



Bible Point ▶

God is the only true God.

Bible Verse

“O Lord...you are powerful and mighty” (2 Chronicles 20:6).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that there is only one real God,
 - realize the differences between real and fake things,
 - help Pockets learn that our God is the true God, and
 - affirm God’s love to others.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Elijah challenges King Ahab.

**1 Kings
18:16-21**



During the time Elijah was staying in Zarephath, Ahab, the king of Israel, was apparently looking for him. Jezebel, Ahab’s wife, had been killing prophets who followed God, and we can assume Ahab and Jezebel wanted to do the same to Elijah.

God instructed Elijah to present himself to Ahab. It’s apparent from Ahab’s first words to Elijah that Ahab blamed Elijah for the drought. However, instead of ordering Elijah’s execution, Ahab listened to Elijah and did what he said because Ahab was hoping Elijah would be able to end the drought. Elijah’s challenge was intended to prove that the God of Israel is the one true God so that the people would turn from Baal and once again worship God.








Prayer

- Read Deuteronomy 5:6-9a.
- How do you demonstrate this passage in your life?
- Pray: God, let my relationship with you be an example to others. One area that I need help with in putting you first is...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Family Name Tags" (p. 23), crayons, markers, tape or safety pins	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Carbon Copies —Copy pictures, and learn that there's only one original.	White paper, paper clips, carbon paper, pencils, crayons	
	Option 2: Phony Food? —Create foods from modeling dough, and talk about the differences between what's real and what's not.	Modeling dough, vinyl place mats	
	Option 3: One Name Game —Play a spelling game, and learn there's only one powerful name.	Dried lima beans, fine-tip marker, lunch sack	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Explore the differences between real and fake rocks, and hear about the power of the real God.	Small rocks, rock candy, lunch sack, hammer	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Answer review questions, and listen to the challenge Elijah gave King Ahab in 1 Kings 18:16-21.	Bible, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Use their sense of smell to find real flowers.	Real flowers, silk flowers, vases, CD player	
Closing 	True Blue —Help Pockets learn about the one true God.	Real flower from "Do the Bible Story," tape	
	Real Thank-Yous —Affirm each other, and say a prayer.	Real flower	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Family Name Tags” (p. 23), crayons, markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Ask children about how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Ask questions such as “How did God’s power help you last week?” and “How did you obey God last week as Elijah obeyed God?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God is the only true God.**
- Hand out the “Family” name tags children made in the first lesson, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How do you know if something is real?” and “When were you fooled by something that wasn’t real?”

Option 1: Carbon Copies

SUPPLIES: white paper, paper clips, carbon paper, pencils, crayons

Before this activity, place a sheet of carbon paper between two sheets of white paper, carbon side down. Fasten the pages together with paper clips. Make one set of pages for each child.

Set out the carbon paper sets and pencils. As children arrive, invite them to draw a picture of something or someone real. Tell them to leave the paper clips in place. As they draw, ask questions such as “Which is better: something real or something fake? Why?” and “How do you tell if something’s real or fake?”

When children are finished, have them remove the paper clips and hand them to you. Encourage them to compare their original drawings with the copies. Point out that copies are like phonies; they aren’t the real thing and may be different from the original. Explain that ► God is the only true God—there are no copies. Mention that in today’s Bible story they’ll hear about a time when people thought that our powerful God wasn’t the only God, but they soon found out the others were fakes. If there’s time, have children color their “real” pictures using crayons.



Instead of preparing carbon paper sets, you may simply wish to let children draw and color pictures; then visit the church office and make photocopies of their original artwork.



■ Option 2: Phony Food?

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, vinyl place mats

Set out modeling dough and vinyl place mats. As children arrive, invite them to make models of their favorite food items, such as pizza, ice cream cones, or hamburgers. As children work, ask questions such as “How do you know if food is real or phony?” and “Would you like to eat the food you’re making? Why not?” Point out that modeling-dough apples are poor imitations of real apples. Let children know that today they’ll be learning that ► God is the only true God and that no one can copy God’s power.



BIBLE POINT ►



Keep the games you make handy for rainy days or a quick time stuffer. Decorate a storage box to hold your games so they’re ready in a snap.

