



July's B.i.G. Idea

We believe that we can live and act with love and courage because God is always with us.

July's Bible Verse

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2

July's B.i.G. Theme

Come, Live the Adventure

Lesson 5 ★ Elijah the Challenger

Today's Bible Story

1 Kings 18:20-39

Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal.
- ★ Children will recognize that God is capable of astounding things.

Many times in the Old Testament we see instances of God's people forgetting that God alone is the one true God. The people become confused or disheartened, and they turn to idols or images of gods they can see and feel and touch.

This week's dramatic story pits Elijah, God's prophet, against the prophets of Baal. At this time King Ahab was serving as the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He was married to Jezebel, who worshiped Baal. Following her lead, the people had begun to worship Baal in addition to, and sometimes instead of, God.

Elijah challenged the people with this question: "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). Elijah presented the people with a challenge. He instructed the four

hundred fifty prophets of Baal to prepare an altar, but not to light it. He told them to choose and prepare a bull for the altar, and then ask Baal to light the fire. Elijah would also prepare an altar and ask the Lord to light the fire on his altar. "The god who answers by fire is indeed God," Elijah said (1 Kings 18:24).

The prophets of Baal prepared their altar and began to pray. They prayed all day, but nothing happened. Elijah made fun of them. "Maybe you need to shout louder," he said. "Perhaps your god is busy, or on a trip, or asleep."

Finally, Elijah gathered the people around him and prepared the altar to God, placing twelve stones around it for the twelve tribes of Israel. He dug a trench all the way around the altar. Then Elijah prepared the bull for the sacrifice. When the sacrifice was ready, Elijah asked the people to pour water over the sacrifice and the wood. They did this three times, completely soaking the altar, firewood, and sacrifice so they would be almost impossible to burn.

Then Elijah prayed to God. "Please send fire," he said, "so the people will know that you really are God and will turn their hearts back to you." Immediately God's fire came down on the altar. The fire consumed the offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and every drop of water that was in the trench. When the people saw what God had done, they believed that God alone was, indeed, the one true God.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Build an Altar	
Praise Wheels	
Transition Time	✓

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Backyard Time	✓
Hear the Bible Story	✓
Praise Time	✓
Number Fun	

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Field Trip	
Closing Worship	



TimeSaver
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: Backyard Time

When Mr. Z arrives in the backyard, he finds not one, not two, but three people who look like Ms. Lucy. Mr. Z finds the real Ms. Lucy by asking which one knows where his helmet is. When Ms. Lucy and Mr. Z look for Bongo, he is missing. Then they see three Bongos on the boat. They find which one is the real Bongo by having each one say, "It's Bible verse time," followed by a squawk. But it is still hard to tell which is the real Bongo, so Mr. Z asks the real Bongo to fly. Mr. Z remembers the Bible story about Elijah, who helped people know who is the true God.



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Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do**
- ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child an altar **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
 - ★ **Say:** This is a picture of an altar. Long, long ago Bible people built altars as places where they could bring offerings to God. Our story today is about a miracle that God performed at an altar.
 - ★ **Say:** Our new Bible verse this month says: “My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).
 - ★ **Say:** God did something wonderful and amazing in our Bible story today. We call the amazing thing God did a miracle. God did amazing things in Bible times and God does amazing things today.
 - ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

Live B.i.G. We praise God who is the one true God.

Build an Altar

Supplies: small sticks, twelve stones, small wading pool, sand

Prepare

- ★ Set up the wading pool—without water—near the storytelling area.
- ★ Place sand, sticks, and stones in the wading pool.

- Do**
- ★ Show the children the sand, sticks, and stones in the wading pool. Invite the children to play and build with the materials.
 - ★ Invite the children to build an altar in the wading pool with the stones. Explain that each stone in the altar represents one of the families, or tribes, of God’s people in the Bible.
 - ★ Encourage the children to place the sticks on top of the altar.
 - ★ **Say:** The people used the sticks to build a fire on the altar. They burned sacrifices to honor God.

To make a more permanent altar, glue the stones together with a low-temperature glue gun.



Live B.i.G. We no longer burn sacrifices to honor God. Instead, we give our time, our talents, and our money to honor God.

Invite them in . . .

