**The Fab Five**

**Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal**

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**BIG IDEA:** **The Lord is the one and only God, so we can put Him first in our life.**

**BIBLE BASIS:** **1 Kings 18:16-39**

**KEY VERSE:** **“Do not put any other gods in place of me.” Exodus 20:3 (NIrV)**



**7–15 minutes**

**30–40 minutes**

**7–15 minutes**

**15–25 minutes**

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**LEADER DEVOTIONAL**

During my late teens and early twenties, I had one of the most challenging, albeit best, jobs on earth—I was a camp counselor. The pay was miniscule. (One year we calculated that the counselors earned less than a dollar an hour.) Moreover, the hours were long. And by “long,” I mean that we only got two nights off a week, for four hours each night. So when our nights off rolled around, you can imagine all of the things we needed and wanted to accomplish—laundry, shopping, relaxation, recreation. But most of all, we just wanted to spend every possible moment hanging out and building friendships with the other counselors who had the night off.

One summer, though, I felt convicted to approach my nights off differently. Although they were preciously few, I was compelled to give the first of my two nights off every week to God alone. For those four hours, I would spend time praying, meditating, and reading in solitude. As I wrestled with the thought, I couldn’t imagine how I was going to accomplish everything I needed in the four remaining hours a week. Moreover, I was afraid of missing out on all of the fun that the other counselors would be having together. Nevertheless, I gave it a shot.

Predictably, my time each week with God was life-giving. I saw more spiritual growth during that summer than I ever had before. And simply put, I fell more deeply in love with God than I could have imagined. What I didn’t anticipate, though, is that by giving God the first portion of my time, the remainder of my time seemed multiplied. Not only did I have enough time to do everything I wanted and needed, I had an abundance of time. And best of all, there was a divine sweetness that permeated it all. Although I had essentially cut my time of fellowship in half, my connection with the other counselors was twice as deep. Not only was my time with God having a profound impact on me, it was also profoundly impacting those around me.

If you’re like me, you might think you’re too busy to give that much time to God. But in fact, the opposite is true. We’re too busy *not* to give that much time to God. God created us first and foremost to have fellowship with Him, and when that’s missing, everything else suffers. So try something wonderfully dangerous this week—give God the first portion of your day. And not just your spare time. Instead, be radically generous with the time you give Him. You’ll be amazed at how faithful God is when you put Him first.

*David Rausch*

Go Tell It Founder and Creator

**LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING**

***Praying With a Kid to Become a Christian***

There are few things as amazing as praying with a kid to become a Christian, but for some people, the thought of it is terrifying. Questions might swirl through your head. How do I do it? What should I avoid? Is it possible I could mess this thing up? It’s understandable that some people might feel nervous about walking a kid through such a huge spiritual milestone, but fear not! By the grace of God, *you can do it!* Here are a few suggestions to help you along the way:

**Avoid coercion.** Most kids have the desire to please adults. Avoid language that might pressure a kid into a disingenuous decision to follow Jesus. It’s okay to present opportunities by asking questions like, “Do you ever think about asking Jesus to be your Savior?” but allow them to reach a conclusion on their own. In other words, lead them towards a decision; don’t push them towards one.

**Use the ABCs.** If a kid has already heard the Gospel and has expressed a desire to become a Christian, explain to them the ABCs of prayer. “A”—Admit you have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. “B”—Believe that God has sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins. “C”—Choose to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of your life.

**Prompt the child in prayer.** It’s important that the salvation prayer comes from the heart of the child. Instead of having a kid repeat the prayer after you, provide prompts and let them do the praying. For example, begin by opening the prayer, but then prompt the kid to “admit” he’s sinned and ask God for forgiveness. Pause for the kid to say his own prayer and then prompt him through “believe” and “choose.”

**Celebrate!** This is the greatest decision anyone could ever make and it’s worth celebrating! Let him know that all of heaven is rejoicing over his decision. If the kid doesn’t have a Bible yet, you might consider buying one for him as a celebration gift. Be sure to share the news with the leaders in your room or any other people who are important in the life of the child.

**UNIT DESCRIPTION**

In a world where all but a few have turned away from God, the “Fab Five” remain faithful. These five prophets, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, have the power to see into the future and the courage to warn Israel about the error of their ways. During “The Fab Five” series, kids will go on a totally true comic book adventure through the Bible to learn about these five fabulous prophets from the Old Testament. Best of all, the kids will get to draw the comic book pictures themselves while discovering what it means to be faithful to the one and only God.

**SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS**

* Print one “Comic Sheet: Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal” for each kid on 8½ x 11 paper. Place the comic sheets in the teaching area.
* Place boxes of markers, crayons, or colored pencils in the teaching area.
* Ahead of time, think about the best way to pass out the comic sheets and to spread out the markers, crayons, or pencils among the kids.
* Set up a paper pad or marker board near the teaching area. This will be used for a game of Pictionary® during the Big Bible Story review.
* Place a basketball, a popular kid’s book, and a video game system (or tablet) out of site in the teaching area.
* Place a small table (or similar) in the teaching area. It needs to be big enough to set the basketball, book, and video game system on top.
* Choose which of the Reflect and Respond stations you would like to make available. Set out the appropriate materials for each of those stations.



**CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic**

**Sound: Play upbeat music as kids move to large group area**

* Video: Play “Fab Five Intro Video”

**THE FAB FIVE INTRO**

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody! I’m so glad you’re here for the start of a fun new series called “The Fab Five”! For the next five weeks, we’re going on a totally true comic book adventure through the Bible to learn about five fabulous prophets from the Old Testament. And here’s the best part—YOU get to draw the comics yourself! *(Pause.)* I was expecting more applause! Maybe you didn’t hear me—I said, “YOU get to draw the comics yourself!” *(Prompt kids in exaggerated applause.)* That’s better!

You know—one of the things I love most about comic book heroes is their superpowers. Have you ever wished you could have a superpower? *(Kids respond.)* I have too!

Tell a personal story about a superpower you wished for as a kid and what you would have done with it. Next, ask the kids what kind of superpower they would like to have.

Wow—those are some super-sweet superpowers! The five prophets from “The Fab Five” didn’t have the power to fly or to *(insert superpower suggestions from kids)*, but they had something way better! The prophets in the Bible had the power to see the future. God would show the prophets what was going to happen and then they would tell the people about it. They would tell people about the bad things that were going to happen if they didn’t follow God and they would tell about the Savior who was coming to take away their sins. Today, we’re going to look at the first of “The Fab Five” prophets and see how God’s power helped him stand up to a bunch of fakers and phonies.

**BIG BIBLE STORY REVIEW**

Before we hear that story, though, let’s look back to what’s already happened in the Big Bible Story. I’m going to draw a picture. If you think you know what it is, just shout it out and I’ll tell you if you’re right.

* One at a time, silently draw each picture listed below. After the kids guess what you’re drawing, tell them that part of the Big Bible Story.
* *Draw the earth.* In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
* *Draw a tree with fruit.* Everything was perfect until Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit from a tree God had told them not to touch. Their sin separated people from God, but God came up with a plan to fix things.
* *Draw stars.* God told a man named Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as the stars in the sky. His family would one day be called the Israelites and they would give birth to a Savior who would wipe those sins away.
* *Draw three pyramids.* While in Egypt, the Israelites were made slaves by Pharaoh, but God sent Moses to lead them out of slavery and into a new home called the Promised Land.
* *Draw a sword.* When the Israelites reached the Promised Land, the Canaanites were already there. But God helped the Israelites defeat the Canaanites and take the Promised Land.
* *Draw a crown.* Because of King Solomon’s sin, God tore the nation of Israel in two. The 10 northern tribes were called “Israel” while the two southern tribes were called “Judah.”

**CG: “Big Bible Story” graphic**

Give each kid some markers and a copy of the “Comic Sheet: Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal.” The comic sheet will include panels with background scenery, but the primary drawings are missing. Read the story slowly and, when indicated, encourage the kids to draw the missing pictures. It’s okay to read while the kids are still drawing, but pace yourself so they have adequate time.

**THE BIG BIBLE STORY—ELIJAH VS. THE PHONY PROPHETS**

* Many years after King Solomon died, the 10 northern tribes of Israel were ruled by an evil king named Ahab. King Ahab had turned away from the one and only God and worshipped a fake god named Baal *(pronounced: bale.)* Even worse—he had led the people of Israel to do the same. But not everyone worshipped Baal. There was a prophet named Elijah who stayed faithful to the one and only God.
* *(Tell kids to draw a picture of Elijah in panel #1.)* One day Elijah told King Ahab to gather the people of Israel and the prophets of Baal together on a mountain top. These prophets weren’t like Elijah, though, they were a bunch of phonies who worshipped a fake god—and Elijah was going to prove it! When the phony prophets finally showed up, there were 450 of them in all. 1 Kings 18:22-24 says, “Then Elijah said to them, ‘I’m the only one of the Lord’s prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves. Let them cut it into pieces. 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.’”
* *(Tell kids to draw a bull on the altar in panel #2.)* The prophets of Baal were so foolish—they actually thought their fake god could send fire down from heaven. So they said, “Okay—you’ve got a deal!” Just as Elijah instructed, the phony prophets put a bull on their altar and began praying out loud to Baal. They prayed from breakfast until lunch time, but guess what happened? Nothing—absolutely nothing!
* So Elijah began to tease them. “‘Shout louder!’ he said. ‘I’m sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he’s away on a trip. Maybe he’s sleeping. You might have to wake him up.’” (1 Kings 18:27) So the phony prophets yelled louder and louder all the way until dinner time, but guess what happened? Nothing—absolutely nothing!
* Then Elijah said, “Step aside you phonies—let me show you how it’s done!” He picked up 12 big stones—one for each tribe of Israel—and he built an altar to the Lord with them. Then he put the bull on the altar. Then he dug a ditch around the altar. Then he told the phony prophets to pour water all over the bull. When they finished, the bull was soaking wet. In fact, there was so much water that it filled the ditch. *(Tell the kids to draw water all over the bull and the altar and in a ditch in panel #3.)*
* “When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. 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.’” (1 Kings 18:36-37)
* Instantly, God sent fire down from the sky. *(Tell kids to draw fire coming down from the sky in panel #3.)* The fire burned up *everything*—the bull, the wood, the stones, the soil and every drop of water. When the people saw what had happened, they fell to the ground and cried out, “The Lord is the one and only God!”