■ Option 3: One Name Game

SUPPLIES: dried lima beans, fine-tip marker, lunch sack

Before class, gather 15 dried lima beans. On five beans write the letter G. Write O on five beans and D on five beans. Place the beans in a lunch sack with the word *GOD* written on it.

Set the sack on the floor, and invite children to play a spelling game with you. Show children God’s name on the lunch sack. Take turns reaching into the sack and pulling out the beans. The first person to collect all the letters in God’s name says, “God is powerful!”

Tell children that today they’ll hear a story about a time Elijah wanted the people to know that there’s only one God. Explain that God helped Elijah show everyone that ► God is the only true God.



BIBLE POINT ►

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys,
And put them all away.**

**There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: small rocks, rock candy, lunch sack, hammer



Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Before class, place the *pretend rock*, a few real rocks, and a few pieces of rock candy or hard candy in a paper bag. Save extra rock candy for children to taste later.

Gather children in a circle. Say: **Let's see if you can tell what I have in this bag.** Invite children to reach into the bag and identify what they feel.

When everyone's had a turn, ask:

- **What's in the bag?** (Rocks; stones; something rubbery.)
- **Are they real or fake rocks? How do you know?** (They're real because they're hard; they're real because they feel rough; they're fake because they're not hard enough.)

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to tell something real from something fake.** Pull the *pretend rock*, the real rocks, and the rock candy from the bag. Set them on the paper sack, and allow each child to lightly tap the real and fake rocks with a hammer.

Ask: • **Can you tell which are the real rocks now? How?** (Yes, the real ones didn't crumble; the candy ones broke apart; one is really soft and bouncy.)

Say: **Real rocks are strong and don't easily crumble when they're tapped. But candy isn't a rock, and it isn't strong like a rock, so when it is tapped, it falls apart or breaks open. This pretend rock is too soft and bouncy to be real. We can tell when something is real by what it does. We know our powerful God is real by what he does. ► God is the only true God. No one else is like our God. Our Bible verse, 2 Chronicles 20:6, says, ► "O Lord...you are powerful and mighty." God's even more powerful and mighty than the biggest rock you can imagine! Now let's enjoy some real candy and enjoy listening to the Bible story. We'll find out more about our exciting, powerful, and real God.** Give each child a piece of fresh rock candy to eat. Put the *pretend rock* back into the Learning Lab.

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *power stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **1 Kings 18:16-21** in the Bible you'll be using. Return the *power stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.



Some candy stores have chocolate candies that are similar to M&M's in size and taste, but that look like real pebbles. If you can find these, they're ideal for this lesson. They're very realistic, but when you tap them with a hammer they immediately break apart and children can see the chocolate inside.



Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



SING

**Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the *power stamp* stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that God is the only true God.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn more about his power. My helper will pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, help us learn that you're the only true God."

Choose a child to pass around the basket or box. When your helper has collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that you are the only true God. In Jesus' name, amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Hold up the Bible and say: **Our Bible story today comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Bible. Open the *Bible Big Book: Elijah & the Big Showdown* to page 1. **Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible story. We'll listen to the exciting story on the CD. Let's begin at the first page.****

Turn on the CD player to "Elijah and the Big Showdown, Part 1" (track 10) and listen to pages 1 through 4, turning the pages at the sound of the chimes. At the end of page 4, turn off the CD player.

Close the *Bible Big Book*.

Ask: • **God had said he'd stop the rain. Why did he do that?** (Because the king and queen didn't love God; because the people worshipped idols made of wood and stone.)



At this stage in their spiritual development, 5- and 6-year-olds understand that God made them and trust that God loves them.

• **How did stopping the rain show God’s power?** (Only God can start and stop the rain; God showed he controls the weather.)

• **Do you think King Ahab believed God was the only God? Explain.** (No, he still didn’t believe it; no, he thought the fake gods were just as powerful.)

• **What showdown was going to take place?** (A showdown between Elijah and King Ahab; between the fake gods and our God.)

Say: **Elijah knew that God is powerful and that ►*God is the only true God.* Elijah wanted the people to know that the gods they worshipped were fake. So Elijah challenged King Ahab and his men to a showdown between their phony gods and the one true God.**

Ask: • **Why did God want there to be a showdown?** (So he could show he is the one true God; so people would worship the real God.)

