



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Fire on the Mountain**  
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal  
1 Kings 18:16-46

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What seems impossible to you?

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can do the impossible.

## MONTHLY 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

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see  
yourself the way God sees you

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! I'm thankful for this moment when we get to set aside all the distractions . . . lay down our cares . . . and put our focus on Jesus.

**AUDIO: THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO**

**AUDIO: WAY MAKER**

*Host enters . . .*

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## WELCOME

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! Can you believe it is the end of June already?! I've had so much fun kicking off each week with a musical challenge as we Press Play. And today will get EVERYONE involved. Who likes musical chairs?"

*(Pause for responses.)* Me too. Now, I get it. Musical chairs might feel a bit young for you, but I think you'll like this. THIS is not just any old musical chairs. No, this is the ULTIMATE musical chairs. In just a moment, everyone will get a sheet of paper. That we be your 'chair.' Then we'll make one big circle. I'll remove one of the sheets. When the music starts, you'll move around the circle with the instructions I call out. When the music stops, quickly sit on a paper square. When you get out, sit in the middle of circle. Get it? Got it? Then let's go!"

### AUDIO: FUN GAME MUSIC

*Arrange the paper squares into a giant circle. Use the following commands for ways to go around the circle, but also take suggestions for the kids who are out in the middle to keep them involved.*

*Ways to go around the circle: Crawl, Hop while holding your feet, crab walk, backwards, etc.*

*Play until there is a winner. Collect sheets of paper.*

*"(After the game) That was pretty amazing! Now, let's stand up and worship together!"*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everyone! Glad to see you here today. What a good month we’ve had together learning more about how God can give us confidence. You know, it can take a lot of confidence to be the first one to try something. Have you ever thought of that before? There are things that seem so impossible, outrageous even, and yet somebody came along and said, ‘I’m gonna do that.’ Take this for instance.”

**SLIDE: AIRPLANE FLYING**

“I know when we see an airplane flying in the sky, we don’t even give it a second thought. But can you imagine being the very first one who said, ‘You know how birds fly through the sky? I should do that?’ And they found a way to do it. On December 17, 1903, brothers Wilber and Orville Wright completed the first successful airplane flight in North Carolina.”

“And then there is this . . .”

**SLIDE: NIAGARA FALLS**

“Niagara Falls. Who decided, ‘You know what, I think I’ll go across this. . . on a TIGHTROPE!’”

**SLIDE: NIAGARA FALLS TIGHTROPE WALK**

“But Charles Blondin did just that in 1859. He walked over 1,000 feet at 160 feet above the gorge below. And what about this . . .”

**SLIDE: ENGLISH CHANNEL**

“Who looked at this Channel between England and France and thought, ‘I could swim the over 20-mile journey across it?’ Matthew Webb did. In 1875, he swam the 21 miles across, which actually took almost 39 miles because of currents, in just under 22 hours!”

“But there’s more, right? I mean, what about even this?”

**SLIDE: THE MOON**

“What kid looks out their window and thinks, ‘I’m going to fly to that and land there someday?’ Well, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did just that in 1969, that’s who.”

“What is the common theme here? Something at first that seemed impossible—or was IMPOSSIBLE—until one day, it wasn’t. Until somebody decided to do it.”

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “We don’t have to face an impossible trip into space to feel like a job, a situation, or even a relationship is impossible. We deal with all sorts of things that make us scratch our heads or throw up our hands and think to ourselves: ‘That’s never gonna happen.’ But remember, no one thought landing on the moon was possible until someone figured out how to make it happen. Which makes me wonder, what if what we need to do isn’t as impossible as we might think? We might need to keep trying and not give up or pause and look at the situation differently. We might just need a little help. All that to say, what if the impossible really isn’t that impossible? As we’ve seen already, that’s a question people have been considering for years and years and years—even as far back as the people in the Bible. Let’s see if they have something to teach us about having confidence in the face of what seems truly impossible.”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “To do that, we head to the Old Testament of our Bibles during a time when the nation of Israel was ruled by kings. Now, some of these kings were really good kings—think men like David and Hezekiah. Sadly, though, many of the kings who ruled Israel were not so good. In fact, they were downright wicked, and there may not have been a more wicked king than the one who will show up in our story today. His name was Ahab.”

### SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 1, KING AHAB

“One of Ahab’s biggest, yet most wicked, accomplishments was building a temple in Israel. You might be thinking, ‘Well, that doesn’t sound all that bad. Weren’t temples where people worshipped God back then?’”

### SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 2, SOLOMON’S TEMPLE

“Yes, you’re right. But here’s the problem. The temple he built was not for God, the one True God. It was for a false god named Baal, a god that the Canaanites worshipped.”

### SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 3, AHAB WITH “WORSHIP BAAL HERE!” SIGN

“Ahab was making it easier for people to worship the wrong god. Like I said, this guy was trouble with a capital ‘T.’ Sadly, like many of the other bad kings, the people were more than willing to follow the king and what he said rather than follow God and what God said.”

“Now, there was another guy we should mention before we check out the story. His name was Elijah, and Elijah was a prophet of God.”

### SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 4, ELIJAH

“Now, we often hear the word prophet and think that means they were these special people with the ability to see the future, like they were huddled over a crystal ball or something. It’s true that they told about what **WOULD** happen one day, but even more than that, a prophet was somebody God sent to tell the truth about what was happening **RIGHT THEN**.”

### SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 5, ELIJAH SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE

"They were like messengers, delivering God's Word to people who really needed to hear the truth. And can you guess who needed to hear the truth? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right, Ahab. King Ahab needed to hear the truth that God did NOT like how he was leading God's people."

"Let's just say that Elijah and Ahab had a little Facetime."

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 6, ELIJAH AND AHAB ON FACETIME**

"Not that kind of FaceTime. I just mean they met face to face. You can imagine how this might have gone."

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:17-18 (NIRV) and read.*

"When [Ahab] saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel."

"I haven't made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have turned away from the Lord's commands. You have followed gods that are named Baal.""

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 7, ELIJAH CONFRONTING AHAB**

"Elijah told Ahab the truth because that is what a prophet did. But now it was time for a showdown. Elijah told Ahab to have all of the people of Israel meet at Mount Carmel. And I know what you might be thinking, but this is not the local ice cream shop. This was a mountain you could see for miles around."

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 8, MOUNTAIN IN THE DISTANCE**

"Elijah also told Ahab to bring the prophets who worked for Baal and Asherah (who was like the female version of Baal). There were over 850 prophets to these gods! That number alone can show us just how much of a problem Baal worship was in Israel—and why God took it all so seriously."

"Something else you should know. Elijah was alone. Well, not really. God was with him and a few people did still follow the True God. But he sure felt like he was alone. He actually said this just before this showdown, 'I'm the last prophet of God left.' He wasn't really, but I'm sure it was hard for him to feel very confident heading up Mount Carmel seeing those 850 false prophets, feeling like he was by himself. From the outside, this sure looked like an impossible situation, but let's stick with it and find out."

"So Elijah and the prophets of Baal gathered at Mount Carmel, along with the people of Israel . . ."

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 9, PEOPLE GATHERED AT MOUNT CARMEL**

"And Elijah stepped forward and challenged the people."

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:21(NIRV) and read.*

"Elijah went there and stood in front of the people. He said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only God, worship him.""

The people weren't convinced, though. It was time for a little head-to-head battle. It may seem like this was Elijah vs. Ahab, but it was really about God vs. Baal."

"But what kind of showdown could you possibly have between God and Baal? Elijah set the challenge before Ahab. They would each take a bull, cut it in pieces, and place it on the altar."

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 10, WOOD ALTAR WITH BULL**

"This might seem strange to us, but this was a pretty common thing in that day. They regularly offered sacrifices like this to God. These were often burnt offerings, meaning there was fire involved. So what would you expect them to do after they placed the bull on the altar? *(Pause for responses.)* Right—set the altar on fire. That's what you WOULD expect, but not this time though. Check it out."

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:23b-24 (NIRV) and read, emphasis added.*

*"Then let them put it on the wood. But DON'T let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the Lord. The god who answers by SENDING FIRE DOWN is the one and only God."*

"Now before we go on, let's ask a question. Why fire?"

