

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



WHAT IS AN IDOL?

1 Kings 16:29-33; 1 Kings 17:1

Find out about a bad king called Ahab who served a false god called Baal, even building a temple and altar for him. This week we explore the idols we have in our lives and whether they make us happy.

We also think about what it feels like when you tell others that you believe in God. What is the difference between having an idol and having God in your life?

Each child will need:

→ A sheet of paper, scissors, Blu Tack, pens/pencils

You will need:

→ A set of labels – see Labels sheet

→ Lay out a large 1-10 scale on the floor or on the wall, ideally made of paper, card or cardboard. Place the label 'Not important' next to the 1, and 'Extremely important' next to the 10.

→ Corgi Game sheet (you may wish to enlarge to A3), Blu Tack and a scarf/blindfold – see Start It section

→ Images from the Jubilee – see Start It section

Start It

Play a game of *Stick the Crown on the Corgi*. Cut out the corgi in the rectangle and the crown shape. Stick the corgi on to a wall and put Blu Tack on the back of the crown. Ask the children to take turns spinning three times with a blindfold on or with their eyes closed, and see if they can stick the crown close to the corgi's head.

Ask:

→ Did you watch or attend any of the Jubilee celebrations back in June?

→ What was your favourite part?

● **Say:** There were lots of people who came to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign. Some of them came because it was a fun day out and others came because they were superfans of the Queen.

Show and discuss the following pictures with the children and ask them to place the corresponding label on the scale.

Ask: On a scale of 1-10, how important is the Queen to the people in each picture?

The crowd on The Mall – These people may have come for a good day out and to be part of the celebrations. They may like the Queen (or not) and coming to The Mall was about joining in the fun.

Camping on The Mall - These people set up their tents and camped on The Mall for two days before the celebrations to make sure they had the best spot ready for the parade.

Margaret Tyler - Although this isn't a picture of Margaret at the Jubilee, she is one of the Queen's biggest fans. She has a whole room in her house dedicated to the Queen with thousands of plates, books and trinkets collected over the years.

- **Say:** We all have different likes and interests but, as we've just seen, likes and interests can have a different level of importance to different people.

Remove the name labels from the scale.

Sing It

- **Say:** We have used today's song recently, but it has been chosen again on purpose. Hopefully you will be able to sing along with the words that remind us that the most important monarch in our lives is God, our King. Have a go at the actions in this version.

'King of me' by Rend Collective – YoYo's Actions (2 mins 21 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbRQBlaY5yw>

Tell It

- **Say:** There are two books in the Old Testament of the Bible that tell the story of the long line of kings succeeding the throne after King David. Not one of them followed God in the way that they needed to, and many of them made other gods more important in their lives. The nation of Israel, that was once so strong under God's leadership, lost its way and ended up split down the middle. Today's story is found in the first book of Kings during the reign of King Ahab.

Read 1 Kings 16:29-33 (ICB)

'So Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel. This was during Asa's thirty-eighth year as king of Judah. Ahab ruled Israel in the town of Samaria for 22 years. Ahab did many things that the Lord said were wrong. He did more evil than any of the kings before him. He sinned in the same ways that Jeroboam son of Nebat had sinned. But he did even worse things. He married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal. (Ethbaal was king of the city of Sidon.) Then Ahab began to serve Baal and worship him. He built a temple in Samaria for worshipping Baal. And he put an altar there for Baal. Ahab also made an idol for worshipping Asherah. He did more things to make the Lord, the God of Israel, angry than all the other kings before him.'

Ask:

- What did we find out about King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in this Bible reading?
- Was God important to them? Explain how you know.
- Where would King Ahab and Queen Jezebel place God on the 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to place the 'God' label on the scale.

- Where would King Ahab and Queen Jezebel place Baal on the 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to place the 'Baal' label on the scale.

- **Say:** King Ahab and Queen Jezebel made another god, Baal, their main idol. They even built a special altar for him.

Ask: What is an idol?

- **Say:** The word idol has two main meanings according to the dictionary:

1. a statue or an image of a god which is used as an object of worship.
2. someone who is loved and respected to a great degree – a hero.

Ask:

- What kind of idol was Baal to King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?
- Was he an image of a god that they worshipped, or a hero they loved and respected?

