

LESSON PASSAGE: I Kings 18:15-40 (Elijah at Mt. Carmel)

SUMMARY: Is God real or not? That's the question Elijah had to put to the test. He found himself standing alone against 850 people who did not believe in the true, living God. The test was for God to show He was real by sending fire down to burn up an altar made of wet wood and stones. God responded and did it. Because God showed up, many people turned away from the false gods and begin worshipping Him. God is real. Believe in Him. Trust Him. Follow Him. Worship Him. Serve Him.

LESSON SUPPLIES:

Pre-Service:

- Games and activities

Host:

- Mythbusting award (*small water balloon with word "mythbusting" written on it and filled with water*)

Key Verse Game: Wild Fire

- Set of key verse cards for each group (*one word per card*)
- Red flag or red piece of paper to represent flag for each group

Offering:

- Offering containers on stage

Lesson:

- Bible
- 25 popsicles sticks for each group
- 2 small pictures of a bull for each group
- 12 small brown pieces of paper for each group
- 12 strips of light blue paper for each group

Activity – Piece of Wood:

- Popsicle stick for each child from lesson
- Pens or sharpies

Announcements:

- LAFK take home paper
- Empty chair

Group Award: Mythbusting Award

- Water balloon from host section
- Plastic tarp
- Water poncho or large trash bag

Mythbusting Series

LESSON 1: Is God Real or Not?

Key Truth: The Bible is true...I can trust it through and through.

(Word of God)

Key Verse: Psalm 119:140

Date:

- Towels
- Sharp pencil
- Candy or prize for winning group (*optional*)

Review Game – Real or Not Real?

- Popsicle stick for each child (*they will use the one they wrote on during the activity*)

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PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES (25 MIN)

Age-appropriate videos on screen

- Games and activities sheets
- Volunteers spending time with kids

VIDEO COUNTDOWN (5 MIN)

Mythbusting countdown with fast, energetic music

- Start 5 minutes before service begins
- Gather all kids to their groups

"Mythbusting" transition slide with fun, fast music

WORSHIP SONG (5 MIN)

HOST: Hey kids! What's up??? I am pumped today because we're beginning an awesome new series called "Mythbusting." We're going to look at 4 myths and use some experiments to decide if they're true or not.

HOST: It's going to be a blast! Are you guys ready??? (*get kids excited and cheering*)

HOST: Awesome...everybody come up front! Come on, out of those seats, we're going to worship. The Bible says that, "Nothing is Impossible with God." If you believe that, repeat after me and say, "Nothing (Nothing) Is (Is) Impossible (Impossible!)."

HOST: We're going to sing a new song declaring that today. Every time we get to a part of the song that says, "Nothing is impossible," I want you to yell it out and declare God's power. Here we go!

Song – Nothing is Impossible (suggested song)

"Mythbusting" transition slide

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(Word of God)

Key Verse: Psalm 119:140

Date:

WORSHIP SONG (5 MIN)

WL: Let's continue worshipping! Our God is real and He has big plans for us. He is the answer to everything we face. Because He is big inside of us, let's make our worship big!

Song – Look Up (suggested song)

“Mythbusting” transition slide with fun background music

WL: You guys have your worship on today! Let's return to our seats and get ready for some Mythbusting.

HOST (5 MIN)

HOST: Today, we're going to be looking at myth #1. Is God real or not?

“Is God real or not?” on screen

HOST: Some people say God is not real. We're going to see if that is true or not.

HOST: And we're also going to be giving away a very special award at the end of the service. It's called the, “Mythbusting Award.”

Mythbusting Award on screen

HOST: Your group is really going to want to win this award. You know why? Here's why! (*bring out the water balloon that says “Mythbusting” on it*) The group that wins gets to come up and bust this water balloon on _____. (*Host or other leader in the room*)

HOST: Who would like to bust this water balloon (*bring it out and put it on a stand on stage so the kids can see it during the service*) on _____ ??? (*person's name*)

(*Get kids excited and cheering.*)

HOST: So here's how you can win!

HOST: The first way is to sing to Jesus.

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“Sing to Jesus” on screen

HOST: You’ve already gotten off to a great start by singing to Jesus during our first 2 songs. We’ll be singing another one later. Open your heart and sing to Him.

HOST: The next way is to...say it with me...Talk.

