



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two kid volunteers
- Worship Leaders
- Prop bin
- Two ponchos (kid-size)
- Two handheld squirt guns/Spray bottles
- Table
- Painter's tape
- Ping-pong ball
- 2 beach towels
- Timer on Host's phone (if you're not using a 30-second countdown on screen)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- AMPED Theme Slide
- Confidence Slide
- *Optional:* 30-second countdown video

What You Do:

- Put the goggles, ponchos, and squirt guns in the prop bin.
- Put a piece of painter's tape down the middle of the table, dividing it into two equal halves.
- Place the table on stage so it's parallel to the crowd.
- Put a tarp underneath your table to help protect your floor from water. Also put a beach towel at each end of the table to help absorb the water.
- Place the prop bin underneath the table.
- Put the other two beach towels on stage for the contestants after the game.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Male Storyteller (since he'll be portraying Elijah)
- Host
- Biblical-style robe for the Storyteller
- Reporter outfit for the Host (suit and tie or other business clothing)
- Handheld microphone (fake or real)
- Printed script with the Host's lines highlighted (these are his "reporter questions")

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "Eye on the World Broadcast News" by Breaking News

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Mount Carmel Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Print an extra copy of the script and highlight the Host's lines.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop Singing

They Didn't Start the Fire

Bible Story: They Didn't Start the Fire (Elijah and the Prophets of Baal) • 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.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: AMPED Theme Slide

Host enters.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! How are you doing? Are you AMPED to be here? I know I am! We're talking about living an AMPED life, living fully alive, and being overloaded with confidence!"

CG: Confidence Slide

"Confidence is living like you believe what God says is true. Knowing for sure that God is with you changes the way you live each day. It amps you up and gives you the confidence you need to take on any challenge—even when it might seem impossible.

"For today's extreme game, I need two volunteers who are willing to look the impossible in the face and not look away. Who believes they have that kind of confidence?"

Choose two kid volunteers and bring them to the table on stage.

"This table will serve as your battlefield. We've divided it into two sections. The object of the game is to keep the ping-pong ball on your opponent's side of the table. When the timer goes off, whoever has the ball on their side loses. I know what you're thinking. How are you supposed to keep the ball on their side of the table? I'm glad you asked. First, you'll need these.

Grab the ponchos and goggles from underneath the table. Give a poncho and a pair of goggles to each contestant. Worship Leaders enter to help the kids put them on. (They can stay on stage since they'll be helping to clean up afterward.)

“Now to the issue at hand: how to keep the ball on the opponent’s side of the table.

Retrieve the two squirt guns from under the table, bringing them up dramatically.

“Oh yeah! Using your squirt gun, you’ll shoot at the ball, trying to keep it on the opponent’s side of the table. The object is to squirt the ball, okay? The ball is on the table. It’s not over here on top of your opponent’s head, or out here in the crowd. It’s right here on the table.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ the timer will start and you can start firing at the ball. Whoever has the ball on their side of the table when the timer goes off loses, and the other person wins. We’ll cheer you on!

(To contestants) “Are you two ready? Let’s do this! On your marks, get set . . . GO!

CG: 30-second countdown (or Host can set a 30-second timer on his phone)

SFX: Upbeat music

Lead the audience in cheering for the contestants. If the ball falls off the table, retrieve it and place back on the side it fell off.

When the timer goes off, declare the winner of the game. Dismiss the kids to their seats.

Worship Leaders collect the squirt guns, help the kids remove their ponchos, and give them the beach towels to dry off. They also move the table out of the way and pick up the drop cloth.

“Whoa! Talk about difficult! It seemed like it was impossible to make that little ball do what they wanted it to do. But our volunteers were determined to see it through, and [winning kid’s name] was victorious.

“A lot of things in life can seem impossible, too. I know I’ve faced some things that seemed impossible to overcome, and it was hard to have the kind of confidence we’ve been talking about. Maybe our story today can give us confidence to face difficult things. But first, let’s stand and worship God together!”

Worship Leaders stay on stage. Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hey, everybody! Stand to your feet. Let’s get loud and celebrate how wonderful He is. Sing with me!”