Praise Wheels

Supplies: Kids' Book, Stickers, gluesticks, craft sticks or paint-stirrers (hardware stores will often donate paint-stirrers), ribbon or yarn, optional: large jingle bells and tape

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the four circles (**Kids' Book**) for each child.
- ★ Cut yarn or ribbon into 12-inch lengths.

Do ★ Give each child the four circles (**Kids' Book**). Each circle is slightly smaller than the next.

- ★ Have the children place the green circles down on the table.
- ★ Then show the children how to glue the blue circles on top of the green circles.
- ★ Next have the children glue the red circles on top of the blue circles.
- ★ Finally, have the children glue the multi-colored circles on top of the red circles.
- ★ Give the children the "Praise Our God" **Stickers**.
- ★ Let the children place their **Stickers** on top of all the circles.
- ★ Help the children glue the circles onto craft sticks or paint-stirrers to make handles.
- ★ Give the children ribbon or yarn to tie around the handles.
- ★ Optional: Wrap the ends of the ribbon or yarn with tape. Show the children how to thread jingle bells onto the ends of the ribbon or yarn. Secure the bells with a knot.
- ★ **Say:** We are making praise wheels. We will use our praise wheels for Praise Time.

Plan to use the Praise Wheels during the Bible story today and for Praise Time for the rest of this month.



Live B.i.G. We can praise God who is the one true God.

Transition Time

Supplies: praise wheels made earlier (above)

- Do** ★ Have the children hold their praise wheels.
★ Sing the song "My Help Comes From the Lord" as the children march around the room.

My Help Comes From the Lord

(Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

My help comes from the Lord.
My help comes from the Lord.
Row along and sing this song;
My help comes from the Lord.

- ★ Lead the children to your DVD area and have them sit down.
- ★ Instruct the children to place their praise wheels underneath their chairs or on the floor behind them.

Live B.i.G. We praise God for God's help.



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Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Backyard Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Do**
- ★ Gather the children to watch Backyard Time.
 - ★ **Say:** Mr. Z has a fun game for us in Backyard Time today. Let's play!
 - ★ Watch Backyard Time (**DVD**).
 - ★ **Say:** That was fun picking the real Ms. Lucy and the real Bongo! Now we are going to hear a story about a time when the people were confused about who God really is.

Live B.i.G. We love and worship the one true God.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, altar and praise wheels created earlier (pages 50 and 51), pitcher of water

- Do**
- ★ Gather the children around the altar they built earlier (page 50).
 - ★ Open your Bible to 1 Kings. Show the title "1 Kings" to the children. Invite them to read the word *Kings*.
 - ★ **Say:** Today's Bible story comes from a book called First Kings. What do you think this book might be about? Good guess! This book is about God's people, the Israelites, and the kings who were their leaders. Today's story is about a king named Ahab and a prophet named Elijah. King Ahab's wife did not worship the one true God. She worshiped a different god, a god called Baal. But Baal was not actually a real god at all. Baal was just a statue. So God sent a prophet named Elijah to help the people remember the one true God.
 - ★ **Say:** You have a special part in our story today. Each time I point to you, you will shake your praise wheels and help me say, "Praise our God! The one true God!"
 - ★ Practice with the children.
 - ★ Tell the story "Elijah and the One True God" (**Leader—page 55**).
 - ★ **Say:** God sent down fire to burn the altar to show everyone that God is the one true God.

Live B.i.G. Our God is the one, true, living, and powerful God!

Praise Time

Supplies: DVD, Leader—page 5, DVD player, television, praise wheels made earlier (page 51)

- Do**
- ★ Give the children their praise wheels.
 - ★ **Say:** Let's learn a new song called "I'm Part of the Story Too." Mr. Z and his friends will teach it to us. Let's use our praise wheels and sing!
 - ★ Play "I'm Part of the Story Too" (DVD). Invite the children to sing and dance with the children in the backyard.
 - ★ **Ask:** What special lesson does the story of Elijah have for us? (*God is the one true God.*)

Live B.i.G. Bible stories help teach us how God wants us to live.

Number Fun

Supplies: Leader—pages 56 and 57, scissors, masking tape, mural paper, gluesticks, crayons, markers, star stickers, stamps and non-permanent ink pads

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy and cut apart the number cards (Leader—page 56).
- ★ Tape the cards on the floor scattered around an open area of the room.
- ★ Make a masking tape line on the floor a short distance from the cards.
- ★ Cut a length of mural paper.
- ★ Write the words "There is one true God" across the mural.
- ★ Enlarge and photocopy a number one card (Leader—page 57) for each child.

