

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.