

WEEK 2
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God hears
my voice.

BIBLE

Elijah on Mount Carmel:
1 Kings 18:16–39; Acts 2:1–21

ABOUT THIS WEEK

With all the mixing, whisking, and baking, kitchens can become loud and noisy, making it hard to hear the people around you. This week, we'll hear how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and trusted God to hear his prayers. No matter how loud things get in the kitchen, Elijah's story can help us believe that **God hears my voice.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to the bakery. Last week, we heard how God got food for Elijah and a widow's family when there wasn't enough food to eat. Good thing Elijah had a full tummy because he would need all his strength for a battle in today's Bible story. Things are getting *fired up!*

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Help The Pastry Chef

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a bag filled with plastic, non-sharp kitchen items like a serving spoon, ladle, measuring cup, spatula, whisk, measuring spoons, cupcake liners, and cookie cutters. Wear a chef's hat and apron if you have one. Arrange kids in a circle and pass the bag around while playing music. Pause the music and announce an item from the bag. The bag holder has ten seconds to find the item without looking. If successful, they say, "Yes, chef!" Otherwise, it's "Sorry, chef!" Put the item back in the bag and continue the game.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Complete this activity in teams by having more than one bag of kitchen tools available. See which team can identify all the tools first.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Give kids a longer, or even unlimited, amount of time to feel around the bag for the item. Give them an option to give a thumbs up or thumbs down instead of saying, "Yes, chef!" or "Sorry, chef!"*
- Kitchens can get so busy that assistant chefs, called sous chefs, often act as the head chef's eyes, arms, and even taste buds in the kitchen to help bring a dish to perfection. Today, you all get to be sous chefs and help find all the ingredients.
- For this game, you were only allowed to use your sense of touch.
 - **How could we play this same game using only our sense of hearing?**
 - **How might that make the game easier or harder?**
- In today's Bible story, we'll see how the prophet Elijah only had his voice as a tool to show everyone in the kingdom who the real God is.

ACTIVITY | Bakery Boogie Battle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, divide kids up into bakery dance crews of about five to eight kids and assign a leader to each group. Assign each group one of the bakery actions below and, with upbeat music playing, have each group come up with their own dance move to match the words! They can all do one motion together or come up with a fun dance routine.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Play a different kind of battle with a cut-the-flour contest, like [this](#). Place a bean, or any small object, on top of the mound. Have them cut the flour until the bean falls and play more rounds if you have a large group.
- Time for a bakery boogie battle. **What would it look like if each of these bakery tasks were a dance move?**
 - Kneading the dough
 - Mixing the cake batter
 - Taking the cake out of the oven
 - Adding the eggs
 - Icing the cake
 - Washing the pans
 - Sweeping the floor
- In today's Bible story, there's no dance battle, but there is a different battle with a little bit of dancing, too. God's messenger, Elijah, goes up against the messengers of a false god to determine which one is really listening.

POLL | Cake Or Fake?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a video (like [this one](#) or [this one](#)) of ordinary objects and cakes that look like ordinary objects. Pause before the video reveals the answers and have kids guess if it is "cake" or "fake." They can respond by shouting out their answers or moving to different sides of the room. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- There are some talented bakers and cake decorators out there who can make a cake look like just about anything. It wasn't so easy to tell which were cakes and which were fakes.
- In today's Bible story, Elijah has to confront the entire kingdom to show them they are following a fake god instead of the real God. Watch what Elijah does to show them who the real God is.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 18:16–39 (Elijah on Mount Carmel)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In your teaching area, set up a table and lay out a few baking tools like a rolling pin, mixing bowl, and whisk. Place your Bible and teaching notes on a cookbook stand. For added fun, wear a chef's hat and apron. Feel free to prepare some homemade or store-bought brownies to distribute at the end.
- Welcome back to the Bible Bakery, where we always get a taste of God's goodness. Today, I'm whipping up some of my famous caramel brownies, which remind me of the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. It was a sticky situation like caramel, but God came through once again.
- **Let's read 1 Kings 18:16–21.**
 - King Ahab called Elijah the "troubler of Israel" because Elijah was disrupting his way of life. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel followed false gods named Baal and Asherah, leading God's people astray.
 - Elijah wanted the people to know the real God. So Elijah came up with a plan.
- **Let's see what plan Elijah came up with in 1 Kings 18:22–24.**
 - This almost sounds like a bake-off, except there would be no ovens, and the only fire would come