- Do**
- ★ Have the children line up behind the line of tape.
 - ★ **Say:** In today's Bible story there were two altars. Hop to the number two.
 - ★ Help the children find the number two taped to the floor.
 - ★ **Say:** Elijah had the people bring water in four jars. Hop to the number four.
 - ★ **Say:** Elijah instructed the people to pour water on his altar three times. Hop to the number three.
 - ★ **Say:** God sent down fire to burn the altar. The people decided to worship the one true God. Hop to the number one.
 - ★ Give each child a number one (Leader—page 57).
 - ★ Encourage the children to decorate inside the number ones with crayons or markers, star stickers, and stamps and non-permanent ink pads.
 - ★ Read the mural to the children.
 - ★ Let the children glue their decorated ones onto the mural paper.
 - ★ **Say:** Elijah wanted everyone to know that there is one true God. Let's put our mural in the hallway to let everyone know that there is one true God.

Live B.i.G. Our God is the one, true, living, and powerful God!



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Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Field Trip

Supplies: small table and items for a classroom altar such as candles, flowers, shells, and a cross; optional: visiting pastor

Prepare

- ★ You may want to invite your pastor to come on the field trip to help explain things to your children.

Do

- ★ Take the children to the sanctuary to see your church's altar.
- ★ **Ask:** What do you see on the altar? Why do you think these things are on the altar?
- ★ Give children a chance to name the things on the altar.
- ★ **Say:** Elijah built an altar to tell everyone about the one true God. We use altars to help us worship the one true God.
- ★ Return to your classroom.
- ★ If you do not have an altar in your classroom, let the children help you set up a small table to make an altar. Have a Bible, candles, flowers, and shells for the children to place on the altar.
- ★ If you already have an altar, let the children add something new to the altar.

Live B.i.G. We want others to know that we worship the one true God.

Closing Worship

Supplies: Kids' Book, Stickers, Leader—pages 55 and 143

Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook for each child (**Kids' Book**) (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "Elijah and the One True God" (**Leader—page 55**) for each child.
- ★ Photocopy "July—Living B.I.G. at Home" (**Leader—page 143**) for each child.

Do

- ★ Place a "Praise Our God" worship badge **Sticker** on each child.
- ★ Give each child a storybook (**Kids' Book**), a copy of "July—Living B.I.G. at Home" (**Leader—page 143**), and a copy of "Elijah and the One True God" (**Leader—page 55**) to take home.

Live B.i.G. We praise God—the one true God.

Elijah and the One True God

God was sad that the people were worshipping a statue called Baal. So God sent a prophet named Elijah to help the people remember the one true God.

Praise our God! The one true God!

Elijah said, "It is time for you to decide if you will worship a stone statue named Baal or the one true God."

Praise our God! The one true God!

So Elijah had the prophets who worshiped Baal build an altar from stones. And they did. Then they placed wood on the altar.

Elijah said, "If Baal is the one true God, let Baal send fire to light the altar." All day long the prophets of Baal prayed, but nothing happened. Baal did not answer their prayers. He couldn't! Baal was just a statue! He was not the one true God.

Then Elijah got busy. He built an altar from twelve stones and dug a deep ditch all around the altar.

Elijah placed wood on the altar. Then Elijah called the people to gather around. "Pour water on the altar," Elijah said. So the people poured four large jars of water over the altar. The water drenched the stones and the wood that was on the altar.

"Do it again!" Elijah said. So the people poured four more large jars of water over the altar.

"Do it once more!" Elijah said. And they did. The water ran down around the altar and filled the ditch.

It is impossible to start a fire with wet wood! But nothing is too hard for the one true God.

Praise our God! The one true God!

Elijah prayed to God. "O God, please show the people that you are the one true God."

Praise our God! The one true God!

God heard Elijah's prayer and immediately sent down fire. The fire burned the wood and even the altar stones. It dried up every drop of water.

Praise our God! The one true God!

Baal could not answer the people's prayers, because Baal was just a statue. But God, the one true God, can do all things.

Praise our God! The one true God!

When the people saw what God had done they said, "The Lord is God!" The people decided to worship the one true God.

Praise our God! The one true God!

based on 1 Kings 18:20-39

Number Fun

		
		