ALIVE

WORSHIP LEADER: “It’s so fun to celebrate our super wonderful God with all of you. When we sing to God and let the words get down deep in our hearts, we remember what He says is true. That makes us

strong and confident—like it says in Philippians 4:13: *‘I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength, (NirV).’* Let’s sing it together.”

NEVER GONNA STOP SINGING

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everyone! Over the past couple of weeks, we’ve been talking about God’s chosen people, the Israelites. They were supposed to obey God and follow Him, but sometimes they went their own way and disobeyed Him.

“There were lots of different kings who ruled over the Israelites at different times. Some of them were good kings. They helped the people obey God, and they filled the Israelites with confidence in what God said. But other kings were not-so-good kings. They chose to do what THEY wanted to do instead of what God wanted. That’s where our Bible story picks up today, in the Book of 1 Kings.” (*Hold up Bible.*)

AHAB NOT-SO-GOOD

STORYTELLER: “Our story takes place when Ahab was the king of Israel, and unfortunately, Ahab was a not-so-good king. In fact, he may have been the worst king the Israelites ever had! King Ahab introduced the Israelites to a false god named Baal, and everyone started to worship Baal’s statue instead of worshipping the one true God. And when Ahab’s wife Jezebel killed some of God’s messengers, Ahab didn’t do anything to stop her. That’s pretty bad!

“God was angry with Ahab. He sent a messenger—or a prophet—to warn him. This prophet’s name was Elijah.

“Now, before we go any farther, [Host’s name] said he could help with our story today. [Host’s name], can you come to the stage?”

Host enters dressed in a reporter outfit (suit and tie or other business clothing).

(*To Host*) “Thanks for being part of our story, [Host’s name]! I’ll pretend to be Elijah, God’s prophet and messenger. You pretend to be a reporter and interview me about what happened. Here are some questions you can ask me as a reporter, and here’s a microphone.”

Storyteller gives the microphone and the highlighted script (“reporter questions”) to the Host. Storyteller puts on the biblical-style robe to play Elijah.

Talking like a TV reporter, Host holds the microphone, moving it back and forth between himself and Storyteller as they talk. Host can be over-the-top to provide some comic relief, but Storyteller should act normally as Elijah.

SFX: “Eye on the World Broadcast News” by Breaking News

CG: Mount Carmel Slide

HOST: “Thank you. I’m Reporter [Host’s name], reporting to you live from Mount Carmel with the prophet Elijah, who just faced off with 450 Baal followers. But let’s back up a little. Elijah, three years ago, God sent you to give a message to King Ahab. What was the message?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “God told me to tell Ahab it wouldn’t rain a single drop in all of Israel until God gave the word. When Israel worshipped God again, only then would God allow it to rain. Of course, Ahab didn’t believe me, but as days turned to weeks and weeks became months, no rain fell. Crops failed and everyone was going hungry. The whole nation was in a panic! They turned to the king for help, but Ahab couldn’t make it rain. That would be impossible! That’s when it got really bad, and he sent out his armies to find me.”

HOST: “Were you scared?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “God provided what I needed and kept me hidden from Ahab. After three years without rain, God told me to give Ahab another message.”

ELIJAH’S CHALLENGE

HOST: “What was the second message?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “God would soon send rain and save His people.”

HOST: “What was Ahab’s response?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “Oh, he tried to blame me for the lack of rain, but I reminded him that it happened because of his own actions and disobedience. Of course, he didn’t like that. I told him to gather all the followers of Baal and the rest of Israel to meet me here on Mount Carmel.”

HOST: “So 450 of Baal’s followers came out to meet you. Those seemed like impossible odds. How did you feel going up against 450 of them?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “I knew God was on my side, and that gave me confidence.”

HOST: “So what happened?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “I challenged them to a test to prove whose god was the one true God. They would offer a gift to Baal on their altar, and I would offer a gift to God on my altar. Whichever god answered by setting the offering on fire was the one true God.”

HOST: “The Baal followers accepted your challenge. Then what happened?”

PROPHETS OF BAAL VS. ELIJAH

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “All morning the followers of Baal called out to him, but there was no reply. That just made the followers shout louder, and they even danced to try to get Baal’s attention. But of course Baal never showed up. There wasn’t even the tiniest spark on their altar.”

