Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: There is one true God. God hears me when I pray.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 18. Read 1 Kings 18 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "The LORD, he is the God" *1 Kings 18:39 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 12 building blocks (or 12 paper "stones" cut from gray paper), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 18.

1. Opening game: Twelve Stones (5 minutes)

Put the 12 blocks or paper stones in the middle of the circle. Kids take turns adding one stone to a pile, and everyone counts together, "One, two, three ..." all the way to twelve. Say: "Good job! Twelve stones! Today we will hear a true story about a man named Elijah. He built an altar with twelve stones, and God sent fire!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 18. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Elijah was God's prophet. He told people what God said (1 Kings 18:1). *(Point up.)*
Many people prayed to a false god named Baal (18:18). *(Shake your head no.)*
Elijah said the God who answered by fire would be the true God (18:24). *(Hold up one finger.)*
Baal's prophets called, "O Baal, hear us!" (18:26) *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)*
They called all morning. They called all afternoon (18:26, 18:29). *(Pretend to call.)*
But nobody answered. Nobody at all (18:29). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
Say it with me: "Baal could not answer!"

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The story continues:
Elijah built an altar with twelve stones (18:31–32). *(Stack your fists, one on top of the other.)*
He put wood on it (18:33). *(Pretend to lay down sticks.)*
They poured water on it, one, two, three times (18:33–34). *(Pretend to pour, three times.)*
Everything was wet, wet, wet! (18:35) *(Shake your hands like they are wet.)*
Elijah prayed, "Hear me, O LORD!" (18:37) *(Fold your hands.)*
God sent fire! It burned it all up, even the water (18:38). *(Wiggle your fingers down like fire.)*
All the people bowed down and said, "The LORD, he is the God!" (18:39) *(Bow down low.)*
Say it with me: "God hears me when I pray!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Did Baal answer? *(No! 1 Kings 18:29)*
2. How many stones did Elijah use? *(Twelve, 18:31)* Let's count them on our fingers and toes!
3. What did God send when Elijah prayed? *(Fire! 18:38)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The LORD, he is the God." Teach the motions: point up for "The LORD," then hold up one finger for "he is the God," because there is only one God. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a big voice. Then say "1 Kings 18:39" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "There is one God, and God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Fire from God (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a pile of stones, with a few sticks of wood on top. Then they color big red, orange and yellow flames coming down on it. While they color, ask: "Who sent the fire? Who hears you when you pray?" Kids who finish early can build the twelve stones again and count them.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing me.
You are the one true God.
I love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, play Twelve Stones again. Use soft blocks or paper stones, never real rocks. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Left out on purpose: this lesson does not tell how the prophets of Baal cut themselves (1 Kings 18:28), what happened to them at the brook Kishon (18:40), or how Elijah teased them (18:27). Read 1 Kings 18 yourself before class. If a child asks, say: "Baal was not real. God showed everyone that He is the only true God, and the people turned back to Him."

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