

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 18

MEMORY VERSE

1 Kings 18:39

The LORD, he is God — there is no other.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

KEY TRUTH

The LORD, he is God — there is no other.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

Tonight is kinetic. Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is feet and voice. The whole back half of class is the *Two Altars* game — two sides of the room, the kids walk to whichever god a scenario is actually serving, and the room fills up with the bottom line shouted out loud. Don't try to make this quiet.

What to skip. Don't re-read the whole chapter. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read 1 Kings 18:21 and 18:39 — the question and the answer. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up ("Israel was worshipping a fake god named Baal. Elijah and Baal's prophets had a fire contest on a mountain. Only God answered, and the people said *the LORD, he is God*"), then move on.

Energy management. Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around the kinetic game. Kids will get loud during *Two Altars* — that's fine; the game requires it. Bring them back down for the take-home card and closing prayer.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Two pieces of paper — one labeled **THE LORD**, one labeled **NOT GOD** — taped to opposite walls
- **The LORD, He Is God** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. I want you to say it with me: The LORD, he is God — there is no other.

Have them say it back. Then again, twice in a row, the way the people on the mountain said it. Then in a whisper. Then loud.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to use their feet, not just their mouths. But first, a quick review.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

Who can tell me what was happening in Israel before today's chapter?

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: King Ahab and Queen Jezebel had brought in prophets of a fake god named Baal, the people were trying to worship two gods at once, and there had been three years of drought.

ASK

What contest did Elijah set up on Mount Carmel?

Two altars. Baal's prophets pray for fire. Elijah prays for fire. Whichever god answers — that's the real God.

ASK

What happened when Baal's prophets prayed all morning?

Nothing. No voice. No answer. Baal isn't real.

ASK

And what happened when Elijah prayed?

Fire fell from heaven and burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even the water in the trench.

Re-Read the Question and the Answer

Have them open to 1 Kings 18:21. Pick a confident reader.

1 Kings 18:21

ASK

What's the question Elijah asks the people?

"How long will you go limping between two opinions?" He's asking them to pick.

Now have them turn to 1 Kings 18:39 and read the people's answer:

1 Kings 18:39

Write the question and the answer on the board, side by side:

The question: How long will you go limping between two opinions?

The answer: The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!

Say the bottom line again, with them: *The LORD, he is God — there is no other.*

3. The Work

Two Altars

Tape one paper labeled **THE LORD** to one wall. Tape another labeled **NOT GOD** to the opposite wall. Tell the kids: this room is Mount Carmel now. Two altars. You're going to pick.

The game: you're going to read situations. After each one, the kids have to physically walk to the side of the room that names what's *actually* getting served. Then everyone says together: "*The LORD, he is God — there is no other.*"

If a situation is honoring God, walk to **THE LORD**. If a situation is putting something else in God's place, walk to **NOT GOD**. After each one, you'll ask: *what would following the LORD instead look like?*

Round 1 — The story.

Tell the kids to start in the middle. Read each situation. After each, they walk to the side that fits.

1. Baal's prophets dance and shout all morning, cutting themselves to get Baal's attention. (*NOT GOD. Baal isn't real. They're working themselves up over nothing.*)
2. Elijah builds an altar with twelve stones — one for each tribe of Israel — and prays one short prayer. (*THE LORD. He's pointing the people to the God of all twelve tribes.*)
3. The people see fire fall from heaven and shout, "The LORD, he is God!" (*THE LORD. They finally pick.*)

Round 2 — Your life.

Now read situations from their lives. Same rule — walk to the side that fits. After each: *what would following the LORD look like instead?*

1. You skip church for the third Sunday in a row because of a tournament. (*NOT GOD. Sports has taken God's spot.*)
2. Your friends are making fun of someone who prays out loud. You pray anyway. (*THE LORD.*)
3. You spend three hours on your phone before you've read your Bible or said anything to God this week. (*NOT GOD. The phone is getting more of your heart than God is.*)
4. You tell the truth even though it'll cost you. (*THE LORD.*)
5. You'd rather lose a friend than do something you know is wrong. (*THE LORD.*)

After each, after they've walked: have them say together: "*The LORD, he is God — there is no other.*"

Round 3 — The verse.

One last walk. This time everybody — *everybody* — walks together to the **THE LORD** side of the room. As they walk, say together, twice in a row, the way the people did:

"The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!"

Bringing It Back

Gather the kids in the middle of the room. Ask:

ASK

Which scenario was hardest to put on the NOT GOD side? Why?

Let a few kids answer. Then say:

SAY

Most of the things we put on the NOT GOD side aren't bad things. A phone isn't bad. Sports aren't bad. Wanting friends isn't bad. But when any of those takes God's spot — when you'd rather skip God than skip them — that's a Baal. The fire on the mountain settled the question for Israel. We don't get fire from heaven. We get the same question, over and over, in normal-life clothes: who am I actually following?

4. The Point

The LORD, He Is God Prayer Card

Hand out the **The LORD, He Is God** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

Lord, help me put you first when _____.

Tell them they can write or draw. They'll take it home and put it somewhere they'll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: "What's the thing you reach for first? What's the thing you'd be most upset to lose?" Help them turn it into a sentence.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they're done, have everyone come back together and turn to 1 Kings 18:39:

SCRIPTURE

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."

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY

The LORD, he is God — there is no other.

Close in prayer:

PRAY

God, you sent fire on Mount Carmel so the whole nation would know who you are. Help us know it too — every day this week. When the phone, the game, the friend, the worry tries to take your place, help us remember the fire and the trench full of water. The LORD, he is God. There is no other. Amen.