Say: **This is a very exciting story, isn’t it? Next week we’ll hear more.** Return the *Bible Big Book* to the Learning Lab. **I’m glad that we serve the only real God. Let’s play a game to see if you can find what’s real and what’s fake.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: real flowers, silk flowers, vases, CD player



Before class, purchase or pick a few fresh flowers that have a pleasant fragrance. Place the real flowers in one vase and silk flowers in another vase.

Set the flowers on a table and gather children around it. Say: **Let’s see if you can tell real flowers from fake ones. Close your eyes, and then use your sense of smell to put the flowers to the sniff test. We’ll have you smell each bouquet. When you think you know which is real, say, “Now that’s the real thing!”**

Choose two children to hold the vases. Let two other children close their eyes and smell the bouquets. Continue until everyone’s had a chance to smell the flowers. Then let children touch the flowers to further determine which are real and which are not.

Ask: • **How did you know which flowers were real?** (By the way they smelled; by the way they felt.)

• **Did the fake flowers look, feel, or smell like real ones?** (No, they didn’t smell like real ones; they kind of looked real, but they felt like plastic.)

Say: **Sometimes it’s hard to tell when something’s real or fake. Then you have to put it to the test, just like we put the flowers to the sniff test and the touch test. In our Bible story, Elijah wanted to put King Ahab’s fake gods to the test by seeing if they could light a fire. It’s important to know that ►*God is the only true God.* We don’t want to be fooled—we want to worship the only true God. Let’s sing a new song about the one true God.**

Lead the children in singing “One True God” (track 11) with the *CD* to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” Do the accompanying motions for extra fun.

◀ BIBLE POINT



Play “The Bible Is God’s Special Book” (track 24 on the *CD*) when you bring out your Bible. Have children march around the room with the Bible person and invent motions to the song. For example, they may pretend to swim, pluck a harp, or spit Jonah out. Lyrics are on page 46 if you want to refer to them.



Bring in an assortment of hats or other career-related accessories such as a baseball cap, a firefighter’s hat, a briefcase, and a paper crown. As children play with these items, talk about the fact that they’re pretending to be people with these jobs.

◀ BIBLE POINT





I will always obey you, God. (*Reach hands to heaven.*)
You're the one and only true God. (*Hold up one finger.*)
I'll do what you ask me to, God. (*Nod your head.*)
You're the one true God! (*Hold up one finger.*)

Elijah always obeyed you, God. (*Reach hands to heaven.*)
He knew you're the only true God. (*Hold up one finger.*)
I will be just like him, too, God. (*Nod your head.*)
You're the one true God. (*Hold up one finger.*)

I will always obey you, God. (*Reach hands to heaven.*)
You're the one and only true God. (*Hold up one finger.*)
I'll do what you ask me to, God. (*Nod your head.*)
You're the one true God! (*Hold up one finger.*)

Say: **We want everyone to know that there's only one true God. Let's see what Pockets is up to and if she knows who's the one true God.**

teacher tips

For a variation, point upward instead of singing the word *God* or stand up quickly on the word *God*, and then sit down.

Closing

True Blue

SUPPLIES: real flower from "Do the Bible Story," tape

Before this activity, tape a real flower in Pockets' paw.

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.



Pockets: (*Hopping out slowly*) Ohhhh. I hope this makes him feel better. I hope this flower helps cheer him up.

Teacher: Hello, Pockets. Who are you so worried about? Who do you want to cheer up?

Pockets: Our one blue God. I heard you talking about our blue God, and I know when you're blue you're sad. I don't want God to be sad; I want him to be happy, so I have a flower for him.

Teacher: Oh, Pockets, that's really nice. But I think you misunderstood. We've been learning that ► **God is the only true God**—not blue God! Children, let's tell Pockets about the Bible story and about the great showdown there's going to be.

