



HEROES OF THE FAITH

Large Group

LESSON 6: LARGE GROUP

Elijah

MAIN IDEA:

God is all-powerful and always by our side. He gives us the strength to go against the crowd.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- 1 Kings 18:1–40
- Matthew 6:19–24
- Hebrews 5:5–6

MEMORY VERSE:

“The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid?”

The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?”

Psalm 27:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS:

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Printout 1
- (Optional) Large stones and red or orange cloth to show items needed for an altar

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



"Who is Jesus"
Call and Response

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week.

(Optional) Go through the "Who is Jesus" call and response.

(Optional) As a group, say the memory verse for this week.

Open with prayer for the students.

Say: **There is something that is so exciting about an underdog story.**

- **Does anyone know what an underdog is?**
- **What is an example of an underdog?**

The made-up story of Cinderella, the Tortoise and the Hare, and Aladdin are examples of underdogs. We get excited when someone, against all odds, is able to succeed or win. Cinderella was able to go from scrubbing floors to living in the castle. The tortoise was able to go slowly and steadily to the finish line to win the race against the much faster Hare. Aladdin went from scraping by for food to being the prince and hero of the story.

Did you know that the Bible is filled with true stories of underdogs? People were outnumbered or outpowered, but God showed up and helped them win.

Show image of Elijah and the altar (Printout 1)

Say: Imagine you're standing on a high mountain, the wind is blowing, and there are crowds of people gathered. There are two altars, one for Elijah and one for the prophets of Baal. Today, a mighty showdown is about to happen between the one true God and the false gods. Who will answer by sending fire to start the altar?

DEFINITIONS

PROPHET:

A person who speaks on behalf of God or who reveals God's will to others.

ALTAR:

Structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship. Altars are typically made out of stones with wood placed on them.

SKIT: 1 KINGS 18:1-40

This is a tableau skit where students act out what the narrator reads. This skit is based on 1 Kings 18:1-40.

Characters:

- Elijah (the prophet of God)
- Prophets of Baal (a group of 4-5 people)
- People of Israel (a group of 3-4 people)

Narrator: **“Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’”**

Action: Elijah stands before the people of Israel, who look uncertain and conflicted.

Narrator: **“The prophets of Baal prepared their altar and called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. ‘Baal, answer us!’ they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered.”**

Action: Prophets of Baal surround their altar, shouting with hands raised; Elijah stands off to the side, watching.

Narrator: **“They danced around the altar they had made. At noon, Elijah began to taunt them, ‘Shout louder! Surely he is a god!’ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom.”**

Action: Prophets of Baal are shouting louder, some acting out cutting themselves, showing desperation.

Narrator: **“Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come here to me.’ They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. He arranged the wood, then he said, ‘Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.’”**

Action: Elijah builds the altar; people of Israel pour water over it.

Narrator: **“Elijah stepped forward and prayed, ‘Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are God in Israel.’ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil, and also the water in the trench.”**

Action: Elijah prays with arms raised; fire (represented by red and orange cloth) consumes the altar.

Narrator: **“When all the people saw this, they fell down and cried, ‘The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!’”**

Action: People of Israel fall to the ground, bowing in awe.

Narrator: **“Then Elijah commanded them, ‘Seize the prophets of Baal! Don’t let anyone get away!’ They seized them.”**

Action: Elijah points; people of Israel capture the prophets of Baal, showing their submission.

Have volunteers sit down.

WRAP IT UP

Ask:

- **Why do you think the prophets of Baal couldn't get their god to answer?**
- **What do you think Elijah was feeling when he prayed to God?**

Our hero for today knew something about what it was like to stand alone. Back in his day, the majority of the people were worshiping idols (false gods) named Baal. But our hero, Elijah, stood against the crowd. In fact, he even challenged the crowd and set out to prove that our God is the true God and that he is all-powerful.

There were 850 prophets of these false gods. Elijah was only one person. All the false prophets agreed to Elijah's challenge, which was that the God who sent fire to light their sacrifice was the true God.

Did you hear what the people said after the Lord sent fire from heaven?

Read 1 Kings 18:39b: **"The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"**

Consider turning the verse into a chant or song. Have the kids repeat it in different voices (whisper, loud, fast, slow) to make memorization fun and engaging.

When Elijah prays, God answers with fire. Elijah trusted God to show up and prove that he is the one true God. Even though Elijah was against over 800 prophets of Baal, he was bold and showed the people of Israel who the real God was. "The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"

End the lesson with a prayer, asking God to show His power and love in students' lives. Encourage the kids to pray boldly and confidently, just like Elijah did.