



Bible Point ▶

God answers our prayers.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that God hears and answers us when we pray,
 - discover that prayer is a way of talking to God,
 - teach Pockets that God answers prayers in amazing ways, and
 - pray to God for his help in their lives.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God defeats the prophets of Baal.

**1 Kings
18:22-38**



Elijah allowed the prophets of Baal to begin this challenge. After quite some time had passed without a response from Baal, Elijah began taunting the false prophets, revealing his knowledge of existing myths about Baal. Their response to Elijah’s taunts was to cut themselves, a common practice in the pagan worship of those days. People believed that injuring themselves would convince their gods that they were sincere.

When it was his turn, Elijah wanted to ensure that the contest couldn’t possibly be seen as slanted in God’s favor. That’s why he had the altar and sacrifice drenched with water. Baal was thought to be the god of water and fire; Elijah wanted to show that the God of Israel is the one true God. God answered Elijah’s prayers with awesome power, demonstrating his authority as the one true God.





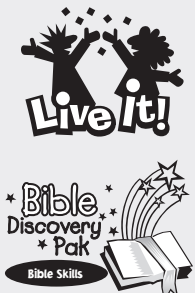
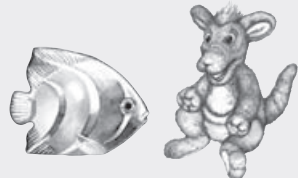

Prayer

- Read Proverbs 3:26.
- The people of Elijah’s time had turned away from God. How does your culture seek to trap you and lead you away from God?
- Pray: Lord, lead me to a place of confidence in you. Give me passion to follow only you as I...

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
<p>Welcome Time</p>	<p>Welcome!—Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.</p>	<p>“Family Name Tags” (p. 23), crayons, markers, tape or safety pins</p>	
<p>Let’s Get Started</p> <p>Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.</p>	<p>Option 1: Build It Up—Build a pretend altar, and learn more about Elijah’s altar.</p>	<p>Boxes or blocks</p>	
	<p>Option 2: Flames of Fire—Use their breath to paint pictures of flames.</p>	<p>White construction paper; plastic drinking straws; plastic spoons; red, orange, and yellow tempera paint; paper towels; smocks or paint shirts; newsprint</p>	
	<p>Option 3: Prayer Pals—Decorate their own “prayer pals” to remind them to pray.</p>	<p>Smooth stones, glue, wiggly eyes, markers, index cards</p>	
	<p>Pick Up Our Toys—Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.</p>	<p>CD player</p>	
<p>Bible Story Time</p>	<p>Setting the Stage—Find out that God lit a special fire and answered Elijah’s prayer.</p>	<p>Large candle in a holder, matches, one stone, one twig, small glass of water, bag of marshmallows</p>	
	<p>Bible Song and Prayer Time—Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.</p>	<p>Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket</p>	
	<p>Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Help tell about the exciting “showdown” from 1 Kings 18:22-38.</p>	<p>Bible, red construction paper, scissors, CD player</p>	
	<p>Do the Bible Story—Sing an action song about God, who’s more powerful than anything!</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p>	
<p>Closing</p> 	<p>Fire Up—Help Pockets learn that God answers prayer in amazing ways.</p>	<p>Firefighter’s hat, water</p>	
	<p>Poppin’ Prayers—Be reminded of God’s great power as they pray.</p>		

*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 you see God’s power last week?” and “In what ways did you obey God?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God answers our prayers.**
- 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 photocopyable 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 we know God hears us when we pray?” and “Does God answer our prayers?”

Option 1: Build It Up

SUPPLIES: boxes or blocks

Before class, collect an assortment of medium-size and large boxes or blocks.

As children arrive, invite them to build with the boxes or blocks. Suggest building things from different Bible stories, such as the walls of Jericho and Noah’s ark. Then tell children that in Bible days, people worshipped God by building altars to him. Encourage children to pretend that the boxes are large, heavy stones, and let them build a pretend altar to God.

As they work together, explain that people built altars to honor God and help them pray. Tell children that ► God answers our prayers. Mention that in today’s Bible story they’ll learn about a time Elijah prayed and built an altar to God.




teacher tips

To prevent kids from accidentally sucking in the paint instead of blowing it, poke a pinhole near the bottom of each straw.



