
GOD IS THE ONE AND ONLY

SERIES: ONE TRUE GOD

Join us throughout the month of January as we hear stories that show that God is the ONE TRUE GOD! We will be reading from the books of 1 & 2 Kings and Daniel!

REMEMBER VERSE

LUKE 4:8—Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

SCHEDULE

All Services

- 0:00—0:35 Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
- 0:35—0:40 Transition to Large Group
- 0:40—1:00 Large Group (B100)
- 1:00—1:05 Transition to Small Group
- 1:05—1:15 Bless and Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

CURRENT WEEK: God Is the One and Only
King Ahab and Elijah

WEEK 2: God Awakens
King Josiah

WEEK 3: God Rescues
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

EQUIP

Hundreds of years after King David, King Ahab ruled over Israel. The Bible says that King Ahab "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him" (1 Kings 16:30). Because of this, God sent a drought over all of Israel that would prepare His people's hearts for the contest on Mount Carmel—a competition to prove, once again, that our God is the one and only.

On Mount Carmel, after the prophets had failed to get the attention of their false god, Elijah built an altar to the Lord using 12 stones, perhaps symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel. Elijah did this at "the time of sacrifice" (1 Kings 18:36), which was 3:00 p.m., the hour of the regular sacrifice in the temple in Jerusalem. Similarly, God's people would be gathered for worship at the temple. So Elijah gathered the people around him as he prayed that "'these people [would] know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again'" (v. 37).

God answered Elijah in the contest on Mount Carmel by sending fire from heaven and burning up the sacrifice that Baal could not consume. After this contest, God sent rain at Elijah's request, showing that He—not Baal—controls the weather. Through these two displays of power, God showed the people that He is the one true God—the One who empowers His people to live a radical life of faith, even in the midst of a pagan culture.

ENCOURAGE

Sometimes God has to stretch us pretty far in order to get our attention. When He takes us to the places in our lives where we have no choice but to stop relying on ourselves or others and fall into His embrace—that's when we start to get at the concept that God is our one and only.

Even as people who believe in and love God, we may not live as if God is our one and only. We might use television, music, or exercise to take the place of intimacy with God. We might live through our relationships with others. We might try to stuff the emptiness in our lives with packed calendars and constant busyness.

This week, open your eyes and ears to where you might not be allowing God to be your one and only source of strength, love, hope, or life. Ask Him to draw you near to Him so that He can heal you and bring you into deeper relationship with Him.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: Which part of a storm do you like best: rain, hail, thunder, or lightning? Why?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

God desires to reveal Himself to us. He desires to show us that He is the one and only God.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a God Is The One True God door hang template. Instruct them to color and decorate it how they would like. Then, have them cut it out along the dotted line, remembering to also cut along the diagonal line and the circle it is connected to so that it can hang on a door handle. Encourage them to hang it on their door knob as a reminder of who God is and how He showed Himself to be the one true God on Mount Carmel.

SUPPLIES:

- God Is The One True God door hang template
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

God is the one and only true God. In the contest between the prophets of Baal and Elijah, God showed Himself as the one and only by sending fire to burn up the soaked altar.

- What is a drought? Why was there a drought in Israel? *1 Kings 17:1*
- What did Elijah pray before he made a sacrifice to God? *1 Kings 18:36-37*
- Why did Elijah put water on the altar? *1 Kings 18:38*
- What happened after God sent fire from heaven? *1 Kings 18:39*
- Why do you think God desires for us to step out in faith and declare Him to be the one and only?
- How can you step out in faith and declare God to be the one and only?
- Has God ever asked you to step out in faith to do something? Tell us about it.

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

PSALM 115:1-3 – Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Why do the nations, say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

BLESSING: May you know that our God is the one and only God. May you turn to Him for everything you need.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

STORYTELLING

Enter carrying potted plant and watering can. Have you ever taken care of a plant? *Invite a few kids to share experiences.* *Water the plant as you continue.* Plants, trees, and the crops that feed people all need water to grow. Without rain, they'll die. Today in The Big God Story we'll hear about how God sent rain to prove that He is the one and only God.

Earlier in The Big God Story, David took the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. To celebrate the arrival of the ark of the covenant, David worshipped God by dancing! Although King David led his people to worship God, most kings after him didn't. In fact, most of the leaders after David were evil and led the people to worship false gods.

The Israelites forgot about the one true God—the One who had led them out of Egypt and given them the Promised Land. They forgot that God is the one and only! Each time I say, "God is the one and only," I'd like you to say it with me and hold up one finger above your head. Let's practice. *Lead kids in practicing a few times.* No other god could free the people, give them life, provide for them, or be with them, because only God is the true, living God.

One of the evil kings who ruled God's people was named Ahab. Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, believed Baal was the god of rain and crops. So, God called a prophet named Elijah to tell the king that He would keep the rain from falling. *Invite kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 17:1 and follow along as you read.* God did this to show that He is the only true God and that He controls everything, including the rain. God is the one and only! *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.*

Now, if Baal really had been the storm god, as Ahab believed, it should have been no problem for the country to get lots of rain. But because God controls the weather, He didn't let rain fall for three years! In the third year, God told Elijah to go to Ahab and gather all of the prophets of Baal on a mountain called Mount Carmel. Here they would have a contest—a contest to prove that God is the one true God. God is the one and only. *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.*

Two altars had been set up—one for Baal and one for the God of Israel. Each altar had a sacrifice on it, and whichever god sent fire down from heaven to burn up the sacrifice would be called the real god. Everyone

came together on Mount Carmel to see who would win. *Invite a volunteer to read 1 Kings 18:21.* At the beginning of the contest, Elijah told the Israelites to choose which god to worship. Elijah knew that as long as the people went back and forth in whom they followed, they could not live the way God desired for them to live as His chosen people. Elijah knew that God would prove He is the one true God—that God is the one and only. *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.*

Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. The Bible says that they cried out to their false god from morning until noon. What do you think happened? *Invite guesses.* *Read verse 26 as kids follow along.* The prophets of Baal shouted louder and kept on dancing, but nothing happened. Why? *Pause for answers.* Exactly—because God is the one and only. *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.*

Later that day, Elijah gathered the people, built an altar using 12 stones, and placed the sacrifice on it. Then, he dug out the ground around the altar and filled this place with water. He also told the people to pour lots and lots of water over the sacrifice, the wood, and the altar, which made everything soaking wet. With everything wet, it would be so much harder to light on fire. But Elijah wanted to be sure that the people saw God's amazing power.

Invite kids to follow along as you read 1 Kings 18:37-38. Wow! Fire came down from heaven and burned up everything on the altar, including the stones! It also "licked up the water" around the altar. What would you have done or said if you had been there that day? *Pause for responses.* *Read verse 39 aloud.* The people fell on the ground and worshipped God. They saw that God is the one and only! *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.* After that, Elijah prayed for God to send rain, and He did! It rained for the first time in three years.

Now, you might think that after this amazing display of the Lord as the one and only God, King Ahab began to follow God, but this didn't happen. Sadly, Ahab kept worshipping other gods. But that didn't change the fact that God is Lord over all. God is the one and only. *Lead kids in repeating phrase and doing motion.*

In this life, many things will try to take your attention and your worship away from God. But God wants to be our one and only. He is the only One worthy of our worship.