“Talk” on screen

HOST: You’re going to be thinking through and discussing the myth today with your group. Get involved and talk about it.

HOST: How else can you win today?

“Listen” on screen

HOST: That is correcto! When someone is talking up front, give him or her your attention and listen.

HOST: And what’s another way you can bust a balloon on a leader’s head?

“Play” on screen

HOST: That’s right. We’ll be playing some fun games. Jump in and play when it’s time.

HOST: And of course, another way you can win is to have fun!

“Have Fun” on screen

HOST: This month we’re getting a brand-new truth placed in our hearts and minds. We have a special friend who is going to tell us about it. Give a big round of applause for Austin.

(Have kids clap.)

Key Truth video of Austin – The Bible is true...I can trust it through and through

HOST: Every time you see Austin come on screen, join him in rapping out the key truth.

“Mythbusting” transition slide

KEY VERSE GAME: WILD FIRE (8 MIN)

“Your promises have been thoroughly tested, that is why I love them so much.”
Psalm 119:140 on screen with medium music

HOST: Our key truth this month is based on an awesome verse found in Psalm 119:140.

HOST: I’m going to give each group 5 minutes to work on memorizing the verse. Each group has a set of verse cards you can use to help you. Then we’re going to play a really fun game to see who’s got it memorized.

Verse with 5-minute countdown

HOST: Okay. Time’s up. Now we’re going to play a really fun game called “Wild Fire.”

“Wild Fire” with fun music

HOST: Here’s how it goes.

Game Instructions

- *Group leaders will mix up their verse cards.*
- *On “go” the kids will have 30 seconds to lay the cards out in order.*
Verse on screen with 30-second timer for first round with fast music
- *As soon as they have it in order, they will hold their red flag up.*
- *After 30 seconds, a flame of fire will come on screen.*
- *See which groups beat the clock.*
- *Play 2-3 rounds as time allows.*
Drop the timer to 20 seconds for round 2 and 15 seconds for round 3.
- *Have the kids repeat the verse together one more time at the end of the game.*

Mythbusting transition slide

WORSHIP AND OFFERING (5 MIN)

Offering slide with meditative music

WL: Let’s all gather back up front and worship God again. He is the one and only true God.

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(Word of God)
Key Verse: Psalm 119:140
Date:

WL: Today we're going to learn about a man named Elijah. He lived in a time when most people didn't believe in God. There are also people today who don't believe in God. When you give your offering, you are helping them discover there is a real God who loves them. If you brought your offering, you can place it in one of the containers during this song.

Song – According to His Word (suggested song)

Mythbusting transition slide

WL: You may return to your seats.

MYTHBUSTING VIDEO (4 MIN)

HOST: We've called in a special mythbusting team to help us figure out if the myths are true or not. Their names are Ty and Mikael. Let's join them and see what crazy experiment they have planned for today.

Lights down

Mythbusting video - part 1

Lights back up

Mythbusting transition slide

LESSON (18 MIN)

TEACHER: As Ty and Mikael said, there was a man in the Bible named Elijah who also ran a test that involved seeing if wet wood could burn.

Picture of Elijah on screen

TEACHER: His test is found in 1 Kings 18. (*Hold up your Bible*)

TEACHER: Elijah found himself in the middle of lots of people who did not believe in the true, living God. Even the king of the land, Ahab, did not believe in God. King Ahab was leading the people to worship false gods.

Mythbusting Series

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(Word of God)
Key Verse: Psalm 119:140
Date:

TEACHER: Elijah challenged the King to have a test and see if God was real or not. He asked the King to bring all the leaders of the false gods and meet him on a mountain called Mt. Carmel.

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: The king agreed to the test. And lots of people showed up to see what would happen.

TEACHER: I want you to recreate the test as I tell about it.

TEACHER: Elijah told the leaders of the false god to go first. He told them to build an altar to their false god. So, go ahead and build an altar to the false god. Take 8 popsicle sticks and form them into an altar in the center of your group.

(Give kids a minute to do this.)

Attention grabber video rap.

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: Then they placed a bull on the altar. Go ahead and put the animal on the altar.

(Have kids place picture of bull on the altar.)

TEACHER: Then the leaders of the false god started praying. They prayed and danced to their false god and ask it to send down fire and burn up the altar. And guess what happened?