from God. The prophets of Baal accepted the challenge, and the heat was on.

- **How do you think you would have felt if you were Elijah?**
- **Let's find out how the challenge went in 1 Kings 18:25–29.**
 - Talk about an unfair advantage—it was 450 to one. Even so, the prophets of Baal could not call on their false god to bring fire down on their sacrifice. No matter how loud they shouted, danced, or even injured themselves, there was no answer from Baal.
 - Now, it was God's turn.
- **Let's see what God did in 1 Kings 18:30–35.**
 - Elijah started out by fixing the altar to God. He added twelve stones to remind the people of how God had been with their ancestors and was with them now. Then, he told people to do something strange. He said to drench everything in the water.
 - **Why do you think Elijah did this?**
 - Elijah wanted everyone to see he wasn't about to do some trick. Only the real God could burn up something soaking wet.
- **Then what happened? Let's find out in 1 Kings 18:36–39.**
 - Elijah didn't shout or dance. He simply prayed to God. He wasn't trying to show off. He just wanted to show God's power.
 - God heard Elijah's voice and sent down fire so strong it burned up everything completely—even the stuff that was soaking wet. Then, the people saw with their own eyes that the God Elijah followed was the real God.
- Elijah was outnumbered in this story. He was the only one standing up to people who turned their backs on God. But when he boldly prayed to God to send fire, God heard his voice and showed everyone who the real God was.

BIG IDEA | God hears my voice.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a toy oven or a drawer decorated to look like one, oven mitts, a kitchen timer, and a printout of the [Big Idea graphic](#) taped onto a cookie sheet and placed inside the "oven." Set the kitchen timer for a minute or less. Once it rings, invite a volunteer to put on oven mitts, remove the cookie sheet from the oven, and reveal the Big Idea. Have everyone recite it together.*
- Mmm, something smells wonderful. I wonder what Big Idea is baking today?
- Let's read it together. **God hears my voice.**

ACTIVITY | Guess The Sound

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your program, prepare a video of kitchen sound effects ([like this](#)) or record your own version. Have kids listen and guess what the sounds are. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- We had to listen carefully and remember where we had heard these sounds. Each of these activities has a unique sound. **For example, chopping vegetables doesn't sound like frying an egg, does it?**
- Each of us has a unique voice, and God knows each of us. Think about how mind-blowing that is. With so many voices in the world, God hears you when you pray and knows it's you. **God hears my voice** and yours.

ACTIVITY | Kitchen Timer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a kitchen timer and a music player. Have everyone close their eyes and put their heads down. Play music loudly. Take a kitchen timer, set it for 60 seconds, and hide it somewhere in the room. On "go," have kids find the timer before it goes off.*
- ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Have kids play hot potato with the kitchen timer instead. Set the timer*

and pass it around until a kid is caught when the timer goes off. Don't set the timer for kids who are sensitive to loud or unexpected noises. Instead, play and pause calm music while passing it around.