**CG: “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic**

**BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

At the end of the Bible story have the kids turn briefly to their small groups or neighbors and discuss the following questions: **Encourage the kids to show their drawings to one another. For Younger Kids: What was your favorite part of this story? Why? Why do you think Elijah’s prayer was the only one that brought down fire from the sky? For Older Kids: What does this story teach you about God? How does this story help you in your life?** After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area.

**CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic**

**Video: (Optional) Play “Journey Today Show” video *(requires GO+ subscription)***

**THE ONE AND ONLY GOD**

In our story for today, Elijah came up with some pretty funny reasons why Baal might not be sending fire down from heaven. Who remembers what some of those reasons were? *(Take answers. Answers include: too much to think about, on the toilet, away on a trip, and sleeping.)* Elijah was just kidding, though. He knew there was only one reason that Baal couldn’t send fire down. What was it? *(Take answer.)* That’s right—Baal wasn’t real. And when the people saw what happened with the fire, they realized they had been worshipping a fake god and cried out, “The Lord is the one and only God!”

You know what? In the end, the people were right. The Lord *is* the one and only God! And although some people might say that Allah is God, or that Vishnu is God, or that we are all God, the Bible says that the Lord is the one and only God. We can learn from the Israelites’ mistake—we shouldn’t put any fake gods in place of the one and only God. In fact, that’s what our Bible verse for today says. Let’s take a look. *(Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 20:3. Be prepared to give younger kids more time and assistance in finding the verse. When ready, choose a kid to read the verse aloud or read it aloud yourself as the kids follow along.)*

**CG: “Do not put any other gods in place of me.” Exodus 20:3**

**OH GREAT AND MIGHTY BASKETBALL!**

Now, you might be thinking, “Hey—that’s no problem! I never put Baal or any other fake gods in the Lord’s place.” But sometimes we might put other things in God’s place without even realizing it. Let me show you what I’m talking about.

Place a basketball, a popular book, and a video game system in a row on a table.

We’re going to run an experiment to see if these things can help us. What are some problems that you have or things that you need help with? *(Take an answer from one kid.)* Thank you for sharing. Let’s see if the basketball can help you with that. *(Turn to the basketball and talk to it in a dramatic voice.)* Oh great and mighty basketball, please help… *(Fill in the name of kid and the problem they shared.)*

When finished, pause dramatically as if waiting for the basketball to do something. Ask the kid if they feel any different or if the problem is solved. Next, move on to the other items. As with the basketball, for each item ask a kid to share a problem, then turn to the item and ask it for help. Have fun with it and be silly.

That seems pretty silly, doesn’t it? We might never pray to these things or ask them for help, but they can still be like gods in our life. You see—whenever we love something more than we love God, it becomes like a fake god that we put in His place. *(Stand behind basketball.)* For some of us, we might love sports so much that we skip church so that we can watch or play in a game. *(Stand behind book.)* For some of us, we might love reading popular books so much that we never read our Bible. *(Stand behind video game system.)* For some of us, we might spend so much time playing video games that we never spend any time talking with God. Can you think of any other things we might love more than God or put in His place? *(Take answers.)* Great answers!

*(Sit or kneel near kids.)* None of these things are bad things when we put them in their right place. But the Lord is the one and only God, so we should put Him first in our life. We shouldn’t let anything get in the way of us loving and following Jesus. Let’s pray right now and ask God to help us put Him first.

Close the Large Group time by praying for the kids in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. Following the prayer, explain to the kids which of the Reflect and Respond Stations will be available. Remind them to move about the stations very quietly. Tell them they are free to respond to God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them, but if they need suggestions, some of the stations will give them ideas for how to pray, write, or draw. Give each child one “GO! Home” sheet and instruct them to take it with them to the stations. Place small group leaders at the different stations to quietly help the kids. The stations listed below are just the ones that have prompts that are specific to today’s lesson. For more instructions on how the Reflect and Respond Stations work as well as a full list of possible stations, see the “GO! Guide.”

* CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic

**Music: (Optional) Play quiet reflective music**



**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to God. Tell Him how awesome you think He is for being the one and only God.

* **Journal Station prompt:** Write a letter to God. Tell Him about a problem you have or something you need and ask Him to help you.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: 1 Kings 18:16-39. Draw a picture of the story or write to God about your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you liked it.

**Art Station prompt:** Draw a giant number one. Color and decorate it in any way that you want. While you’re drawing, say a prayer and thank the Lord for being the one and only God.