Sound effect of crickets

TEACHER: Nothing. No answer from their false god. They kept praying to their false god for hours. Soon it was lunchtime. Still no answer. Elijah started making fun of the false god. He asked if their false god was busy, on vacation, or maybe even asleep.

TEACHER: The leaders of the false god keep praying, and dancing, and begging their god to answer for hours. And guess what the answer was?

Sound effect of crickets

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Date:

TEACHER: The leaders of the false gods got desperate. They begin to cry out even louder and cut themselves...hoping to get the attention of their false god. Hours passed. And still...nothing. The false god had failed the test. The false god wasn't real.

Epic Fail on screen

TEACHER: Dinnertime came and Elijah told the people it was time for his test.

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: He rebuilt the altar of God by placing 12 stones on it. Go ahead and place the 12 stones (*brown paper*) in a small circle in the middle of your group.

(Give kids 30 seconds to do this.)

Attention grabber video rap

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: Then he put wood on top of the stones. Take 12 popsicle sticks and place them on top of the stones.

(Give kids 1 minute to do this.)

Attention grabber video rap

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: Then he put a bull on top of the wood. Place your bull on top of the altar you built.

(Give kids 30 seconds to place the animal on top of the altar.)

Attention grabber video rap

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: Here's where Elijah made it really interesting. He had them dump 12 buckets of water over the altar. If God answered and showed He was real, He would not only have to burn up the altar...but he would have to burn up a soaked, wet altar! Go ahead and place the water around the altar. Do this by placing the 12 strips of blue paper around the altar.

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(Give kids 30 seconds to place the “water” on the altar.)

Attention grabber video rap

Picture of mountain on screen

TEACHER: Then...Elijah prayed. He asked God to prove that He was the one and only true, living God.

TEACHER: Then guess what happened?

Picture on screen of fire with sound effect

TEACHER: God sent fire hurdling down from above. Bring the red flames (*red paper strips*) down on top of the altar.

(Give kids 30 seconds to do this.)

TEACHER: The fire burned up the animal (*give kids few seconds to remove*).
The fire burned up the wood (*give kids few seconds to remove*).
The fire burned up the stones (*give kids few seconds to remove the stones*).
The fire even burned up all of the water. (*give kids a few seconds to remove the water*)

TEACHER: When that happened, all of the people who were watching saw that God was the one and only true God. They all bowed before Him and begin worshipping Him.

TEACHER: Kids, there is only one, true living God. And he proved it that day by burning up wet wood.

TEACHER: How do we know God is real? Here’s one way to think about it. Think about the wind.

Mythbusting transition slide with wind sound effect

TEACHER: Talk about these questions in your group.

- Can you see the wind? How do you know it is real?
- Can you see God? How do you know He is real?

(Give groups 3 minutes to discuss these questions.)

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Attention grabber video rap

Mythbusting transition slide on screen

TEACHER: As you get older, you will hear people say that God is not real just like Elijah heard. Don't believe them. It is a lie. Be like Elijah. Believe in God and stand for Him no matter what everyone else does. Follow Him. Worship Him. Serve Him.

PRAYER...TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD (5 MIN)

"Prayer...talking and listening to God" on screen with prayer music

TEACHER: Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. God is here with us. And He wants to talk to you. If you get really quiet and listen, He will speak to you. You will hear His voice...not out loud...but a still, small voice inside. Take 30 seconds and listen for His voice.

(Give kids 30 seconds to listen to God's voice.)

TEACHER: Now I want you to talk to God quietly inside your heart. God is an awesome, powerful God. He controls the entire universe. And the cool thing...He is always available to listen to you when you talk to Him. What is one thing you need from Him?

TEACHER: Maybe someone in your family is sick and you want to ask Him to help them get better. Maybe your family is going through a tough time and want to ask Him to be with them. Maybe you have a friend that doesn't know God and you want pray they will invite Him into their life. Whatever your need is, talk to Him quietly.

(Give kids 30 seconds to talk to God.)

TEACHER: Now your group leader will take your prayer requests and pray for you.

(Give group leaders 3-4 minutes to do this and then close in prayer.)

MYTHBUSTING VIDEO PART 2 (3 MIN)

HOST: Our mythbusting friends, Ty and Mikael, are trying to see if they can burn wet wood. Let's head back and see what happens.

