



WEEK FOUR - JUNE 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *How would you live if you believed God could 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 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

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?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *How would you live if you believed God could do the impossible? Elijah risked a lot because he believed that God could do anything. We want preteens to think about what they might risk knowing that God is the God of the impossible. When we believe that God truly can do anything, it will change the way we live.*

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

1. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper; Pens

What You Do:

- ASK:
 - If you believed God could do the impossible, how would it change the way you live?
 - Do you admire anything about Elijah? If so, what is it?
 - How can we have the same level of confidence in God as Elijah did?
 - If God can do the impossible, such as healing all sick people, stopping bad accidents from happening, or making everyone get along, why doesn't He always do that?
 - When you want to believe that God can do the impossible but you have doubts, what should you do?
 - How could you use the story of Elijah to encourage someone who was facing a difficult situation and he or she wasn't sure God could help?

2. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles; Paper; Pens

What You Do:

- Give students a Bible. Ask them to look up and read Psalm 121:1-2.
- Explain that Psalm 121 was a song the Israelites sang as they made the long journey back to Jerusalem every year to worship at the temple.
 - The song was written several hundred years before the story of Elijah and before Israel had turned away from the true God to worship false gods such as Baal.
- Ask the group to think of stories the Israelites may have shared as they looked back through history on the mighty ways God showed His power to do the impossible. (Some examples are below.)
- Write a list of the events the students name and ask them to also include examples from the New Testament, life of Jesus, the disciples and other followers of Jesus.
- Invite the group to do a "10-Second Photo Shoot." (Consider taking an actual picture using a phone or other device.)
 - Form two groups.
 - Call out one of the events your students named earlier (or something from the list below) then point randomly to one of the teams and say GO!
 - They have 10 seconds to create a picture pose (freeze frame) that represents that event.
 - God parts the water of the Red Sea

- Water from a rock
- Jesus fed over 5,000 people with one boy's lunch
- Jesus died on the cross then came back to life
- God created the entire universe
- Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead
- Joshua and the walls of Jericho
- Elijah calls down fire from heaven
- Read Psalm 121:1-2 once again.
 - "When you face a problem that feels too big to handle alone, hand it over to God. Trust that the God who brought down fire from heaven and did all the things we just talked about is big enough to take care of whatever you are going through. He's always in control. Always. Ask for His help and then trust in Him. The God we worship here today is unbelievably big, incredibly wise, and amazingly powerful, and He has a love for you that will never stop."

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Remind students that confidence isn't about how good we feel about ourselves, but it's about living like we believe what God says is true.
 - We can have confidence because of what God has revealed to us in the Bible and done for us through our relationship with Jesus.
 - God grows our confidence as He shapes us to be more like Him.
- Invite the group to build their confidence in God right now by remembering His power, love, and the many ways He's shown Himself to us.
- Sit in a circle and ask everyone to bow their heads.
- Encourage students to consider reasons they can continually put their confidence in God no matter what.
- Invite the students to take turns (while in a posture of prayer) naming something they believe God has done in the past to help us know Him and have confidence in His power to do the impossible.
 - Suggest that they think back to previous stories from this month about Gideon, Samson, or the events discussed in an earlier activity.
 - They can also name something they believe is true about God such as His love, the way He provides for them, how He sent us a Savior, and so on.
- Close in prayer once you've given all the students who want to, a chance to share.

What You Say:

"Dear God, You have given us so many reasons to be confident—not in ourselves but in YOU. Help us to live like we believe that You are the One True God—all powerful, always loving, and forever wise. In Your name we pray, amen."