

K-3rd

Large Group

November — Week 1

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (10 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Small Group (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

→ Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

→ Devotionals for Kids

→ Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

Bottom Line

God can do the impossible.

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 (NIRV)



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown

Optional Video → Theme Intro

Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Hello, hello everyone! We’re so excited that you’re here today as we discover another EPIC scene in the big story God is telling in the Bible!

“But first, I gotta ask ... who here likes to build stuff? Let’s see a show of hands. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“If you like to build with LEGO® bricks, wave that hand back and forth! (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“If you like to build with magnet tiles, raise both hands and clap three times. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“If you like to play block-building games on a screen, shout: ‘Endless possibilities!’ (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“Endless possibilities! There are so many fun ways to build, but anytime you construct something, you’ve got to have a strong foundation. This year, we’ve been putting together pieces of God’s Story, so we can build our lives on it! That’s why this month’s theme is ‘Bedrock: Building Confidence in God, Block by Block.’

“Today we’re talking about a seriously epic part of God’s Story! But before we do that, we’re gonna warm up with a super-fun building game. I need 12 volunteers!

→ Quickly select 12 kids and bring them up on stage with you.

(BE SURE THE KIDS ARE DRESSED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN FORM A HUMAN PYRAMID—DRESSES PROBABLY AREN’T HUMAN-PYRAMID FRIENDLY.) Divide them into two groups.

“Okay, this is great. We have our two teams of builders. But (LOOK AROUND.)

...

“... we seem to be missing any kind of blocks or bricks to build with. So instead, we’re going to build with you!

“When I say ‘go!’ each team is going to form a human pyramid with three kids on bottom, two in the middle, and one on top.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“When your last person climbs on top, then the whole team needs to count: ‘one, two, three!’ The first team to reach ‘three’ is the winner. Everyone ready? **(MAKE SURE BOTH TEAMS ARE READY.)** Awesome! Ready, set, BUILD!”

AUDIO -> Upbeat Music

Assist the kids if they need help. After the game, send the kids back to their seats.

“Excellent building skills, my friends. You all did great! None of you could have built that tower on your own. And none of us can do anything at all without God! So let’s show God our love as we sing some worship songs. On your feet, everyone!”

② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Wow, you guys did such an awesome job with that game! You really brought your energy, and I love how everyone worked together. That same kind of excitement is perfect for worship. When we sing, we get to celebrate who God is — the One who made everything and can do the impossible!”

“Let’s start with a song that reminds us how amazing it is to follow Jesus. This one’s all about joy — because when we know Him, every day becomes a happy day! Let’s sing loud and celebrate together!”

Video → Happy Day - Orange Kids

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was awesome! You sounded amazing — I love seeing you sing and dance for God. The Bible tells us that when we trust God, He gives us new strength.”

“He gives us the strength we need to keep going, even when things are hard. That’s exactly what we’re singing about next. This song reminds us that when we ask, seek, and knock, God hears us and helps us. Let’s take a deep breath, focus our hearts, and worship Him together with Ask, Seek, Knock.”

Video → Ask, Seek, Knock - Hillsong Kids

WORSHIP LEADER: “God, thank You for being with us and for always hearing us when we pray. Thank You that we can trust You to do the impossible. We love You and we want to follow You every day. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Awesome job! Let’s look at our Memory Verse that we are going to try to get in our heads and hearts this month! It’s Isaiah 40:31! Let me read it to you, and then you can repeat after me!”

K-3rd

Large Group

November — Week 1

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

SLIDE -> Memory Verse

"Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

- Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can set their Bible on it and read their Bible from it. Place the table in the middle of the storytelling space, so the kids who will hold the signs will be on either side of the Storyteller. Also have both signs (THE "THAT'S GOOD" SIGN AND THE "THAT'S BAD" SIGN) on the table

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, builders! I am so, so very glad you’re here today!

“Let me tell you about something amazing we’re doing this year! We’re journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

“Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we’ll learn about God.

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

“We’re going to go through God’s Big Story!” (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

“Let me bring you up to speed on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!

“So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn’t anymore! It was so sad.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“But God didn’t want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

“God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn’t know about Joseph. He saw how many of God’s people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

“God’s people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

“After some time living in the Promised Land, God’s people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (AND ONE QUEEN) followed. Sadly, the nation of God’s people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God’s behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

“And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story.”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Today, we’re continuing right along through the Bible in the book of First Kings! (HOLD UP THE BIBLE.)

