

November 2025 – Elijah

Please note Bible stories and themes may occasionally differ from this overview.

Throughout November we are going to learn from the life of Elijah. He was a prophet, somebody who had the job of talking to God and passing on what he felt God was saying to the people of Israel. There will be opportunity to explore the different things we worship, and the **self-control** needed to keep prioritising God. We acknowledge the **peace** that our **faithfulness** in God's plan can give us and the **patience** we may need while we wait for it, how it feels when we stand up for what we believe and the different ways in which God could meet with us today.

Session 1 **1/2 Nov**

Aim: To explore what the Bible says about idols, and why we choose to put God first
Bible ref: 1 Kings 16:30–33; 17:1

Today's fruit

Self-control is when we choose to make a good decision, like putting God first instead of other things we might like.

Putting God first

This week we explore a king called Ahab who served a false god called Baal. Ahab and his wife Jezebel liked the idea of Baal, so Ahab built a temple and altar to worship him.

Elijah was a prophet. He followed the God of Israel, and this made Ahab angry. Elijah told Ahab that it would not rain for three years. This would mean that crops would stop growing and the people of Israel would not like King Ahab's god Baal. King Ahab was furious with Elijah and wanted him killed.

The Bible says that Ahab worshipped an idol, a false god. An idol was often a statue made of wood or gold that people worshipped and loved more than God.

Many of us have people we want to be like – some people even like to put up pictures and posters of them on their walls. Sometimes a person like a singer or a sportsperson can occupy all our thoughts and might become what we call today an 'idol'. We might say that we 'idolise' them, we admire them and want to be more like them.

It's OK to have good role models in our lives and people we admire. But we need to be careful that nothing takes God's rightful place in our hearts, like too much screen time, money, a person or even a toy. If they do, then these things become the kind of idols the Bible means, when we look to objects and people for fulfilment, joy or comfort, rather than to God.

Think about

Consider the objects and people, the 'idols' that you enjoy and love – do they make you happy? Do they bring you comfort? Does the happiness and comfort last? Have you always admired and loved the same objects or people all your life or have you changed your mind?

Also think about what it feels like when you tell others that you believe in God.

What is the difference between having these objects and people you admire, and having God in your life?

Children may want to share images of famous people or photos of loved ones or pets or bring in a special possession.

The focus here is not on shaming but rather informing and exploring, acknowledging idols and idolatry but also emphasising our choice to prioritise God and our relationship with him.

What does the Bible mean when it talks about idols? What is the specific example given? Why is context important? What can it mean for us today? How can we live for God and choose to put him first? Why might that require self-control?

Session 2

8/9 Nov

Aim: To explore what happened when God showed his power
Bible ref: 1 Kings 18:20-27

Today's fruit

We can show and feel **peace** in our lives when we are confident in God's plan and power.

Is God there?

This week Elijah goes head-to-head with Ahab and Jezebel, and God seems 'to be asleep and needs waking up' – as Elijah said. Elijah sets up a challenge for Baal and his worshippers. Two dead animals are to be placed on two unlit fires on a hill, where everyone could watch. Elijah asks everybody who believes in Baal to pray for one of the bonfires to be lit, and he will pray for the real God to light the other one. The bonfire which lights up first will win, and show which God is the most powerful. Elijah lets the Baal worshippers pray first.

The prophets who followed Baal make a big fuss, but nothing happens. Elijah becomes confident and suggests that Baal must be asleep or on holiday!

Think about

Elijah set up a challenge to prove that God was the true God. What would you do? Why was this a wise idea? Has there been a time when God has proved himself to you? Think about times when we think God may be asleep and needs waking up.

When might we be tempted to act like Elijah and feel like we need to prove God is there? What do you do when God feels absent or far away?

Is there a situation you would like God to change in your world today? Look at children's news stories and share how we feel about them.

When we pray, we often ask God to do things that we want him to, whether that's something that we want for ourselves or something we want to see changed in the world.