■ Option 2: Flames of Fire

SUPPLIES: white construction paper; plastic drinking straws; plastic spoons; red, orange, and yellow tempera paint; paper towels; smocks or paint shirts; newsprint

Before class, cover a table with newsprint or newspapers. Help children put on smocks or paint shirts. Show children how to spoon a small amount of each color of paint onto a piece of paper. Then demonstrate how to use the straws to gently blow the pools of paint to create what look like flames. As children paint, explain that today they'll learn how God used fire to answer Elijah's prayer and that ▶ God answers our prayers today, too. Provide paper towels for cleanup.

■ Option 3: Prayer Pals

SUPPLIES: smooth stones, glue, wiggly eyes, markers, index cards

Before class, gather a clean, smooth, medium-size stone for each child.

Set out markers, white craft glue, index cards, and wiggly eyes. Let children create "prayer pals" from the stones. Have them glue on wiggly eyes and then use the markers to add other features such as noses, mouths, and hair. Help children write "Pray every day!" on index cards and then glue their prayer pals to the cards. Set aside to dry.

While children make their prayer pals, explain that God is happy when we pray. Point out that prayer is talking to God and that ▶ God answers our prayers. Tell children that they'll hear a story about a time God answered Elijah's prayer in an amazing way. Tell them that their prayer pals will remind them to pray every day.

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.




X-TRA IMPACT

Bring in stones, twigs, and a bowl of water. As you pass the items to the children, ask which of the items would burn if set on fire. Tell them they'll hear an exciting Bible story today about a time God's power burned wood, water, meat, and even stone!

■ 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.



**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: large candle in a holder, matches, one stone, one twig, small glass of water, bag of marshmallows

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 this activity, set the following items on a table: a stone, a twig, a clear glass of water, a bag of marshmallows, a candle in a holder, and matches.

Gather the children around the table. Light the candle. Hold up the twig.

Ask: • **Can fire burn a twig? Why?** (Yes, because it's wood.)

• **What other things on this table could fire burn?** (The marshmallows; the other matches; the candle; the table.)

• **Which things won't burn?** (Water; the stone.)

Say: **We've been learning the past few weeks about God's power. We know that God is more powerful than anyone or anything. And we also know that God is powerful enough to control everything.**

Ask: • **Can God control fire, too? Why or why not?** (Yes, God's more powerful than anything, including fire; yes, God controls fire; yes, God can make fire.)

Say: **We aren't powerful enough to make fire melt stones or make water burn up—but God is! We're going to hear an exciting Bible story today about how Elijah prayed to God to light a fire.**

Ask: • **When do you pray?** (At supper time; at bedtime; anytime I need help.)

• **Who can tell about a time God answered your prayers?** Allow children time to tell their experiences.

Say: **It's wonderful to know that when we pray, God always hears our prayers and answers them, too. Sometimes God answers by telling us "no," and sometimes he tells us "wait a while," and sometimes he says "yes." But God always answers our prayers. When Elijah prayed, God answered him in a miraculous way. God can make miracles happen when we pray. God is powerful, and ► God answers our prayers.**

Before we hear our story, let's say ► "God answers our prayers" as I blow out the candle. Then we'll pretend we just toasted some delicious marshmallows over a fire to eat! Lead children in saying ► "God answers our prayers" as you blow out the candle. Then give each child a marshmallow to eat. Set the candle and matches out of sight of the children.



■ 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 18:22-38** in the Bible you'll be using. Return the *power stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

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 answers our prayers.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us remember to pray. My helper will pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, please remind me to pray."

Have a child 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 powerful and that ►you answer our prayers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

teacher tips

Choose children to be the surprise card collector, the Bible-replacer (to put the Bible away), and the cheerleader. Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week, so each child gets a chance to feel special.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

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



track 12

Before this activity, cut a flame from red construction paper for each child.

Open the Bible to **1 Kings 18:22-38**. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Bible. We've been hearing the exciting story of Elijah, God's prophet.**

Now we'll hear the next part of the story. You can help tell the story with these paper flames. Hand out the flames.

When you hear the word *fire* on the CD, wave your flames. Open the *Bible Big Book* to page 5. Turn on the CD player (track 12) and listen to "Elijah and the Big Showdown, Part 2," turning the page at the sound of the chimes. Turn off the CD player after page 7.

Close the *Bible Big Book*. Say: **That was some fire, wasn't it? It was a fire that only God could send!**

Ask: • **How do you think King Ahab felt when his fake god didn't answer?** (Angry; madder than ever at Elijah; worried.)

