

WEEK 2  
LESSON GUIDE



**BIG IDEA**

God hears  
my voice.

**BIBLE**

**Elijah On Mount Carmel:**  
1 Kings 18:16–39

**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.**

**WELCOME TIME**

**ACTIVITY | What Am I?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, turn a shoebox on its side and cut a hole in the top large enough for a kid to reach into. Turn the box away from the kids and place an item inside (bread, noodles, stuffed animals, LEGO blocks). Invite one kid to come to the front and place the box in front of them on a table so that they can't see what's inside, but the audience can. Their goal is to guess what the object is using only touch. If they have trouble guessing, provide them with a few clues. Continue playing a few rounds as time allows. Play a song [like this](#) as they play to add to the fun.
- Seeing you all rock that game is making me fired up! I can't wait to share today's Bible story with you. It's about a time when God showed up in a way everyone could see and feel!

**ACTIVITY | Bakery Battle**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, divide groups into two teams of three to six. If you have a large group, have twelve kids play at a time. Provide one muffin pan for each team. At the opposite end of the room, provide a large container of uncooked beans or coffee beans and two small scoopers. One player from each team has to take the muffin pan, fill one of the wells with beans, and then pass it off to the next player. If a kid drops or spills the beans, have them pause and help a leader pick them up so other kids don't trip on them. Keep going until the muffin pan is full. The first team to fill up their pan wins.
- Great job battling it out to be the fastest team to fill up those pans! Today's Bible story involves a battle with two different teams, too, and Elijah was the only one on God's team.

**STORY TIME**

**SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 18: 16–21 (Elijah on Mount Carmel)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible

storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Dress as a chef with a white apron and hat. Prepare a pretend oven (it can be as simple as a cardboard box on its side) and place your Bible inside. You may even set up a fun kitchen timer, bring out the Bible, and begin teaching when the timer goes off.

- Welcome to the Bible Bakery, where we always get a taste of God’s goodness and some yummy treats, too. I am so *fired up* for today’s Bible story!
  - Elijah loved God. He was a prophet. That meant he carried messages from God to the people.
  - But sometimes, people do not listen to God’s messages. They stopped trusting in God and worshipped fake gods.
  - **Was that a good choice?** No!
- Elijah wanted to help the people remember who the real God is.
  - So he arranged a contest, sort of. It was between him and the prophets who followed the fake god. Back in those times, people offered up animals to whomever they worshipped. They would put the animals on altars.
  - Elijah said that they would prepare two altars. The followers of the fake god would call out to their fake god. Then Elijah would call out to God. Whoever answered by sending fire and lighting up the altar would be the real God.
- So, the contest began between Elijah and the other prophets.
  - The ones who followed the fake god cried out and danced and did all sorts of stuff to try to get their god’s attention.
  - **Do you think they got an answer?** No!
  - Then it was Elijah’s turn. Elijah soaked his offering in water so that nobody could say he cheated. Then he prayed to God.
  - **Do you think he got an answer?** Yes! The real God answered by sending down fire and burning up everything. That must have been some fire—hotter than an oven!
- God heard Elijah when he cried out, asking for help. God answered and showed who the real God is.

### BIG IDEA | God hears my voice.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this month’s Big Idea reveal, you’ll need a large aluminum cookie sheet and each week’s Big Idea [printables](#). Print the pages double-sided and cut out each “baked good.” Arrange them on the cookie sheet so that the words are facing down. Invite one kid at a time to come up and flip over a baked good. If there is a word on there, read it aloud for them. After all the words are found, arrange them in order on the cookie sheet. Have kids repeat the Big Idea a few times, then teach them the corresponding hand motions.
- Ah! Something smells scrumptious! I wonder what Big Idea is baking today!
- **Let’s learn the Big Idea together:**
  - **God** (Point upward.)
  - **hears** (Cup hand around ear.)
  - **my voice.** (Cup hands around mouth.)

### VIDEO | *Fired Up*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Can You Hear Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will lead kids in a game like “Marco Polo,” where one kid will be blindfolded while everyone moves to different parts of the room. Tell everyone to freeze. Then, the kid who is blindfolded has to find one of the others (you can designate another kid for them if you’d like). The blindfolded kid says, “(Name of kid), can you hear me?” And the kid has to say, “Yes, I hear you,” from where they are frozen. Have them keep asking until they reach the person. Repeat the game with a new blindfolded kid, and have the kids move to different positions.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have a leader walk with toddlers toward the person they are looking for.

- In this game, you had to find someone by using your voice. The person who heard your voice answered with their voice so you could find them.
- God is not far away. We can't see God, but God is always near us. So, whatever you need, ask God. If you ask, "Can you hear me?" you can be sure that **God hears my voice.**

## PRAYER

- God, thank you for always hearing our voice. Help us to remember you are real and always near. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

### SNACK | Fire Cupcakes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pre-bake or purchase cupcakes with chocolate frosting. Give kids rock candies, tootsie rolls, or pretzels to smush into the chocolate frosting. To add the "fire," prepare a piping bag with orange frosting that you can go around and add to each kid's cupcake. You could also make flames using pieces of fruit leather. The completed snack should look something like [this](#).
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Create a [healthier option](#) for toddlers using grape halves, pretzel sticks, and sliced cantaloupe.
- Our snack reminds us of the altar Elijah set up that God set on fire. It showed God heard Elijah's voice.
- **What are some silly sounds you can make with your voice?**
- **What songs do you like to sing using your voice?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit in a circle together. Pass around a slow-rising bread squishy (like [this one](#)) as kids take turns responding to the questions. The person holding the item gets to speak.
- **How many altars were set up?** Two—one for Elijah's God and one for the fake god
- **How would they know which God was real?** The real God would answer by sending fire.
- **What did Elijah pour on his altar that might have made it harder for a fire to start?** Water.
- **Who heard Elijah's voice and set Elijah's altar on fire?** God.
- **Who hears your voice and answers you?** God! God hears my voice.

### ACTIVITY | Glowing Fire Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this craft, cut red, yellow, and orange tissue into little squares (or you can buy pre-cut tissue paper squares) and scrunch and glue it to the outside of a clear plastic cup. Continue the process until the entire cup is covered. Then give each kid a small dessert paper plate and have them color it with a brown crayon. Help kids cut out triangles all around the perimeter so the plate resembles campfire logs (this doesn't have to be perfect). Then turn on a battery-operated tea light and place it on the "logs" (plate). Place the "fire" (cup) upside down over the light and onto the plate. See worked example [here](#).
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Spread glue onto a sheet of paper for the toddlers. They will enjoy putting the tissue paper into the glue and even taking the tissue paper back out of the glue. You could even give the toddlers big sheets of red and orange tissue paper to crinkle and tear.
- God used fire to help everyone know who the real God is. God heard Elijah's voice when he prayed! You can take these fires home as a reminder to talk to God about everything because **God hears my voice.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Yankee

Doodle." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** All kids, but especially toddlers, learn from repetition. Allow opportunities for repetition by having the toys and songs they love available often. It might feel played out to you as the leader, but the familiarity will help toddlers get excited and feel confident.

- "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Build It Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, provide an area with foam blocks and shaving cream to encourage kids to build their own structures, much like how Elijah built an altar. See how high, wide, and wild their different creations can be.

### ACTIVITY | Sticky Fire

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, take a large sheet (or sheets depending on group size) of sticky transfer paper and place it on a wall or easel. Provide red, yellow, and orange tissue paper squares, pom-poms, and feathers for kids to build a fire. You can provide strips of brown construction paper as logs that they can stick at the bottom of the paper.