies

None needed.

How to Play

Ask a quick review question. If answered correctly, the whole group shouts the memory verse together, the LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God, like the crowd on Mount Carmel.

Review Questions and Answers

What mountain did this contest happen on? Mount Carmel. How many prophets of Baal were there? Four hundred fifty. How many times did Elijah have water poured on his sacrifice? Three times. What did the people say after the fire fell? The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God.

13 TEACHER CLOSING

Today we watched Elijah stand alone against four hundred fifty prophets of a false god, and we watched God answer by fire, proving beyond doubt that He alone is God. We learned that God does not want part of our hearts, He wants all of them, and that Jesus later asked us the exact same question Elijah asked Israel, will you serve Him completely. Jesus loves every single child in this room, exactly as you are, right now, and He is worth your whole heart, not just part of it. Let's say our memory verse one more time together. The LORD, he is God, the LORD, he is God. Let's pray. Dear God, thank You for proving on Mount Carmel that You alone are God. Help us stop limping between two opinions, and help us give You our whole hearts this week, just like the crowd did that day. In Jesus' name, amen.

14 TAKEAWAY TRUTH

The LORD, he is God, and He is worthy of my whole heart.