

Putting God first



Bible verses:
1 Kings 16:30–33;17:1



Aim:
To explore what the Bible says about idols, and why we choose to put God first



Today's fruit:
Self-control



Memory verse

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)



Start it

Ask the group to line up, including the adults. As they do, ask who should be at the front of the line – who should go first? Is it the oldest or youngest? Why? Should it be an adult? Why? See if the group can decide together who should go first.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Kings 16:30–33;17:1 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

***Elijah on Mount Carmel* (Slapstick Theatre)**
by Saddleback Kids (3:17)

Watch 0.00–0.42 ‘... and started worshipping a fake god called Baal.’

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Did you see the golden statue? Can you remember its name?
- What did the people do when they worshipped their ‘golden statue’ god Baal? (They turned away from God.)
- What do you think about that? Who were they putting first?
- Who did Elijah put first?



Sing It

‘Elijah’ (Bible song for the whole family)
by Little Blessings Network (2:46)

‘Great big God’ (lyric video) by Kids Bids (2:54)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Make a first-place medal using card, ribbon and colouring pens. Talk about how we can make sure God comes first in our lives.

- **Play:** Put a variety of things in order, eg colours, different-sized bricks, numbers ... See if the children can tell you what comes first.
- **Pray:** Write a prayer together that can be said at the start of each day and pray it together. You could make copies or message the prayer to parents/carers, encouraging them to pray the prayer at the start of each day together.
- **Try:** Do a water experiment: a container of water, a smaller empty container, a cup, and some stones on a tray. Take it in

turns to take a cup of water and fill the empty container until it's nearly full. Talk together about the container being our lives and the water being God. What might life be like if we put God first? Carefully add the stones in, and you'll see the water overflow out. Talk together about how when we put other things in front of God, there's not as much room in our lives for him. Sometimes things we love become like idols, but God wants to be first place in your life.

Is God there?



Bible verses:
1 Kings 18:22-27



Aim:
To learn that God always hears our prayers, even when the answers take time



Today's fruit:
Peace



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)



Start it

Experiment with home-made invisible ink, eg from [scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk)

Talk about how even though we can't see something, it doesn't mean it isn't there.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Kings 18:22-27 (eg [Biblegateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com) *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

***Elijah on Mount Carmel* (Slapstick Theatre)**
by Saddleback Kids (3:17)

Watch: 0.00-2:25 '... but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.'

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Who tried to light the fire first? Did it work? Why not?



Sing It

'Elijah' (Bible song for the whole family)
by Little Blessings Network (2:46)

'Great big God' (lyric video) by Kids Bids (2:54)



Action it

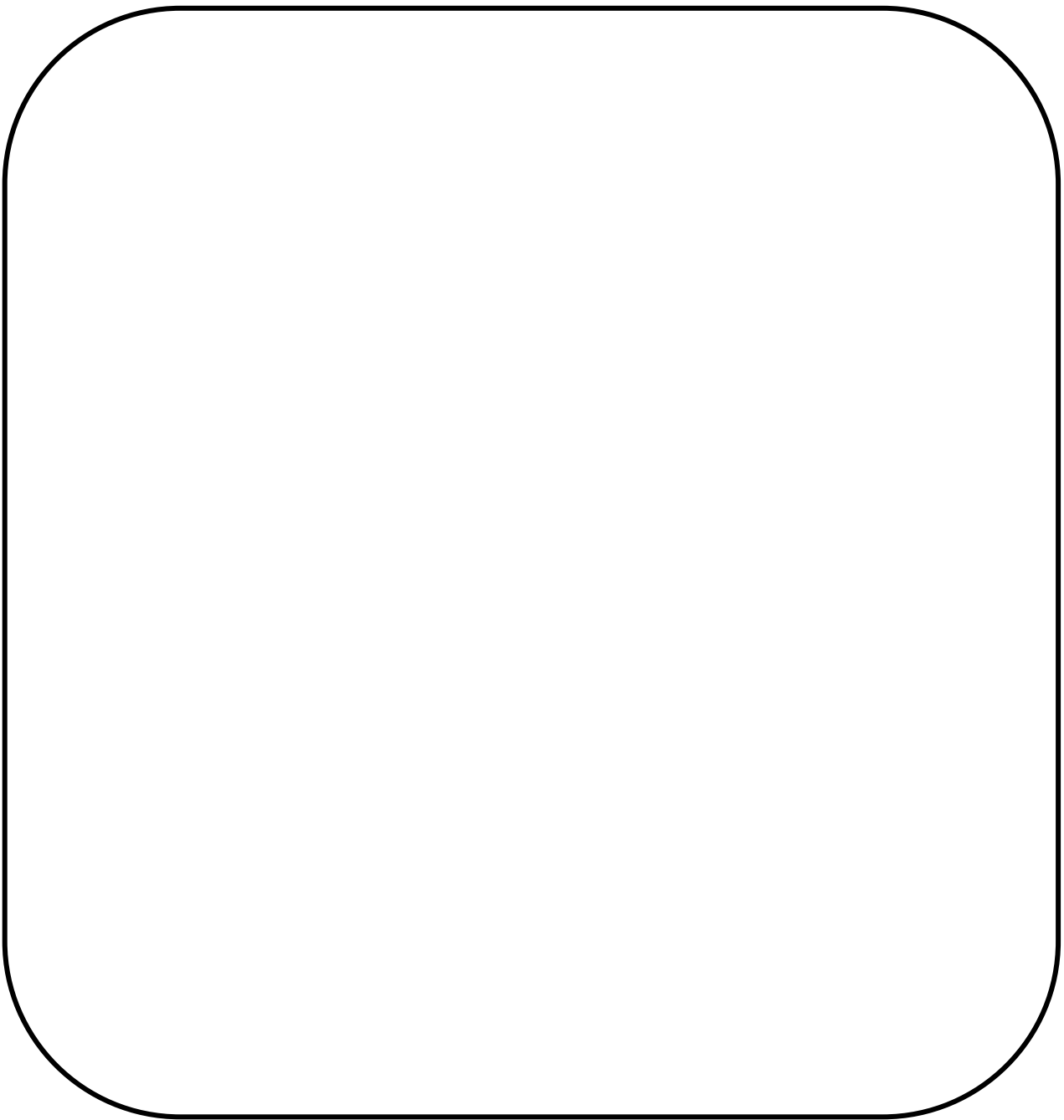
Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Make stick puppets using lollipop sticks and white cardboard, cut out people shapes and help the children create their own characters. They could choose characters from our Bible story and re-tell what's happened so far. Alternatively, they could make the puppets themselves and use them to play and talk about God in their lives.
- **Play:** Get creative with the invisible ink.