This could be an opportunity to explore answered or unanswered prayer – acknowledging that we don't know all the answers and there's no right way to pray to 'make things happen'. God always listens to our prayers, but what we ask for won't always happen in the way we ask. God understands everything far better than we can, so sometimes things will happen that we can't understand, but we can still trust that God is good. How does that make you feel?

9 November: Remembrance Sunday

During the month of November we take time to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts and reflect on the importance of peace and compassion. Resources to help your group reflect are available on **Salvationist**.

Session 3
15/16 Nov

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

Bible ref: 1 Kings 18:36-39

Today's fruit

When we decide to trust God and do what is right, we show **faithfulness**.

A spectacular God

Elijah wanted people to know that the God of Israel was the true God; he was not trying to win a competition to make himself look good. Elijah's heart was in the right place.

Elijah prayed, and God spectacularly set fire to his wooden pile and sacrifice, high up on Mount Carmel! People worshipped God because they knew that he was real.

Think about

The sudden blaze must have been like bonfire night; perhaps you know how the heat and light of a fire makes you feel? Share a dazzling sight or spectacular moment you remember.

What are our reasons for wanting to see God do something spectacular? For example, do we ever want God to give us a good mark in a class test, instead of asking him to help us do our best and make sure we have used our brains?

Explore answers to prayer – these can be answers that the children have experienced or people in your church have experienced, or there may be examples from other Christians across the world who have experienced a spectacular answer to prayer. Think about how knowing these stories helps our faith and hope to grow – and think about how we can remember to look out for and share with each other what God is doing.

Session 4
22/23 Nov

Aim: To learn the importance of taking time to rest and connect with God, and think about how we can do that

Bible ref: 1 Kings 19:4-14

Today's fruit

We sometimes have to wait for God's perfect timing. As we wait, we show **patience**.

A gentle God

By this point in the story, Ahab and Jezebel had become very angry with Elijah and they both wanted him killed. Elijah ran away to the desert to save his own life.

Elijah wanted to give up, despite having tried to do the right thing for God. He was exhausted and afraid, lying down under a tree and sleeping. An angel visited Elijah with bread and water.

Eventually Elijah found rest in a cave at Mount Sinai. He managed to regain his strength and is now ready to talk to God. A strong wind, earthquake and fire pass by, but Elijah hears nothing. Then a quiet, gentle voice arrives and invites Elijah to talk about what matters to him most. Elijah then shares his hopes for the people of Israel.

Think about

We have seen how God is both spectacular and gentle in this story. Which do you prefer?

Perhaps you know how it feels to be afraid or threatened – for example if you have been bullied. Where or who do you go to? Share some info on how to find help, eg from Childline, and consider what safe adults would they approach at school or at church.

Please refer to The Salvation Army's Safe & Sound handbook for further guidance.

You may wish to use the **CY Bounce** wellbeing material to get children listening, talking and bouncing!

Elijah was exhausted after all his work and just wanted to sleep. Share how it can feel doing a good thing for someone else, or help with a job at home, and then all you want to do is rest. How do you like to relax?

It may help to remember that relaxation is important, and when we switch off and slow down we may find God helps us in new ways. Share with your group what matters most to you today and what types of activities help you to become calm.

You may want to share your favourite music track or describe a calm place you have visited. Perhaps, like Elijah, you have climbed mountains or been inside a cave. How could these places help us to sense God is with us?

In the creation story we read that on the seventh day God rested. Is this important? What do you think happens to our minds and bodies when we rest? Why did God rest? Did he need to? Sometimes people refer to a day of rest / Sabbath. It's a special time when people take time to rest and re-connect with God. Is it important to have a Sabbath? How can we do that?

Elijah was given food and water to help him recover. This is important for our wellbeing, because a good diet also helps, along with plenty of sleep; we need both. What is your favourite meal, perhaps when you celebrate something special?