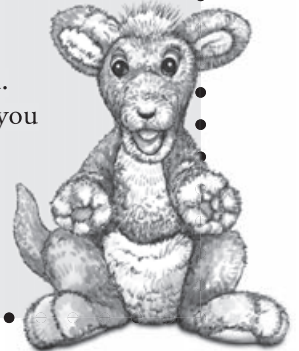
(*Encourage children to tell Pockets that we serve only one God and our God is the only true God. Explain that God wants us to worship only him. Have children tell Pockets the Bible Point.*)

Teacher: Just like your flower is real, God is real, too. In fact ► *God is the only true God.* God is happy that we want to worship only him—and I think he’s also happy that you wanted to give him a flower. That shows lots of love.

Pockets: Yes, real flowers are nice, but our real God is the best—and I’m glad God isn’t blue. Thanks for teaching me that there’s only one true God. And here’s a flower for you! (*Hands flower to you.*) ’Bye everyone. See you next week!

(*Have children say goodbye to Pockets.*)

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■ Real Thank-Yous

SUPPLIES: real flower



Gather children in a circle. Hold the real flower from the last activity. Say: **Isn’t it great to love the only true God? And we know that God loves us, too. One way God showed us his love is by sending us his son, Jesus, as our forever friend. Let’s use this real flower to give God a real thank-you for being the true God and for giving us Jesus as our forever friend. Whoever is holding the flower will say, “I love you, God,” and then**

will pass the flower to the next person. I’ll start. Continue around the circle until everyone’s held the flower.

Say: **Find a friend.** Pause for children to form pairs. **Decide who will go first. When I clap once, put your hand on your partner’s shoulder and say, “Our God is true, and God loves you.”** Lead children in repeating the affirmation. Then clap again and have children affirm their partners.

Join hands with your partners, and we’ll pray. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for being the only true God. We know you’re all-powerful and there’s no one like you. We love you so much. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.



Want even more activity ideas for this lesson? Check out HandsOnBible.com/tips.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: The Real McCoy!**

Choose two or three children to stand in a huddle and secretly decide who will be the Mystery Person. Then have them sit in a row while the rest of the class tries to determine who the person is by asking yes and no questions such as “Are you a girl?” or “Do you wear glasses?” When someone thinks he or she knows who the Mystery Person is, have them say the name aloud. Then ask, “Will the Mystery Person please stand up?” Before choosing three new players to stand up front, talk about the fact that just as there’s only one Anne or Charles, there’s only one God. Then remind children that ► God is the only true God.

■ **Make to Take: Bumper Stickers**

Before this activity, cut white Con-Tact paper into enough 12x3-inch strips for each child to have one. With a permanent marker, write “God is #1” on each paper strip.

Hand out these bumper stickers. Let children decorate them with colorful markers. As they work, remind them that it’s important to remember that ► God is the only true God. Tell children to put their bumper stickers on wagons, bikes, or backpacks so everyone will know that they serve the one true God. Tell children to ask their parents’ permission before sticking them on a car.



Test permanent and washable markers on the Con-Tact paper before class to determine which one will work best on the paper.

■ **Treat to Eat: No. 1 Snacks**

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Set out graham crackers and tubes of cake decorating gel. Let children write “1” on their graham crackers as a reminder that ► God is the only true God. Then let children eat their snacks.



■ **Story Picture: Elijah Challenges King Ahab to a Great Showdown**

Photocopy the story picture from the “Today I Learned...” handout for each child. Set out markers, glue sticks, and sequins. Have children color the pictures and then glue sequins on King Ahab’s crown.

Today I learned...

God is
the only true God.

Today your child learned that God is the only true God. Children heard how Elijah challenged King Ahab to a showdown between the false gods and the one true God. Children talked about how God wants them to worship only him.

Verse to Learn

"O Lord...you are powerful and mighty" (2 Chronicles 20:6).

Ask Me...

- Why was King Ahab angry with Elijah?
- How can we worship the only true God?
- How do we know our God is the only true God?

Family Fun

- Try this activity to reinforce the fact that God is the only true God. Take turns with your child looking in a mirror. Talk about how the face you see in the mirror is just a reflection—it looks like the real thing but the reflection is not really you. Tell your child that there's only one true God and we want to worship only him. Then go on a search around the house to find other things that aren't the "real thing" but just imitations, such as silk flowers, artificial flavorings, and wood veneer.

Elijah Challenges King Ahab to a Showdown (1 Kings 18:16-21)