- **Pray:** Give a *Let's pray together* for handout to each child and ask them to write or draw something they'd like everyone to pray for. You can talk about what would be good things to pray about. If older children are also using *Explore It*, these prayer posters could be added to their prayer station/leaflet/church prayers too.
- **Try:** Create actions to help learn the memory verse together. Challenge the children to show someone at home and see if they can remember it for next week.

Explore it Light

Let's pray
together for ...



A Spectacular God



Bible verses:
1 Kings 18:33–46



Aim:
To explore God's spectacular power and why our prayers should point to him



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)



Start it

Play musical statues together. Ask the children if they remember our story about a statue.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Kings 18:36–39 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

Elijah on Mount Carmel (Slapstick Theatre) by Saddleback Kids (3:17)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

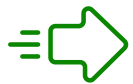
- What happened at the end of our story? Is it what you expected?
- What does our story show us about God?
- What does it show us about Elijah – did he trust God?
- Why was it spectacular and amazing when God set fire to Elijah's altar?



Sing It

'Elijah' (Bible song for the whole family) by Little Blessings Network (2:46)

'Great big God' (lyric video) by Kids Bids (2:54)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Create a pretend fire to remember God's spectacular power using yellow, orange and red materials like building blocks, coloured paper or fabric.
- **Play:** Throw fire-coloured ribbons / scarves / tissue paper into the air and see how many the children can catch, like fire coming down from Heaven.
- **Pray:** Sit around the 'fire' you created together. See if you can list 10 incredible things you know God has done. Thank God for his incredible power and his love for us.
- **Try:** Remember the memory verse and the actions you created last week.

A Gentle God



Bible verses:
1 Kings 19:4-14



Aim:
To explore how God meets us with gentleness and patience, and teaches us to rest in his presence



Today's fruit:
Patience



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)



Start it

Play an energetic game, such as *Simon says*. When energy is beginning to fade, talk about how nice it will be to take a rest. You can then play *Sleeping lions*, remembering how important it was for Elijah to rest.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Kings 19:4-14 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

Elijah in the wilderness by Saddleback Kids (2:35)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Where do you like to rest? Why do you like it?

- What did the angel tell Elijah to do?
- How does resting help us?



Sing It

'Elijah' (Bible song for the whole family)
by Little Blessings Network (2:46)

'Great big God' (lyric video) by Kids Bids (2:54)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Make a clock using paper plates, card and a split pin, eg from **Wikihow.com**. Talk together about times to rest and waiting / being patient. What time do you go to bed? What time might we eat our lunch?
- **Play:** Have a selection of soft toys / dolls. Ask the children to show how to look after one of them. Would they give it a cuddle? Try to get it to sleep? Allow the children to spend some time playing with them and looking after them. Talk about how God cares for us as his children.

- **Pray:** Sit down together and share a drink and a nice snack, something different from what you might usually have. Talk about how important rest is, and that God knew Elijah needed to rest and eat. Talk about why it might be important for us too. Thank God together for times of rest and relaxation.
- **Try:** To teach about God's still small voice, fill a bag with different items that make sounds – like a crinkly crisp packet or maracas. Children can try to identify the sounds, and you can talk about Elijah hearing God's voice after the earthquake and wind.