HOST: “They danced, you say? Could you show us what they did?”

Storyteller is hesitant to dance, but Host persists. Eventually Storyteller gives in and busts out some dance moves. He can whip, dab, disco, do the YMCA, etc.

HOST: “Even after all that dancing and shouting, Baal didn’t answer?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “Nope. I even egged them on to shout louder to get Baal’s attention, saying maybe he was away on a trip or sleeping and couldn’t hear them. But Baal never showed up. The only thing Baal proved was that he isn’t real.”

HOST: “This reporter can confirm that the Baal worshippers were looking sad and disappointed by the end of the day. That’s when you stepped up, right, Elijah?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “Right. I gathered all the people around, because I wanted them to see the power of the true God. First, I rebuilt the altar of God that Ahab had torn down, and then we dug a trench around the altar. After I put the wood and the offering on the altar, we poured water from four large jugs all over it. We did this two more times, and even the trench was full! With all that water, it would be impossible for anything to catch on fire!”

HOST: “What were you trying to prove?”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “I didn’t want there to be any doubt about who God is. I didn’t shout or do any fancy footwork, either. I just prayed.”

HOST: “And what did you pray?”

Storyteller opens the Bible to 1 Kings 18:37 and reads.

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “*Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They’ll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again*” (NIRV).

HOST: “We’ve heard from eyewitnesses that immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! What a sight to see!”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): “God showed up in a mighty way that no one could deny.”

HOST: “I’m sure the events of today will be remembered forever! That’s all from the top of Mount Carmel. I’m Reporter [Host’s name], signing off.”

STORYTELLER (AS ELIJAH): *(To audience)* “Let’s hear it for [Host’s name]!”

SFX: “*Eye on the World Broadcast News*” by *Breaking News*

Host exits. Storyteller takes off the robe.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Wow! So when the Israelites saw how God sent fire from heaven, they fell face down and worshipped Him. But Elijah wasn’t done yet. Elijah climbed to the very top of Mount Carmel and asked God to send rain. A servant looked out over the sea and didn’t see a cloud in the sky. Seven times, Elijah asked God to send rain, and six times the servant reported no sign of a storm. But then—on the seventh time—the servant told Elijah there was a tiny cloud in the sky.

“Elijah told King Ahab to return to the city, because God was going to send rain. The sky turned black and there was a huge rainstorm! King Ahab and all his chariots hurried back to the city. Elijah didn’t have a chariot, but God gave him special strength. He ran ahead of Ahab’s chariot all the way to the city. Because of everything that happened that day, King Ahab couldn’t deny that God was the one true God.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Elijah’s story is proof that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible**. Think about all the impossible things God did in this story. It would have been impossible for Elijah to beat Ahab’s horse and chariot back to the city, but God gave Elijah the power to do it. It would be impossible for us to make it rain in an instant or to prevent it from raining for three years, but God did that too. And think about Elijah’s altar! Wet things don’t burn. Elijah made sure the altar was soaked through with water, and it should have been impossible to catch it on fire. Yet, God didn’t just set it on fire, He burned the whole thing to a crisp!

“No one else can do what God can do, and **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible!** Time and time again, He has proven that He is the one true God and He’s worthy of our worship. We can be confident that what He says is true. We can follow Him and **[Basic Truth] trust Him no matter what!**

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for stories in the Bible that show us who You are and what You’re like. You are strong and good. Nothing is impossible for You! Help us to follow You confidently and obey what You ask us to do. When we face situations that seem impossible, please remind us of the story of Elijah and give us the confidence to follow You. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “In today’s story, God showed us that nothing is impossible for Him. The Bible is full of amazing, true stories of things God did that seemed like they would be impossible.

“YOU can trust God like Elijah did. You can believe He can do the impossible. When you’re at school and you’re afraid to do what you know is right, you can be confident God is with you. Some of you may know somebody who’s really sick, or maybe your family is going through something tough. Those situations can seem impossible to deal with, but we can trust God and remember He is in control. God is bigger than anything we might face. We can be confident that what He says is true.

“Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can do the impossible.

“Let’s remember the story of Elijah and how God did the impossible. You’ll talk about that some more in your small groups. Have a great time!

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.