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Lights down

Mythbusting video - part 2

Lights back up

Mythbusting transition slide

ACTIVITY – PIECE OF WOOD ACTIVITY (3 MIN)

Key truth on screen – “The Bible is true...I can trust it through and through” with medium speed background music

HOST: Take one of the popsicle sticks you used to build the altar. I want you to write this month’s key truth on it. You can use both sides if you need to.

(Have kids use a pen to write the key truth on a popsicle stick.)

HOST: I want you to take the popsicle stick home with you. Place it where you can see it – maybe by your bed or on a counter in the kitchen or tape it on your bathroom mirror. Each time you see it, let it be a reminder that God is real. Stop and thank Him for being the true, living God who loves you.

Attention grabber video rap

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 MIN)

announcement slide with fun background music

- LA4K take home paper
- Join us next week for another episode of “Mythbusting.” We’ll be testing the myth – Did we come from a big bang or not? And there is going to actually be a big bang experiment – so you don’t want to miss it.
- Empty chair – encourage kids to bring a friend next week

MYTHBUSTING AWARD (3 MIN)

Mythbusting Award with award type background music

Mythbusting Series

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HOST: And now...the moment we've all been waiting for! Everyone did an awesome job today listening, singing, talking, playing and having fun, but **ONLY ONE TEAM** can win the Mythbusting award! And the winner is...I need a drum roll please.

- *Have entire group come up together on stage.*
- *They will bust the water balloon over the head of a leader.*
- *An adult will hold the balloon over the person's head.*
- *The group leader will pick one person to bust the balloon by sticking it with a sharp pencil. The group leader can also be the person who gets the balloon busted on his or her head.*

(*Option to also give the winning group candy or a prize to go along with the award.)

REVIEW GAME: REAL OR NOT REAL?

*Continue playing as parents pick-up

Game Time slide with fun music

HOST: Who wants to play a fun game in your group? (*get kids excited and cheering*)

"Real or Not Real" slide with fun music

HOST: This game is called "Real or Not Real." You'll be playing this in your group. Here's how to play.

Game Instructions:

- *Group leader will read a statement.*
- *Each person will vote on whether the statement is real or not real.*
- *If they think the statement is real (correct), they will put their popsicle stick down on the table.*
- *If they think the statement is not real (incorrect), they will not put their popsicle down on the table.*
- *After everyone has voted, reveal the answer.*
- *Play as many rounds as time allows.*

Statements

1. *This month's key truth is "The Bible is true...I can trust it through and through. **(Real)***
2. *This month's key verse is found in the book of Matthew. **(Not Real)***
3. *The prophet in today's story was named Samuel. **(Not Real)***

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4. King Ahab was leading the people to worship false gods. **(Real)**
5. Elijah was surrounded by people who did not believe in the true God. **(Real)**
6. Elijah challenged King Ahab to a test to see who was the true God. **(Real)**
7. The test took place at Mt. Chocolate. **(Not Real)**
8. Elijah had them pour 12 buckets of water on the altar. **(Real)**
9. The leaders of the false gods prayed all day and nothing happened. **(Real)**
10. Elijah never said a word to the leaders of the false gods when their false gods did not burn up the altar. **(Not Real)**
11. There is only one true, living God. **(Real)**
12. The fire God sent burned up everything on and around the altar. **(Real)**
13. Elijah placed 5 stones at the altar. **(Not Real)**
14. Our key verse says, "Your promises have been thoroughly tested, that is why I love them so much." **(Real)**
15. Last month's key truth was "I will obey and follow God's way." **(Real)**

PARENT PICK-UP/CONNECT

HOST: Kids, we've had a blast today learning about the true, living God with you. Remember this week...

Attention grabber video rap

(Have kids repeat key truth.)

HOST: We can't wait to see you next week!

Slide that reads: "Parents - ask your kids about what they wrote on their popsicle stick."

- Kids will stay in their group with their group leader.
- Parents will come to the group to get their kid.
- Group leader will connect briefly with each parent.
 - ❖ Thank for coming.
 - ❖ Invite the kid back next week to their group.
 - ❖ Remind them to ask their child to explain what they wrote on their popsicle stick.
 - ❖ Group leaders will remain with their group until their last kid is picked up.

Slide to stop music