“You might remember at this part in God’s story, the nation of God’s people had split into two nations—the northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. And while some of the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah were good, ALL of the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel were bad! They didn’t listen to God and even led people away from God.

“So, a lot of bad things happened. But also some good things. And some good things and bad things happened in our story today too! That’s what I need help with as we go through today’s story—the good things and the bad things!

“I need two volunteers to help me point out those things in our story! Raise your hand if you’d like to volunteer!”

- Choose two volunteers and bring them up on stage. Place them on either side of you while you stand at the table to read from the Bible. Give one a green sign reading “THAT’S GOOD” and one a red sign reading “THAT’S BAD.”

“Okay, great! Now, when I say ‘that’s good,’ I want [NAME] to hold up this green sign as high as you can. And I want everybody else out there to shout, ‘Yay!’

“But when I say, ‘That’s bad,’ I want [NAME] to hold up this red sign as high as you can. And all of you can shout, ‘Boo!’

“Let’s try that.

- Practice a couple of times. Make sure the volunteers put the signs back down after a few seconds.

ELIJAH CHALLENGES AHAB

STORYTELLER: “Great! You guys are ready! Now back to our story. One of the worst kings of the northern kingdom of Israel was named Ahab. He was so, so, so, so, soooo bad. He led the northern kingdom to worship false gods. He was bad!

- Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: “Boo!”

“Several years before our story starts, God sent the prophet Elijah to King Ahab to tell him that there would be a drought. And for more than three years, there was no rain. The crops died, and the people of the northern kingdom of Israel became desperate. That’s bad!”

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"

"During that time, over and over and over God took care of Elijah in special ways. Sometimes He sent Elijah food through ravens. Sometimes God fed Elijah from a widow's flour and oil that never ran out. Over time, Elijah learned that God is good, and God is faithful. That's good!"

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"

"But after three years, God sent Elijah to speak to King Ahab again.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:17-19 (NIRV) and read.

When [AHAB] saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel."

"I haven't made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have turned away from the LORD's commands. You have followed gods that are named Baal. Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god named Baal. Also bring the 400 prophets of the female god named Asherah."

"Okay, Elijah needed Ahab to gather all of those prophets of other gods because Elijah was going to host a god challenge. He wanted everyone to see who the true God is. That's good!"

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"

SHOWDOWN ON MOUNT CARMEL

STORYTELLER: "Ahab gathered the 450 prophets of the false god Baal and met Elijah on the mountain. A huge crowd of God's people came to watch. Elijah said to them:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:21b (NIRV) and read.

"How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the LORD is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only God, worship him."

"But did the people make up their minds? No! They just stood there and didn't say anything. That's bad!"

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"

"Then Elijah explained what he wanted to do in the god challenge. He said:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:22-24 (NIRV) and read.

"I'm the only one of the LORD's prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the LORD. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God."

"Okay! Now the people would see who the true God is. That's good!

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"

STORYTELLER: "So the prophets of Baal prepared the offering and prayed to Baal, all through the whole morning! They begged Baal to answer them and send fire. They were convinced Baal would answer. That's bad.

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"

"All of those people, and all of those prophets were there. But Baal was not answering! Then the Bible says this happened:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:27 (NIRV) and read.

At noon Elijah began to tease them. "Shout louder!" he said. "I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up."

"Whoa. Elijah really called out those prophets and their false god. But they kept calling out to Baal all through the afternoon anyway. Do you think Baal answered? Nope! That's good!

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"

"At last, Elijah called all of God's people to come near. He used 12 large stones to rebuild an altar to the Lord—one for the twelve tribes of Israel. The altar to the Lord had been torn down. Then Elijah dug a huge ditch around it and placed firewood on top, along with the bull, as an offering. So far, so good, right? But then Elijah told some people to pour four giant jars of water over the offering ... three times! That's 12 giant jars of water. And does wet stuff burn? Nope! That's bad!

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"

"The whole thing seemed outrageous! It seemed impossible. But then Elijah prayed to the one true God:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:36-37 (NIRV) and read.

When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He 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'm your servant. Let them know I've done all these things because

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

you commanded me to. 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."

GOD SENDS FIRE AND RAIN

STORYTELLER: "And guess what happened? You got it! God answered right away. He sent fire, and God sent fire that was so hot and so fiery that it burned up the sacrifice and the wood ... and even the stones! God wanted to leave absolutely no doubt that He was the one who answered. He wanted the people to turn their hearts back to Him!