• **Why didn't Ahab's god answer?** (He wasn't real; he was fake; he didn't have any power.)

• **Why did Elijah pour so much water on the altar? Wasn't he afraid it wouldn't burn?** (He wanted to show the people that God is powerful and can light any fire; Elijah wasn't afraid because he knew God is powerful.)

Say: **Elijah knew that God's power can do anything—even light sopping-wet wood. God didn't want King Ahab to have any doubts that he's the one true God! And Elijah wasn't worried about the fire starting because he knew that God answers our prayers. We know that God hears and answers our prayers, too.** Return the *Bible Big Book* to the Learning Lab.



BIBLE POINT

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 13

Open your Bible to **2 Chronicles 20:6** and say: **Our Bible verse says, "O Lord...you are powerful and mighty." Because God is so powerful, he can answer our prayers. We serve a God who's more powerful than anything and will always win any challenge hands down! Let's sing a fun song about our mighty God.**

Have children practice slapping their own knees or "patty-caking" with a friend to the line, "God will win (*slap, slap*)—hands down!" Then play the song "Hands Down!" (track 13) on the CD. Lead children in bopping around the room on the verses and singing the chorus words together.



SING

**Elijah was a man of God.
When God said, "Go," Elijah'd nod.
God sent Elijah to an evil king
To show him God's more powerful than anything!**

BIBLE VERSE



teacher tips

Go over the words to the chorus without the CD. Be sure children know how to slap their legs during the chorus. When the children seem familiar with the words, have them sing the entire song with the CD.

Let us shout an' let us sing:
GOD'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING!
 There's no problem when God's around
 'Cuz God will win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

King Ahab, you're a wicked king!
 You worship gods that don't mean a thing!
 There's gonna be a big showdown,
 But God will win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

Let us shout an' let us sing:
GOD'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING!
 There's no problem when God's around
 'Cuz God will win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

So they built an altar of stone and mud,
 But Ahab's god was just a dud!
 There wasn't a spark of flame around!
 Now God would win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

Let us shout an' let us sing:
GOD'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING!
 There's no problem when God's around
 'Cuz God will win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

Then God sent a fiery flash of flame,
 And the people shouted, "GOD'S HIS NAME!"
 They bowed their faces to the ground!
 And God had won (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!

Let us shout an' let us sing:
GOD'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING!
 There's no problem when God's around
 'Cuz God will win (*slap, slap*)—HANDS DOWN!



BIBLE POINT ▶

When you're finished singing, turn off the CD player. Say: **That's a fun song to remind us that ▶ God answers our prayers because he's so powerful. It'll help us remember that "God will win (*slap, slap*)—hands down!" Let's share that great news with Pockets, shall we?**

Closing

■ Fire Up

SUPPLIES: firefighter's hat, water



Before class, put a firefighter's hat on Pockets' head or make a small red hat using construction paper. Fill the *fish squirter* from the Learning Lab with water by squeezing it tightly and then immersing it in water. Keep it submerged as you release your hold on the squirter.

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo holding the *fish squirter*. Go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets and the *fish squirter* away and out of sight.





Pockets: *(Squirting the fish squirter above the children's heads)* Where's the fire? I'll put it out! I have lots of water! I can do the job!

Teacher: Pockets, Pockets! What's going on?

Pockets: *(Hopping and squirting water)* Pockets to the rescue! I have water you know! *(Squirts you on the cheek.)*

Teacher: *(Wiping your cheek)* Yes, Pockets. We can feel your water, can't we, children? But Pockets, there's no fire here. I think you're mistaken.

Pockets: But I heard you talking about a big fire that's melting stones 'n' wood 'n' everything! How did it start? Where is it?

Teacher: Oh Pockets, the fire's not in our classroom. It happened a long time ago in Bible days. Children, let's tell Pockets about the Bible story and how God answered Elijah's prayer in an amazing way.

(Encourage children to tell about how King Ahab's fake gods didn't light the fire, but when Elijah prayed to the true God, God sent a mighty fire to show his power. Have children point out that Elijah prayed to God and God answered his prayers. Have them tell Pockets the Bible Point.)

Pockets: Wow, that must've been *some* fire! God answered Elijah's prayer in a neat-o way. But who called the fire department to put out that big fire?