- **Say:** King Ahab and Queen Jezebel made Baal an idol because they placed him above the true God in their lives. Although it is good to have people that we admire, like the second meaning of the word idol, no person or thing should take a higher place in our lives than God.

🗨 **Say:** The other character who is about to join our story knew that God was the most important person in his life.

Read 1 Kings 17:1 (ICB).

‘Now Elijah was a prophet from the town of Tishbe in Gilead. Elijah said to King Ahab, “I serve the Lord, the God of Israel. As surely as the Lord lives, I tell you the truth. No rain or dew will fall during the next few years unless I command it.”’

Ask:

- ➔ What do we find out about Elijah in this Bible reading?
- ➔ Was God important to him? Explain how you know.
- ➔ Where would Elijah place God on the 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to move the ‘God’ label on the scale.

- ➔ Where would Elijah place Baal on the 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to move the ‘Baal’ label on the scale. Hopefully the children will place God at number 10!

🗨 **Say:** In our next session we will find out what happened when Elijah tried to tell the people, including King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, that by worshipping Baal they were serving the wrong god.

Video

Watch the video from the beginning to 1 min 19 secs – ‘He was furious!’

Don’t watch the whole clip just yet!

God’s Story: Elijah by Crossroads Kids’ Club (stop at 1 min 19 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5gAXoerjw>

Ask: King Ahab was furious. What do you think will happen next in the story of Elijah, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?

🗨 **Say:** We’ll find out more in our next session.

Remove the ‘Baal’ label from the scale but leave the label for ‘God’ at number 10.

Action It

🗨 **Say:** Everybody has a special person or something that is very important to us. It might be a family member, friend, celebrity, hobby or athlete. Just like Margaret Tyler, we might have a collection or special place in our house to show our interest.

Drawing activity

🗨 **Say:** Today we are going to think of four people or things that are really important to us.

Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to fold it into four, making four sections. Ask the children to draw a picture of four things/people that are really important to them. These could be hobbies, celebrities, family members or people they admire. Once they have completed their pictures, ask them to cut them out.

Ask each member of the group to share the things that are important to them and place them on the scale. Encourage discussion about why they have chosen that particular place. The label for ‘God’ should have remained at number 10 so encourage discussion about where the other items are placed in comparison to God.

You may also like to bring into the discussion the two meanings of the word idol:

1. a statue or an image of a god which is used as an object of worship.
2. someone who is loved and respected to a great degree – a hero.

The children’s pictures can be stuck down after the session and kept on display.

- **Say:** Today we have discovered that it is OK to have things and people that are very important to us. We just need to be careful that we do not make the same mistake as King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, and place other things above God in our lives.

Pray It

- **Say:** For our prayer time we are going to have a time of peace and quiet where we shut out all the other important things in our lives and concentrate on God.

Ask the group to find a place to lie down quietly on the floor and close their eyes. The clip is over four minutes long – there is no expectation that the children will lay quietly for this amount of time!

Relaxation video

'Be the centre' by Shout Praises Kids (lyric video) (4 min 39 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDPBv9DFU7g>

When you feel the group is losing concentration, lower the music and close your time together in prayer asking Jesus to be the centre, and most important part, of everyone's lives.

Explore It Ideas

Remember to send home the Explore It Ideas for children and families.

Explore It IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FOR ME



Discover

In today's session we met King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and Elijah. There is a fascinating story found in the same chapter of 1 Kings that we didn't get chance to look at in the session.

It tells the story of the prophet Elijah and a poor widow. They both trusted in God to provide everything they needed. Watch the clip to discover more and tell your group about the story in the next session.

Elijah and the Widow by James River Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzulJuvfyW0>

TOGETHER



Share

Watch the clip of Royal superfan Margaret Tyler who we mentioned in today's session.

Margaret Tyler: royal superfan and collector by BBC London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BkKPBSqmV0>

Discuss these questions with the people at home.

- ➔ Is there anything that you are or were a superfan of?
- ➔ How did people know that you are or were a superfan?
- ➔ If God is the most important person in our lives, then how should others be able to see that in the way we live?



Song for the week

'King of me' by Rend Collective – YoYo's Actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbRQBlaY5yw>

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

