

Alley SG - June 23-24, 2018

Bible Truth: They Didn't Start the Fire (Elijah and the Prophets of Baal) * 1 Kings 18

Bottom Line: God can do the impossible.

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*

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle with some distance between each person.
- **Give** each student a marker and a stack of paper equal to the number of people in the group (8 students=8 sheets of paper per person).
 - If your group is larger than 10 kids, divide them in half and instruct each half-group to sit in a circle together.
- **Ask** each person to write down on the top sheet of paper something in her life that she would be super-excited to see God do for her or a problem she is facing right now that feels too big for her to handle.
 - **Make** sure they don't say anything out loud or let others see what they are writing.
 - After a minute or so, **tell** them to pass their entire stacks of paper to the person on their left.
- **Instruct** them to silently read what's on the top page of the stack of paper they were handed and then place that page on the bottom of the stack.
 - Then they should draw on the new page a simple picture of whatever they read.
 - After another minute, tell the group to pass their stacks of paper to the left once again.
 - Have students look at the drawing on the top page (only that page) then place that paper on the bottom of the stack and write a short description of what they think the picture was about.
- **Continue** passing the papers and alternating between writing and drawing until each person has her original stack of paper back.
- The students should take turns sharing what they originally wrote on the first page then show what others drew or said about it.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, index cards, pens, numbered dice (6 per group)

What You Do:

- **Pair** students up or let them pair themselves up.
- **Ask** partners to write down this summary statement about the story from Elijah's perspective using exactly 10 words: **"I believed God to bring down fire from the sky."**
- **Give** each team a die and ask them to choose a number for their team (1-6).
- **Signal** one partner from each team to begin by rolling their die.

- When their team's number is rolled, that person may begin writing their summary sentence as fast as she can while the other partner takes the dice and tries to get her team's number once again.
 - When she does, she takes over writing and the other partner rolls the dice.
 - Keep rewriting the sentence until time is called.
 - The team with the summary written the most times in a set amount of time is the winner.
- **Repeat** with new sentences about the story, but this time ask partners to write from the perspective of King Ahab and the prophets of Baal and give them a different amount of words to use.
- **Ask:**
 - How did Elijah demonstrate confidence?
 - Describe whether you think God was at the center of Elijah's confidence. Why or why not?
 - Elijah had confidence that God could do the impossible and send fire from heaven to prove that He was the all-powerful God of the universe. Do you think it's possible to have that same kind of strong confidence today? Why or why not? What would it look like if we did?

3. Discussion Questions

- 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?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pen

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

Wrap Up and Say:

- **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.”

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **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.
 - *“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.”*