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 11, FIRE**

"I mean, why did the challenge involve lighting a fire? Because, like I mentioned earlier, fire was the way sacrifices were consumed. People arranged altars and lit offerings on fire to gods. But this time was different. This time the people weren't going to light the fire on the altar. A fire starting out of nowhere would be a sign that a god was showing up. Elijah's challenge was this: Let's call on our gods, and we'll see which god shows up."

"The prophets of Baal went first. They chose their bull, prepared it, and placed it on the altar.

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 12, PROPHETS OF BAAL AROUND THE ALTAR**

"The prophets of Baal started to pray from morning until noon. No fire. No Baal. So . . . they tried another approach."

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:26 (NIRV) and read, emphasis added.*

*"They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. 'Baal! Answer us!' they shouted. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. Then they DANCED AROUND the altar they had made."*

"Elijah even started taunting them a bit. 'Dance more! Shout louder! Maybe Baal can't hear you!'"

"How long did this go on for? Until late in the afternoon—hours and hours of calling for Baal! Let's just say that Baal never picked up the phone."

"Now it was Elijah's turn, or should I say God's turn. Elijah stepped up and prepared his altar."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 13, ELIJAH AT THE ALTAR**

"He placed a bull on it. But then Elijah did something a little strange. He dug a big ditch around his altar. He then had some people fill four large jars of water. Not only that, Elijah had them pour water on the wood of his altar.

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 14, ELIJAH SOAKING HIS ALTAR**

"He then had them do it two more times. That's right: they poured TWELVE large jars of water onto the wood, to the point that the water filled the ditch around the altar, too."

"Have you ever tried to start a fire with wet wood? It is tough—almost impossible. So what in the world was Elijah doing? (Pause for responses.)

"Yes! Elijah was making the situation basically impossible! Lighting a fire with soaking wet wood from 12 large water jars? No way. But if the fire started, if this actually happened, it could ONLY be God! No tricks. No stunts. Only God doing the impossible."

"Elijah stepped up. No shouting. No dancing. He just prayed a simple prayer . . ."

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 15, ELIJAH LOOKING UP TO THE HEAVENS, PRAYING**

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:36-37 (NIRV) and read.*

*"He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all these things because you commanded me to. 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.""*

"Any guess what happened?"

**SLIDE: STORY SLIDE 16, ELIJAH PUSHED BACK AS FIRE COMES DOWN AND LIGHTS THE ALTAR.**

"God showed up! Big time! Right away, the fire came down and burned up the entire altar. The fire even dried up all the water in the ditch!"

"Let's see how everyone reacted."

*Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:39 (NIRV) and read.*

*"All the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!""*

"God did what seemed impossible. Once and for all everyone in Israel knew God was the One True God they should follow."



## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Okay, most of us won’t find ourselves on the top of a mountain in a showdown with 850 false prophets. And we’re probably not asking God to rain down fire from heaven to light a soaking wet altar. But you know, we will face times when we find ourselves in situations that seem pretty impossible. We’ll wonder if God will show up or if God can even help. Maybe your family is in a bad situation right now with a job or a health issue and it seems like a pretty impossible place for God to show up. But what if you could be confident that God is still with you?”

“Or maybe you’re in a bad spot with a friend right now and it doesn’t seem like it is going to get better. But what if there is still a way for God to work in that relationship?”

“Now I should say that not every impossible situation will go the way we want it to every time. God brings situations into our lives that we don’t always understand. But God can give you peace while you go through it. This is the peace that Jesus came to bring. Even feeling at peace with a situation might feel impossible. But the peace Jesus gives defies what’s impossible. His peace reminds us that, just like Elijah, we’re never ever alone.”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you go to groups, think about this:

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**“What seems impossible to you?** What’s something in your life that it’d be really great if God showed up in a powerful way? Honestly, even small things we face can feel impossible sometimes. Think about it. In just a second, you’ll chat more about this with your Small Group, a bunch of friends who can help you feel like you’re not alone in this. We all face impossible situations. With that in mind, let’s pray. Let’s thank God for always being with us. Let’s ask God to give us peace that only He can give, even when life feels impossible. Let’s pray.”

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**