- When we bake a cake, a timer helps us know when it's done. It helps when the timer is loud because otherwise, we might miss it and leave the cake in the oven too long. Burnt cake, anyone?
- When it comes to God, we don't have to shout and be extra loud like the prophets of Baal were. They thought their god would hear them if they were loud, but their god didn't answer because their false god wasn't the real God.
- **God hears my voice.** Whether you choose to talk to God out loud or silently in your mind, God hears it all.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1–21

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage aloud or invite a volunteer to read. You can read verses 1–4 only if you are short on time.
- In the New Testament, we have another example of fire from God. This time, it came after Jesus came back to life and went up to heaven. He promised a gift from God for the people—the Holy Spirit, who would be with them.
- In this passage, the people were gathered together when the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised, appeared in what looked like fire. But this time, the fire didn't burn anything up. Instead, it gave people who followed Jesus the ability to speak in other languages and gave them the strength to continue their mission.
- The Holy Spirit is a helper to people who follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches, and confirms what we know about God. The Holy Spirit is our reminder that **God hears my voice.**

VIDEO | *Fired Up*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | What Dough You Think?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need [homemade](#) or store-bought play dough for kids to knead as they reflect. Before diving into the reflection questions, show kids [this technique](#) to create play dough poppers.
 - ✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** As we talk about God hearing our voice, keep in mind that using their voice might look different for kids with disabilities or certain conditions. Let kids know that God doesn't need us to have an audible voice or even clear words to speak in order to hear us!
- As a baker, you need to concentrate on what you're making. You might tune out the noise in the kitchen and focus on your work.
- As we work our dough, let's think about what we've learned so far and what God wants us to do about it.
 - **Imagine you are one of the people watching the battle between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. What might you be thinking or feeling?**
 - **How might you react if you saw fire come down from heaven?**
 - **Have you ever felt like you weren't being heard by God or by a grown-up?**
 - **How do you usually talk to God? What are some things you say?**
- Now, let's make some noise with our dough as we say the Big Idea together: **God hears my voice.**

RESPONSE | Recipe Card Responses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need index cards, pencils, and colored pencils for each kid. Have them write or draw their responses. Since they will make new cards every week, you can punch a hole in the corner and put each week's recipe card on a [binder ring](#).

✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Remind preteens that they can do so much more with their voice, like how Elijah used his voice to help the prophets of Baal know God more. Get preteens thinking ... how often do they use their voice to help others know God more? How often do they use their voice to pray on behalf of others?*

- The recipe for everything we need starts with God. We learned through the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal that God hears our voice. While the king, queen, and everyone else tried to drown out Elijah's voice for speaking the truth, God heard his voice and answered his prayer.
- **Write or draw about some things you want God to hear from you today.**
- **God hears my voice** and I can trust God to respond—and you can, too!

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for hearing my voice. There are times when we feel like nobody hears us, but we know you always do. Not only do you hear us, but you answer us and show us your power and your love. Help us never to give up lifting our voices to you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Who were the people of Israel worshipping instead of the real God?** *Baal, Asherah.*
 - **What did Elijah suggest to do to prove which God the people should worship?** *Set up a sacrifice and see whose prayers would get God to light them on fire.*
 - **How do you know God heard Elijah's voice when he prayed?** *Fire from heaven came down and burned everything that Elijah had set up, even though it was wet.*
 - **Read Acts 2:3–4. What did the power of the Holy Spirit do at Pentecost?** *The people gathered in the room were suddenly able to speak in other languages.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **Was there a time when you felt like nobody heard you? What did you do about it?**
 - **Who are the people in your life that always hear you?**
 - **What are some ways you can use your voice for God, knowing God hears your voice?**

ACTIVITY | Altar For God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need air-dry clay, small pebbles, and tissue paper or construction paper, and pipe cleaners in red, yellow, and orange. Have kids roll a small piece of clay into the shape of an altar and embed the pebbles around the top and sides. Then, have them create a "fire" on top with the red, yellow, and orange materials. See worked example [here](#).*
- What Elijah did on Mount Carmel sounds a lot like a contest, but it was also an opportunity to worship God in front of everyone. When the people saw the fire from heaven, they all realized who the real God is.
- Let's make an altar like the one Elijah made to remember that we can talk to God in any situation. **God hears my voice.**