

A Spectacular God


Bible verses:

1 Kings 18:33–46

Elijah and the prophets of Baal


Aim:

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


Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



In today's session God answered Elijah's prayer in a spectacular way, proving he is the one true God.

Elijah prayed with faith and obedience, and God showed his power to turn people back to him. This story helps us see that God is always faithful, and we can trust him and pray in ways that point others to his greatness.

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

Each child will need:

- A strip from the *So that prayers* handout – or more!
- Pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Stickers, each with half of a word written on them – see Start It
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Faithfulness* – download from **Salvationist**
- A large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top and 'SPECTACULAR' written vertically down the left-hand side

Start it

Write half of a word on a sticker, one for each child. You may want to add more words or do some repeats. (You may want to use the same colour for each word, if your group needs support with reading.)

Ama- -zing

Remar- -kable

Breath- -taking

Wonder- -ful

Shock- -ing

Awe- -some

Stun- -ning

Eye- -catching

Aston- -ishing

Marvel- -lous

Let the children read their sticker before attaching it to themselves. See how quickly they can find their 'other half'. Each pair reads out the word they've made (or newly created!). Ask if they can spot any common themes with the words. Every word describes something really great, something spectacular.

Ask:

- What's the most spectacular thing that you've ever seen? It might be something you've seen in real life or on television, but it needs to be something that left you feeling absolutely flabbergasted and amazed!
- What makes something spectacular?

Say:

Thank you, God, for the spectacular world you have created. Help us to remember just how amazing you are yesterday, today and for ever. Amen.

Sing it

Say:

Today's song reminds us of the great God that we serve. He is the one who answers our prayers.

Song

'Great God' (lyric video) by Tasha Cobbs, video by KEN-B TV (4:24)





Share it

Say:

In the last session we left Elijah and King Ahab on the top of a mountain. They had each set up an altar, and the prophets of Baal were praying all day for their god to send fire. But nothing happened. Elijah even teased them because their god never answered!

Say:

Watch the clip to find out what happened next in the story.

Video

Elijah and the contest on Mount Carmel by LifeKids (2:41)

Ask:

- Did the story turn out how you expected?
- What did Elijah do to show that he worshipped the true, spectacular God?

Read:

'Elijah put the wood on the altar. He cut the bull into pieces and laid them on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four jars with water. Put the water on the meat and on the wood."

'Then Elijah said, "Do it again." And they did it again.

'Then he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it the third time. So the water ran off of the altar and filled the ditch [around the altar].'

(1 Kings 18:33-35 *ICB*)

Say:

Let's read Elijah's prayer.

Read:

'It was time for the evening sacrifice. So the prophet Elijah went near the altar. He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. I ask you now to prove that you are the God of Israel, and that I am your servant. Show these people that you commanded me to do all these things. Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God. Then the people will know that you are bringing them back to you."'

(1 Kings 18:36-37 *ICB*)

Say:

Elijah prayed that God would show his power so that the people would know he was real and turn back to him – not to make Elijah look good.

Ask:

If Elijah had wanted to show off, what do you think his prayer might have sounded like?

Say:

Now let's hear what God did next.

Read:

'Then fire from the Lord came down. It burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the ground around the altar. It also dried up the water in the ditch. When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground. They cried, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"'

(1 Kings 18:38-39 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Why do you think Elijah poured water over his altar first?
- Why did that make God's answer even more spectacular?
- How would you have felt if you'd seen this incredible event?
- Would it have made you believe in God? Why or why not?

Say:

Many people turned back to God that day because of what they saw, but sadly King Ahab and Queen Jezebel still refused to follow him.

Ask:

- Why might someone turn away from God even after seeing his power?
- What amazing answers to prayer or spectacular things has God done in your life or the lives of others?

Say:

Elijah's story reminds us that God is real and powerful, and his answers always point people back to him. We can trust him, pray boldly, and share stories of what he's done to help others know him too.

Action it

Share the memory verse together.

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*)

Say:

Elijah's prayer showed how much he loved God. He wanted everyone to see how spectacular God is! When we pray, it's important to remember that God is the most important person in our



lives. Our prayers should always point towards our willingness to follow what God wants for us.

Ask:

- When you pray, what are some things you often ask God for?
- Do your prayers usually focus on what you want or on what God wants?

Say:

Here are two prayers for the same situation:

Example one:

Dear God, please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that everyone will think I'm clever.

Example two:

Dear God, please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that I can show everything I have learned this term.

Ask:

Which one do you think comes from a place of wanting to live how God wants?

Say:

There are no 'wrong' prayers, but it's important for us to think about our motivation when we pray. A good way to check our prayers is to add the words 'so that ...' and see who they point to – us, or God. Let's have a go!

Give out the *So that prayers* strips. Ask the children to write two prayers for each – one that shows the wrong motivation, and one that shows the right motivation – putting God first.

Example prompts:

- Please let the teacher notice I'm struggling in maths so that ...
- Please let Ayesha play with me at break-time so that ...
- Please help me get the lead part in the play so that ...

Once finished, ask children to share some of their 'God-first' prayers.

Say:

Elijah's prayer was powerful because it put God first. This week, try making your own 'so that' prayers that point to God's greatness. He is a spectacular God, and when we love him with all our heart, soul and strength, our prayers can help others see how amazing he is.

 Pray it**Say:**

We have spent lots of time thinking of our spectacular God today, so let's finish with a spectacular prayer of thanksgiving.

Show the large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top and SPECTACULAR written vertically down the left-hand side. Ask the group to come up with one thing they are thankful for, for each letter of the word 'SPECTACULAR'. You can write more than one thing next to each letter.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

We've spent time thanking God for all the spectacular things he has done and remembering how he showed his power through Elijah's prayer. God is just as faithful today as he has always been.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the amazing things you've done. But most of all, thank you for who you are.

You are faithful, and we can trust you with all our heart, soul and strength.

Help us to love you, follow you, and share with others how spectacular you are.

Amen.

 Explore it

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



A Spectacular God

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Kings 18:33-46



Aim:

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Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Draw

Using nature as your inspiration, draw something spectacular! Stick it up on your wall at home to remind you of the spectacular God that we worship.



Create

In the prayer time for today's session, we created a prayer of thanks based on the word 'spectacular'. Find a big piece of paper and write 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top. Write 'SPECTACULAR' vertically down the left-hand side of the sheet. Stick the poster up somewhere at home where everyone can see it.

Ask your family to add ideas of what they are thankful for next to each letter of the word.



Song for the week

'Great God' by (lyric video) by Tasha Cobbs, video by KEN-B TV



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)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**