Teacher: *(Laughing)* Nobody called the fire department, Pockets! God's fire burned up the altar and stones and water and meat. There was nothing left to burn. God answered Elijah's prayer when he sent the fire. And we know, just like Elijah knew, that ► God answers our prayers.

Pockets: I'm glad that we serve a powerful God. But maybe next time he puts out a fire, he'll let me help! *(Squirts water once more.)* 'Bye everybody!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Pre-K & K granted for local church use.
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539. HandsOnBible.com



■ Poppin' Prayers

SUPPLIES: none



Say: **We've been learning that God is powerful and that ► God answers our prayers. What are each of you praying for?** Pause for responses.

Say: **We know from the Bible and from our lives that ► God answers our prayers. Let's take time now to talk**

to God about our concerns. Let's use these pop rockets as we pray, to help us remember God's power and his ability to answer our prayers. This is a little like what God's power does for us.

Put a *pop rocket* on the *launcher* and pop it across the room. Wait for the kids' reactions. **When God is on our side, amazing things happen, just like they did for Elijah. God is powerful and answers our prayers!**



Have children stand in a line on one side of the room. Give the first child the *launcher* and a *pop rocket*. Let the child pray a one-sentence prayer, sharing a need or concern with God, and then pop the *pop rocket* to represent God's power in answering our prayers. Continue down the line until each child has had a chance to pray and launch a *pop rocket*.



Say: **One powerful thing God did was to send his son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. Jesus died to take the punishment for the wrong things we've done, and because of God's power, Jesus came back to life! Now that's power! Let's thank God for giving us Jesus!**

Launch the *pop rocket* one last time as everyone calls out, "Thank you, God!"

Have children help you gather the *pop rockets* and return them to the Learning Lab.



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



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.



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: Story Scramble**

Make two large banners by taping three sheets of paper together for each banner. Tape the banners to the wall. Form two lines and hand the first person in each line a crayon. Tell children that they'll draw the story of Elijah and the big showdown. When you clap your hands, the person with the crayon hops to the banner and draws one part of the story. When you clap again, he or she hops back and the next person in line goes. Continue until each person has added a portion of the story. Then let the groups tell about their pictures. Remind children that in the story Elijah prayed for God's help, and God answered by lighting the fire at the altar. Have children say, ► "God answers our prayers."

■ **Make to Take: Put Out the Fire**

Mix yellow, red, or orange food coloring with shaving cream to make a flame-colored foam. Cover a table with newspapers. Fill a spray bottle or the *fish squirter* from the Learning Lab with water. Put a dab of the colored foam on a sheet of paper, and hold it over the newspapers. Let children take turns spraying toward the paper as if they are putting out a fire. Have children tell how God started the altar fire, and remind them that even water didn't stop the fire from burning. Mention that because God is powerful, ► "God answers our prayers," just as he answered Elijah's prayer by lighting the fire.

■ **Treat to Eat: Dough Delights**



Before children arrive, mix 1 pound powdered sugar, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup corn syrup, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup softened margarine together. Knead in drops of food coloring to create dough in a variety of colors.

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Hand each child a piece of wax paper and a golf ball-size lump of edible dough.

Encourage children to make Bible story figures such as Elijah, the raven, flames, or stones. Then have children make prayer hands from their dough. Talk about the fact that ► "God answers our prayers." As children eat their dough, invite them to tell about times God answered their prayers. Have wet wipes on hand for cleaning sticky fingers after playing with and eating this snack.



If the dough is too sticky, add a little more powdered sugar.

If you like, add a few drops of flavored extract to create dough in different flavors.

■ **Story Picture: God Answers Elijah's Prayer**

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout for each child. Set out glue sticks and red, orange, and yellow construction paper scraps. Have children tear flames from the colored paper to glue to their pictures. Remind children that Elijah prayed for God to light the altar fire and that God is powerful and ► "answers our prayers."

Today I learned...

God answers
our prayers.

Today your child learned that God answers our prayers. Children learned that God answered Elijah's prayers in amazing ways. They also talked about praying every day.

Verse to Learn

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

Ask Me...

- How did God answer Elijah's prayer?
- When has God answered your prayers?
- When can our family pray together?

Family Fun

- Sing "One True God" with your child to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." Then talk about how God wants us to obey and pray just as Elijah did. Share times God answered your prayers.

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.*)

God Answers Elijah's Prayer (1 Kings 18:22-38)

