



WEEK FOUR - JUNE 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *They Didn't Start the Fire • 1 Kings 18*

Bottom Line: *God can do the impossible*

Memory Verse: *"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." - Psalm 27:13 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Finally, we head to a principle found in 1 Kings 18. Elijah had confidence that God could do the impossible. He believed that God would send fire from heaven to prove that He was the all-powerful God of the universe.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids to your group and use a couple minutes to ask about their week (highs/lows)
- Ask the following questions:
 - How was your week?
 - Did you do anything special or crazy this week?
 - What surprised you this week?
 - What made you happy?
 - Did anything make you sad?

2. We Go Together

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: "We Go Together" Activity Cards

What You Do:

- Guide kids to get into groups of 2 or 3.
- Give each group a set of "We Go Together" cards (Activity Pages).
- You can adjust the number of picture pairs you give each group based on the kids' skill levels - some kids might be able to master 6 pairs while others might master 8. Just be sure to include fire and water cards in each group's set.
- Lead kids to set the cards face down in a grid - no peeking! (Don't worry if a grid is wonky. The fact that the kids arranged the cards themselves means that a lot of brain cells were firing!)
- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time to find a match - but with a twist: instead of finding two identical cards, kids must find two items that go together.

What You Say:

"You did a good job finding the things that went together. What were some of the matches you found? (Pause.) How do those things go together? (Pause.) Let me ask this: How could fire and water go together? (Pause.) Let's go to Large Group to find out about a time when fire and water did go together, but probably not in the way you think. Let's go learn more."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *God can do the impossible." This simple bottom line is packed with some amazing truth. God has the power to do anything! When we believe that, it changes everything. We hope kids discover how they can live differently knowing this truth about God.*

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Act It Out

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy & facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Blank Name Tags; Marker

What You Do:

- Assign the following parts to different kids in your group.
- Several kids can play the "Israelites" and the "Prophets of Baal."
- Write the following names on each nametag as noted below:
 - Elijah: "Elijah"
 - King Ahab: "King Ahab"
 - Israelites: "I"
 - Prophets of Baal: "P of B"
 - Servant: "Servant"
- Act out the story below with the following plot points from the story:
 - Elijah was a prophet who spoke for God. Have Elijah say, "Howdy."
 - King Ahab was a terrible King who didn't believe in the one true God. He worshipped a fake God named Baal. Have King Ahab say, "Let's worship a fake god named Baal."

- King Ahab was married to Jezebel, who also worshipped Baal.
- Elijah gave King Ahab the message that his disobedience would mean no rain.
- There was no rain for three years!
- King Ahab was desperate for rain.
- Elijah ordered everyone to assemble on Mount Carmel. All the Israelites were there along with 450 prophets of Baal.
- Elijah told the Israelites it was time to make a choice: worship Baal or worship the one true God.
- Elijah said to settle it with a sacrifice: one to Baal and one to God. Whichever God brought down fire from heaven would be the one true God.
- The 450 prophets of Baal called out to their fake god all day and nothing happened.
- Finally, Elijah ordered four jars of water be poured over his altar to God, then four more jars, and then four more.
- Elijah prayed to God and instantly fire came from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, wood, and even the water around the altar.
- The Israelites cried out, "The Lord is the ONE true God!"
- Elijah sent the servant off to look for signs of rain.
- The servant returned seven different times. On the seventh time, he reported that he had seen a small rain cloud!
- Elijah told King Ahab to take his horse and chariot to Jezreel and ran ahead of King Ahab the whole way.

What You Say:

"Why do you think it was so easy for the people to worship a fake god instead of the one true God? (Pause for responses) God showed himself in a big way by doing the impossible! Elijah ordered the altar be soaked with water because he had confidence that NOTHING could hold back the one true God. He stood up against those 450 prophets and had confidence in God. We can trust God and have confidence in Him too because [Bottom Line] God can do the impossible."

[Make It Personal] (Give an example of a time when you trusted God to help you through something hard or when God provided for you when it seemed like there wasn't enough or a way through. This doesn't have to be a huge life-changing example. It can be as simple as a small scholarship that covered some of your tuition, a gift card you received when funds were low, or a job opportunity you didn't see coming. Talk about how sometimes things can seem impossible for us but they're never impossible for God.)

2. Possible with God

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "That's Possible with God" Activity Page; pencils; Bibles

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles and the "That's Possible with God" Activity Pages.
- Let kids get in pairs or groups of three to look up the Scriptures listed on the page.
- The goal is to match the passage in Scripture with its picture on the page and draw a line between the two.
- When all the Scriptures and pictures have been matched, talk through each "impossible" event that was possible with God.

Answer Key:

- Genesis 1:1 (God created the heavens and the earth)
- Exodus 14:21-23 (The parting of the Red Sea)
- Exodus 17:5-6 (Water from the rock)
- Matthew 14:13-21 (Feeding the 5,000)
- John 11:38-44 (Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead)
- Acts 2:23-24 (Jesus is raised from the dead)

What You Say:

*"These are just SIX examples of impossible things that were possible with God. There is nothing He can't do. There is no problem, no circumstance, no situation that God can't handle. You can have confidence in knowing that [Bottom Line] **God can do the impossible.** You can take these pages home as a reminder that the same God who created the world, who parted the Red Sea, who fed that huge crowd, and who raised Jesus from the dead is the same God who loves and cares for you!"*

3. Pray & Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Sheets from previous activity

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to hold their Activity Pages from earlier
- Talk about how God is alive and still working in each of our lives today.
- Explain that while we might not see God part the waters of a raging sea or send down fire from heaven, we can see God at work.
- Give the kids a few minutes to name some ways they know that God is still at work.
 - Examples: the birth of a new baby, the changing seasons, the ability to pray and have peace even when things are hard, we can see God's love for us in the way He's given us people who love us (like our parents, grandparents, teachers, friends), etc.

- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, You are a GREAT BIG God. We believe that just as You've done the impossible in the past, You can do the impossible today, too. Help us to have confidence in knowing that You are always trustworthy. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the "That's Possible with God" Activity Pages and talk about how [Bottom Line] God can do the impossible.