"And it worked! The people who were there saw what God had done, and they fell on their faces in awe. The Bible says:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:39 (NIRV) and read.

All the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The LORD is the one and only God! The LORD is the one and only God!"

"The people saw God's power and turned to Him! That's good!

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"

"But God wasn't done yet. He knew the people needed something else. So then this happened:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:41 (NIRV) and read.

Elijah said to Ahab, "Go. Eat and drink. I can hear the sound of a heavy rain."

"Now remember: there had been no rain for more than three years, and the people were desperate. Even as Elijah said this, the sky was completely clear! That's bad!

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"

"Elijah climbed to the very top of Mount Carmel and bowed down. Six times he sent his servant to look for rain clouds. But at last—

→ Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:44 (NIRV) and read.

The seventh time the servant said, "I see a cloud. It's as small as a man's hand. It's coming up over the sea."

Elijah said, "Go to Ahab. Tell him, 'Tie your chariot to your horse. Go down to Jezreel before the rain stops you.'"

"In moments, the sky darkened and a wild wind picked up. Heavy rain fell in torrents! God sent the rain the people needed because He is in charge of all things! The drought was finally over! That's good!

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

→ Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: “Yay!” Encourage the kid to keep holding up the sign so the kids cheer more and for longer!

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Elijah acted in complete confidence that God was with him. But Elijah wasn’t just a faith rockstar all of a sudden! Elijah was able to trust God because, over and over, in big ways and small ways, God had shown that He was always faithful. So Elijah was able to trust that God would show up to do something impossible that day because God always showed up in little ways too.

“The people who were there saw God’s goodness that day too, and they turned back to God. That’s why it’s so important for us to remember that—

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] “God can help you make the wise choice. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God can help you make the wise choice.”

GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“This week we’re on the path in God’s Big Story! Elijah lived after King David, so we’re on the path after that picture of King David being anointed. (GESTURE TO SLIDE.) That’s where we are in God’s Big Story! We’re just journeying along!

“This week, we looked at the story of Elijah. Elijah was a prophet during a time when the nation was split in two. Even though the nation of Israel was split in two, God’s message was the same: ‘Come back to Me, come back to Me.’ Sadly, this part of God’s family, where Elijah delivered God’s messages, the northern kingdom of Israel, never did. But God didn’t give up on His promise or His people! He saved a remnant, a small group of people mostly from the southern kingdom of Judah. God took care of His family, just like He promised! And by taking care of this family, God was also taking care of us. Because many, many, many years later, from this little remnant God protected would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all! God never gave up on His promise to rescue us!

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE -> Week 1 Timeline Image

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

→ If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about Elijah!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "When we think about Elijah, we can remember that Elijah trusted God for the impossible. God is big. Way bigger than we can even imagine. And as we saw in Elijah's story, God can do things that are unthinkable to us. In fact, God can do the impossible.

"But Elijah was able to trust God with the big things because he also had learned that God is trustworthy in the little things too.

"Remember those ravens? Ravens brought food to Elijah during the first part of the drought. Every time a raven arrived with food for Elijah, he saw, 'God is faithful. God is faithful. God is faithful.' And remember the widow's jar of flour and jug of oil that lasted for months and months? Every time the widow's jar of flour and jug of oil didn't run out, Elijah saw, 'God is good. God is good. God is good.'"

"So Elijah's big faith in God to do the impossible that day was built, block by block, with little things.

"And you will do that too! You can trust God for the little things, and the big, impossible things, because He can do both!

"Your God is the biggest! When you believe that, you can go through everything you face with a lot more confidence.

"In fact, the Bible promises that when you choose to follow Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of you! God Himself lives inside of you. The God who is the biggest faces everything with you! You go into every situation with the God who is bigger than anything.

"What did Elijah do before God did the big thing? He prayed. Elijah trusted that God would do the big thing, and he prayed.

"So when you're facing something that seems impossible, something that is bigger than you, pray. When you need help, pray. Talk to the God who can do the impossible. Ask Him for help. Whatever you need, ask!

"You can ask God to give you confidence because He goes with you, the biggest of all goes with you, even when something seems impossible.

"Let's talk to God about that right now!"

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

③ Prayer

HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much that You are the biggest and You love us. Teach us to trust You in the little things and the big things so we go through life confidently with You. Help us to listen to You and follow You so that when things seem impossible, we can trust You to be with us and guide us every step of the way. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE -> Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop