

# WICKED KING GRACIOUS GOD

Elijah, Elisha and King Ahab

Author: Eleanor Delport

# SESSION 1 GOD IS PATIENT

Big idea: God is patient, slow to anger

Even though King Ahab was terribly wicked, God starts a conversation with him rather than wipes him out. To get his attention, God announces a drought through the prophet Elijah.

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: WICKED KING, PATIENT GOD

GET TO KNOW YOU GAME - Fruitsalad

## INTRO

When you think of a baddie or a villain what picture comes into your mind?

Imagine a game of "goodies and baddies". Do you think of God's people in the Bible as the goodies or the baddies? They should be the goodies, but their story is a messy one and it's not always that simple.

## BIBLE PART 1

GAME - Quick build challenge

CRAFT Draw a picture of Ahab. What do you think he would have looked like? Sounded like? Been like?

## BIBLE PART 2

## PRAYER

We often like to fix things quickly, but God is patient. He is slow to anger. When do you struggle to wait and be patient? Are there situations where you are quick to become angry? Pray for each other that we would be patient and slow to anger like God is patient.

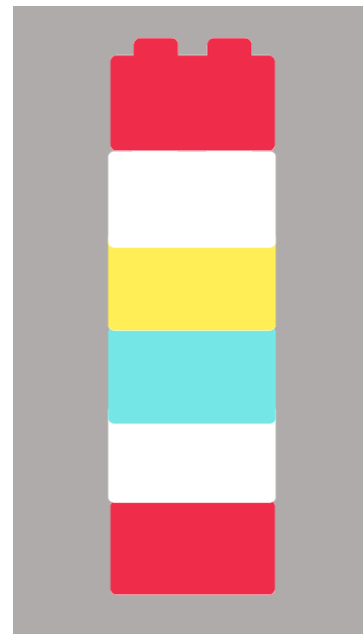
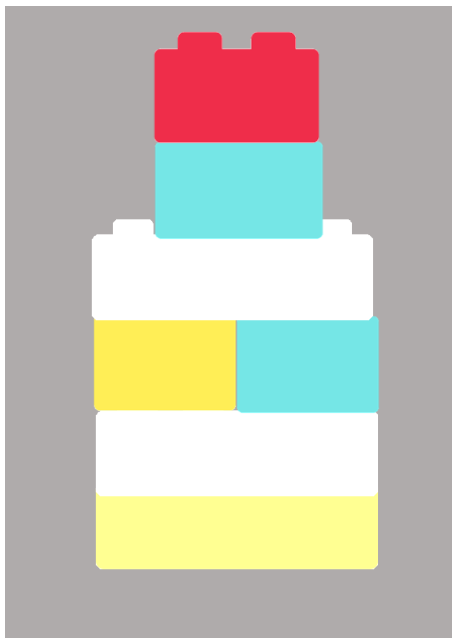
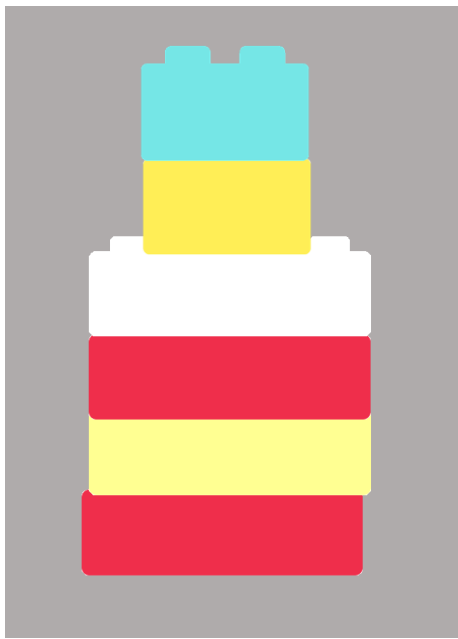
## MEMORY VERSE

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning this verse:

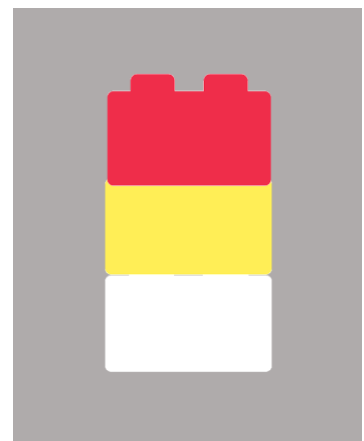
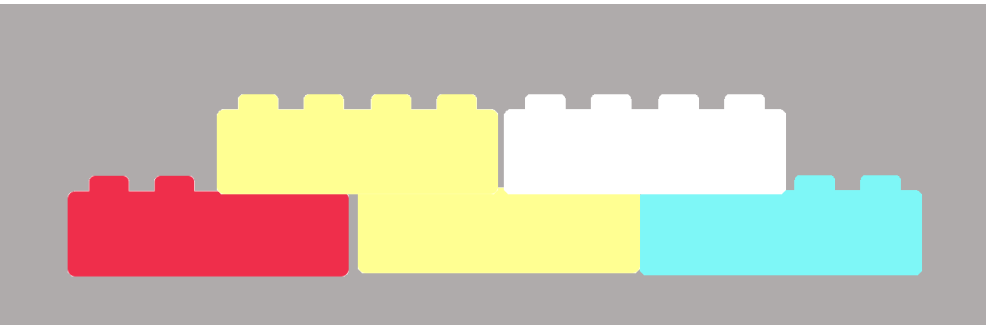
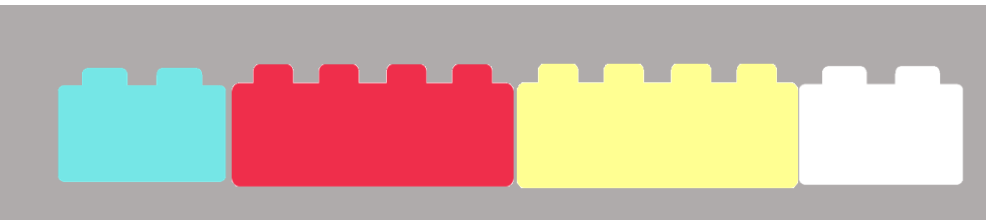
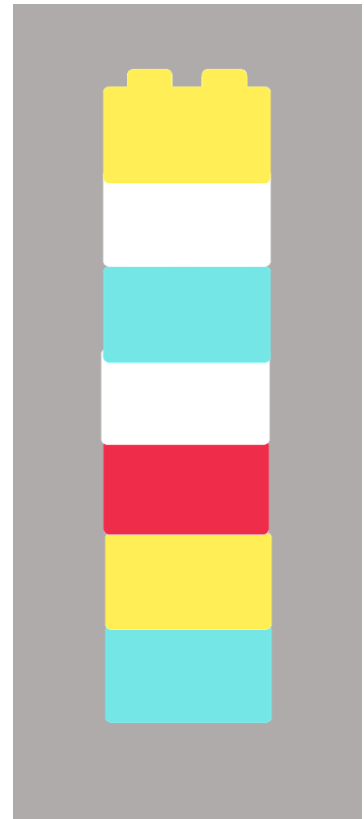
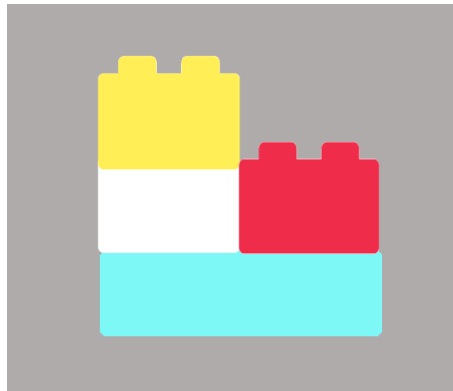
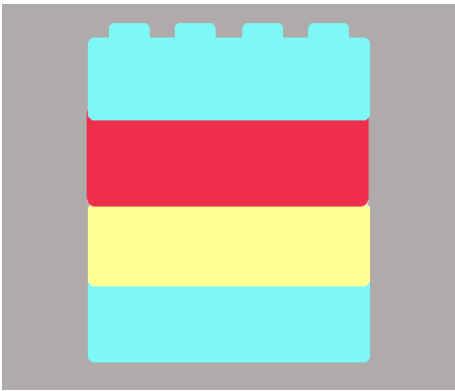
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalms 86:15





Build cards



# GAME: FRUIT SALAD

## *Equipment:*

*Chairs in a circle equal to the number of people playing minus 1 chair*

Go around the circle labelling everyone a fruit: "apple" "pear" "banana" or "orange"

Person in the middle calls out a fruit, e.g. "orange!"

All the oranges switch seats with each other and the person in the middle has to try and sit on one of their seats

The new person in the middle has a turn to call

You cannot go back to your own seat. You must find a new one each time

# GAME: QUICK BUILD

## *Equipment:*

*Duplo bricks, build cards cut out, bell or buzzer to ring*

*Long Duplo bricks: 4 red, 4 blue, 4 yellow, 4 white*

*Short Duplo bricks: 4 red, 4 blue, 4 yellow, 4 white*

1. Divide into 2 teams with a pile of bricks between them
2. 1 person from each team nominated to participate per round
3. Count down from 3, turn over a build card
4. The 2 nominees build a wall exactly as shown on the card as quick as they can and ring the bell when they have finished
5. Whoever rings it first wins a point for their team
6. Keep going until everyone has had a turn

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: BIBLE STORY

## PART 1 INTRO TO AHAB

### Pray

Recap the Old Testament using the bible **timeline** so the kids understand that God's people were called to show the world what God is like, but because Solomon led the people to worship other gods, the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah.

When God's people were split into the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah, God said to the first king of Israel, a man called Jeroboam, that God would bless him if he remained faithful to God, but he quickly built golden calves and started worshipping idols!

There were some terrible kings in Israel who were violent and evil. Then a man named Omri became king and built a city called Samaria with a huge palace on top of it that he decorated in ivory, which is very expensive. Omri thought that, because he had lots of money and ivory, he didn't need God. His son Ahab was even worse than him. He married a wicked woman called Jezebel so that he could trade with a city called Sidon and he set up a temple for her god Baal in Samaria. He led all the people to worship Baal instead of the God of Israel.

*Explore the info cards and map on Baal, Samaria, Sidon and Jeroboam.*

During Ahab's reign he even allowed the city of Jericho to be rebuilt. Do you remember the story of Jericho? Why do you think Joshua had said it should never be rebuilt?

*Explore info cards Joshua and Jericho*

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: BIBLE STORY

## PART 2 INTRO TO AHAB

How do you think Ahab's evil would make God feel? If you were God, what would you do with Ahab? What do you think Ahab deserved?

**Read 1 Kings 17v1**

What does God do and why? *(See Deuteronomy and Baal info cards)*

God is patient with Ahab. Instead of killing him, He gets his attention by sending His prophet to declare that there will be no rain until Elijah says so. Ahab believed that Baal controlled the weather, but God is going to show Ahab who the real God is.

What does the word "patient" mean?

1 Kings 16v29-34

# KING AHAB

# JOSHUA

The leader of Israel who led the Israelites into the promised land

Devoted himself to following the God of Israel

Wise and courageous



Warned the people not to worship any other gods, otherwise the blessing they enjoyed from God would be removed

# SAMARIA

The capital city of the Northern kingdom of Israel

Ahab's father Omri built a huge palace and inlaid it with ivory



Ivory from Samaria



Ruins of Ahab's palace in Samaria

# SIDON

City state to the North of Israel

Fishing and trade port

King of Sidon made trade agreements with Israel

King Ahab married the King of Sidon's daughter, a wicked woman called Jezebel

Centre of idol worship to Baal and Ashtoreth



Sidon double shekel

# DEUTERONOMY

As God's people prepared to enter the promised land, Moses reminded them of everything God had done for them and gave them warnings like in Deuteronomy 11:13-17:

## Deuteronomy 11:13-17

Carefully obey the commands I am giving you today. Love the Lord your God. Serve him with your whole being. Then he will send rain on your land at the right time, in the fall and spring. You will be able to gather your grain, new wine and oil. He will put grass in the fields for your cattle. You will have plenty to eat.

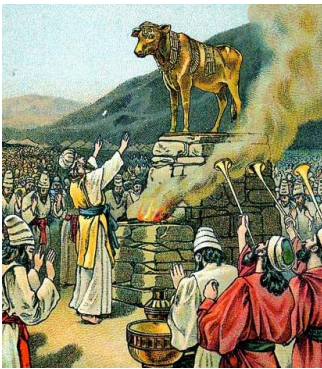
Be careful. Don't be fooled. Don't turn away and serve other gods. Don't worship them. If you do, the Lord will become angry with you. He will shut the heavens so it will not rain. Then the land will not grow crops. And you will soon die in the good land the Lord is giving you.

# JEROBOAM

First king of Israel after the tribes were torn in two into Israel and Judah

Reigned ~920-901BC

God gave him the opportunity to have a line of kings like David if Jeroboam would be faithful to God



Jeroboam immediately set up golden calves and led the people to worship other gods

# BAAL

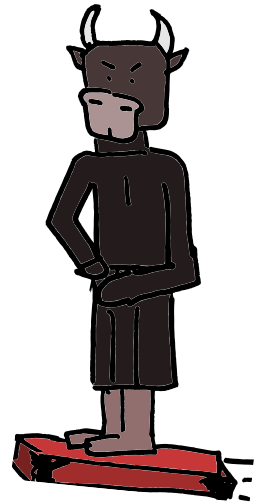
Caananite-Phoenician god of fertility and weather

Believed to be god of rain

Sometimes depicted as a bull or ram

Baal means "Lord"

If the people wanted to have children or their crops to grow well or they wanted it to rain, they thought Baal could help them



# JERICHO

The first city that the Israelites conquered after they crossed the Jordan

The Israelites conquered it by listening to and obeying God

They marched around it for seven days and on the seventh day the walls came down

Joshua decreed that it should never be rebuilt

The ruins should remind the people that Yahweh is God

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# SESSION 2 GOD IS ENOUGH

Big idea: God is enough

God trained Elijah to rely on Him completely by sending him to a lonely brook and miraculously providing bread and meat, just as He had done with the Israelites in the wilderness.

5-9 years

# SESSION 2: GOD IS ENOUGH

## INTRO

What is the longest time you have been alone for?

## BIBLE STORY

GAME – Raven food collection

## PRAYER

At first it would have been exciting for Elijah by the brook, but how do you think Elijah might have felt as time went on? It may have been dull and lonely.

Sometimes it can be hard to wait. When do you find it hard to wait? Do you ever feel lonely?

What can you do when you are lonely?

Pray for each other to still obey God and know He is with us when we are lonely or we are finding something dull.

CRAFT Raven paper aeroplanes

## MEMORY VERSE

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning this verse:

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalms 86:15



5-9 years

# SESSION 2 BIBLE STORY: ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

After Elijah had told King Ahab that it would not rain, God sent Elijah to a brook, which is a small stream.

## Read 1 Kings 17v2-8

*Choose one person to be Elijah and ask them to settle down as though by a stream*

*Choose some other children to be ravens and pretend to fly back and forth to Elijah collecting food for him*

*Have Elijah pretend to go to sleep and wake up several times and continually receive food from the ravens to show that it happened over many days*

What did Elijah have to do to get the food? (Wait where God told him to)

What did Elijah have to do to get a drink? (Drink from the water God provided)

How do you think Elijah's family would usually have found food and water? (work, buying it, searching for it etc.)

What was Elijah learning?

Does it remind you of a story in the time of Moses? (manna, quail and water in the wilderness)

# GAME: RAVEN'S DELIVER

## *Equipment:*

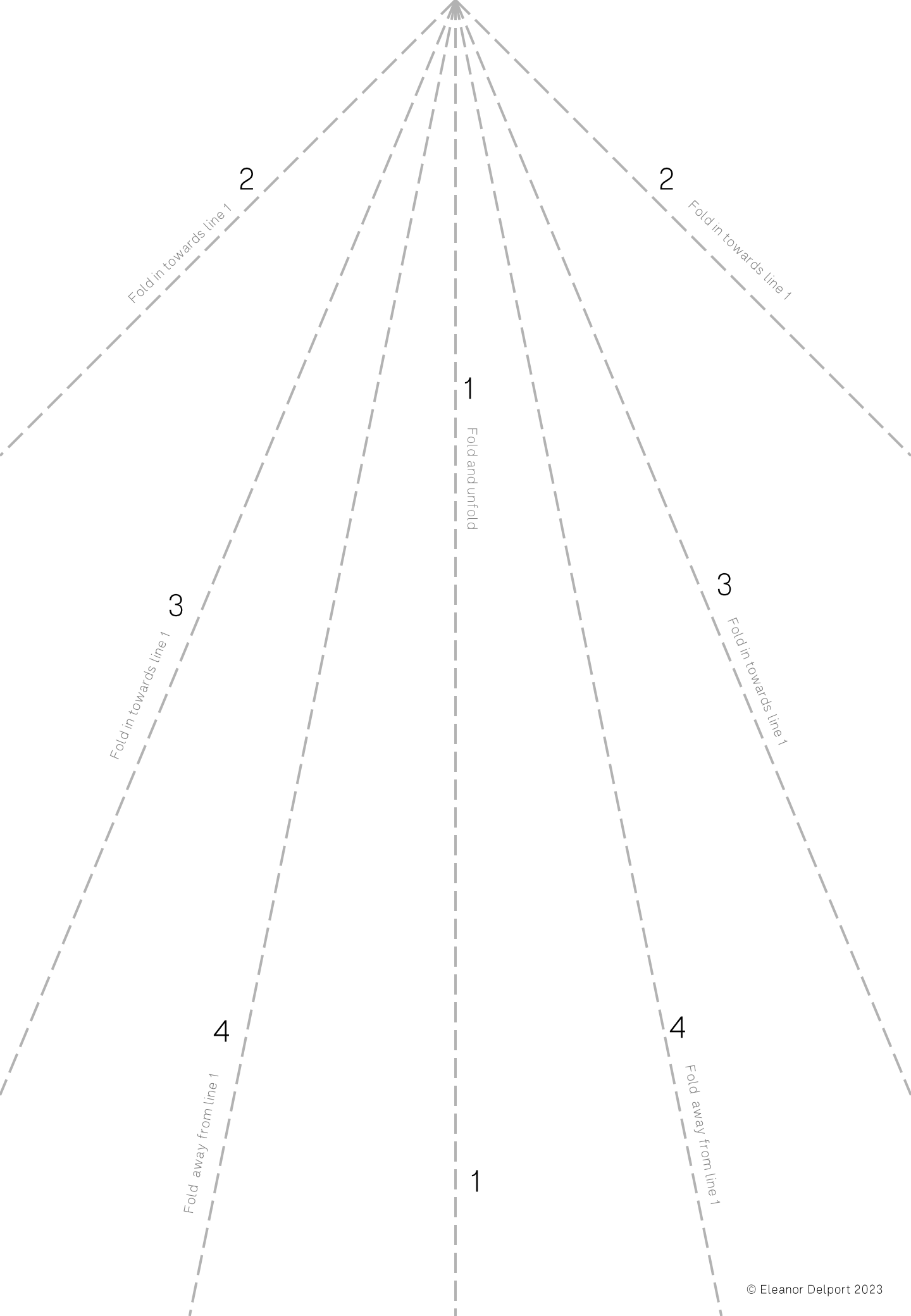
*2 buckets and many bean bags or balls such as ball pitty balls*

Divide the children into 2 teams

Spread out the balls or beanbags around the room

When you say "go!" the children must collect balls one at a time and try to fill up their team's bucket as fast as they can

When you say "Stop!" count up how many balls each team collected



2  
Fold in towards line 1

2  
Fold in towards line 1

1  
Fold and unfold

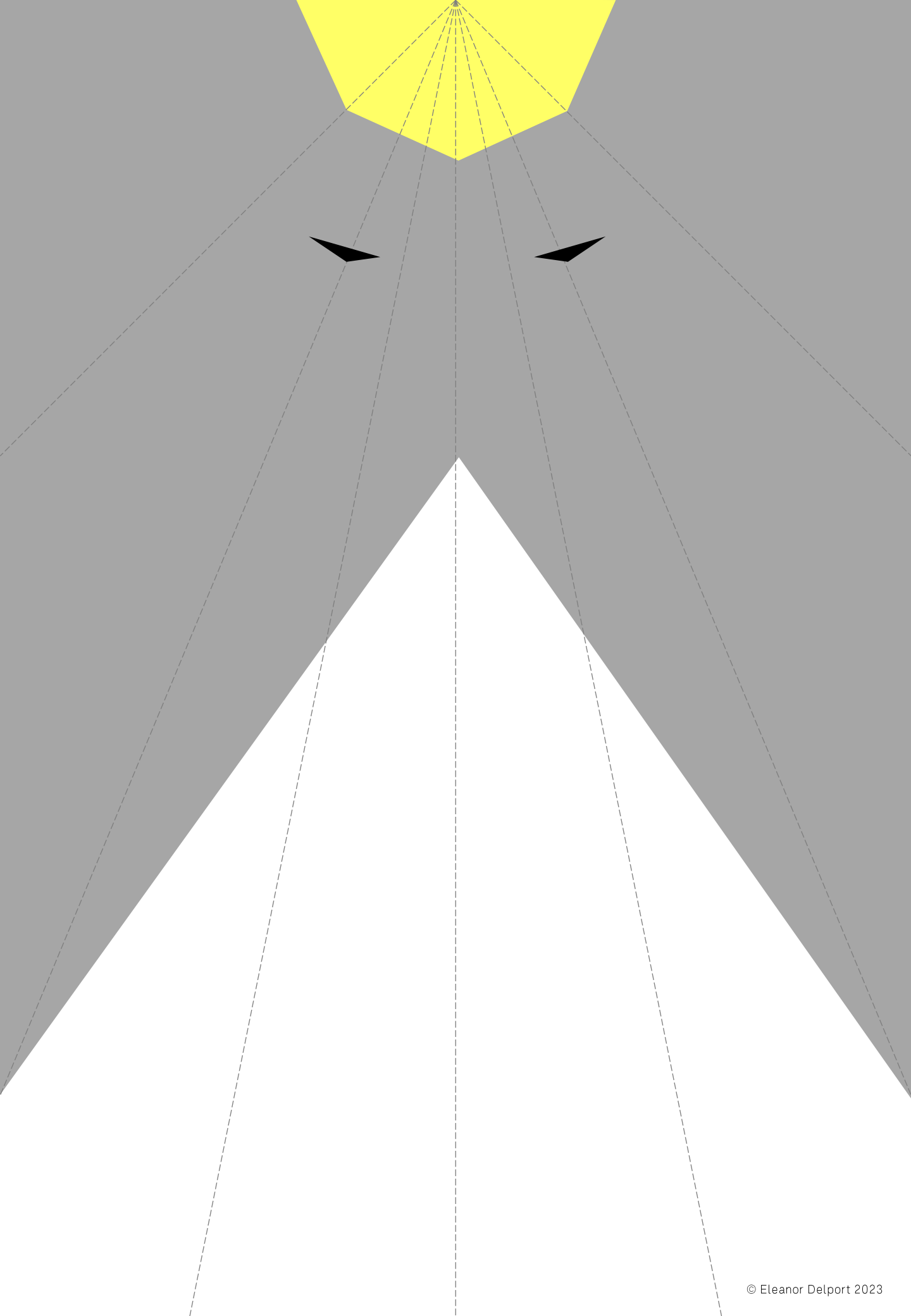
3  
Fold in towards line 1

3  
Fold in towards line 1

4  
Fold away from line 1

4  
Fold away from line 1

1



# SESSION 3

## POWERFUL AND COMPASSIONATE

Big idea: God reigns over every nation and even over death

God showed Elijah that He was not just God in Israel, but in every nation and had power even to bring back people from death. He uses His power to care for the poor, because He has compassion on them.

5-9 years

# SESSION 3: POWERFUL AND COMPASSIONATE

## INTRO

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Or what is the longest journey you have been on?

WARM UP GAME = cookie jar

## STORY RECAP

We have been learning about King Ahab, a wicked King of Israel who was turning the people away from God to worship Baal. God said through Elijah the prophet that it would not rain until Elijah prayed again. God then looked after Elijah by a stream and ravens fed him. But when the stream dried up, He sent Elijah on a journey.

BIBLE STORY = Elijah and the widow

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out that God showed the widow and her son His power and God had compassion on them

Suggested questions: How do you think the widow might have felt about Elijah coming to stay? What would life have been like for the widow? What does the story show us about God? What does compassionate mean?

GAME – Fruit salad

PRAYER – Who can we think of who needs the power and compassion of God?  
Pray for these people

CRAFT World hands

## MEMORY VERSE

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning this verse:

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalms 86:15



# ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW



1 Kings 17v8-24

*You could choose to read the story together or act it out as a group. Or use this suggestion of telling it through the widow's perspective. For this version, you will need 1 person (or puppet if preferred) dressed as the widow, a jug, a jar and a supply of digestive biscuits or similar.*

Hello children! I have a wonderful story to tell you today. I understand you have been learning about a prophet friend of mine. Do you remember his name? Elijah! Yes. I first met Elijah a long time ago. Let me tell you what happened.

It was a terrible year. There was no rain, no food and my husband had died. My son and I were in a desperate state. We had tried to eke out the last bit of flour and oil we had, but there was almost none left, *(hold up jug and jar)* only enough for one last biscuit. Then I was sure we were going to die.

My people had prayed to Baal all their lives, but he didn't seem to want to help us or perhaps he couldn't help us. Either way we had no hope left.

I'm out collecting a couple of sticks for a little fire when I hear a voice. "Excuse me!" it was this gruff traveller. He asks me for water. I was a bit grumpy about it, but I got him some. Then he asks me for food! The cheek! Food!? Can't he see I'm starving?! Mind you, he looks a bit thin himself. I tell him I only have a little oil and a tiny bit of flour *(points at the jug and jar)* enough for the last meal for me and my son. Then we'll die.



He says he's a prophet and to make him some first and our oil and flour won't run out until the Lord, the God of Israel sends rain again. Well now that was hard to believe! But my god Baal hadn't helped us and I could see he meant what he said, so I went with it. "What could the God of Israel do?" I wondered.

Continued on next page

# ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW

I made him a biscuit and gave it to him (*gives a biscuit to a child*). I thought that would be it, but then I looked and there was a bit of oil left and a bit of flour! (*Acts surprised*) So I made a biscuit for my son. (*Gives out another biscuit*). I looked again and there was more! (*Gives out another biscuit*) And the next day there was more...and the next day...and the next (*keep giving out biscuits until everyone has had one*) Jar of flour and the jug of oil never ran out.



Well now I thought his God was wonderful until one day my son got sick and he suddenly died!

(*Looking upset*) "What have you done?" I asked Elijah. "I knew I was a bad person and didn't deserve all this food. Now your God is punishing me. He took my son away. I thought you were here to help, but now my son is dead!" I was so angry. I was angry with Elijah and I was angry with his God, but Elijah didn't shout back. He asked me to give him my son like he had asked me to give him my food and he took the boy upstairs to his room and prayed.

I waited downstairs, listening. He prayed for my son's life to be given back to him one time.... Nothing happened...He prayed a second time...Nothing happened...He prayed a third time...I listened... I could hear feet moving upstairs. Heavy feet...Elijah's feet...and ...smaller feet...could it be?

Elijah came downstairs and knocked on the kitchen door... I opened it...My son! My only son! He was alive! Then I knew Elijah was from God, the true God, the God of Israel and the words he spoke were true.



# GAME: COOKIE JAR

*Warm up circle game, name learning ice breaker. No equipment needed*

Pass the rhyme around the circle with the call and response. Start with a leader calling the first name and then pass the rhyme around until everyone has had a chance to be the person questioned

Everybody: Who took the cookie from the cookie jar?

Leader: *Emily* took the cookie from the cookie jar

Emily: Who me?

Everybody: yes you!

Emily: couldn't be

Everybody: Then who?

Emily: *Sam* took the cookie from the cookie jar

Sam: who me?

Everybody: yes you

Sam: Couldn't be

Everybody: Then who?

Sam: *Beth* took the cookie from the cookie jar...etc.

...To end...

I took the cookie from the cookie jar! The yummy yummy cookie from the cookie jar. Let's share! (Everyone pretends to eat a cookie)

# GAME: FRUIT SALAD

*Equipment:*

*Chairs in a circle equal to the number of people playing minus 1 chair*

Go around the circle labelling everyone a fruit: "apple" "pear" "banana" or "orange"

Person in the middle calls out a fruit, e.g. "orange!"

All the oranges switch seats with each other and the person in the middle has to try and sit on one of their seats

The new person in the middle has a turn to call

You cannot go back to your own seat. You must find a new one each time

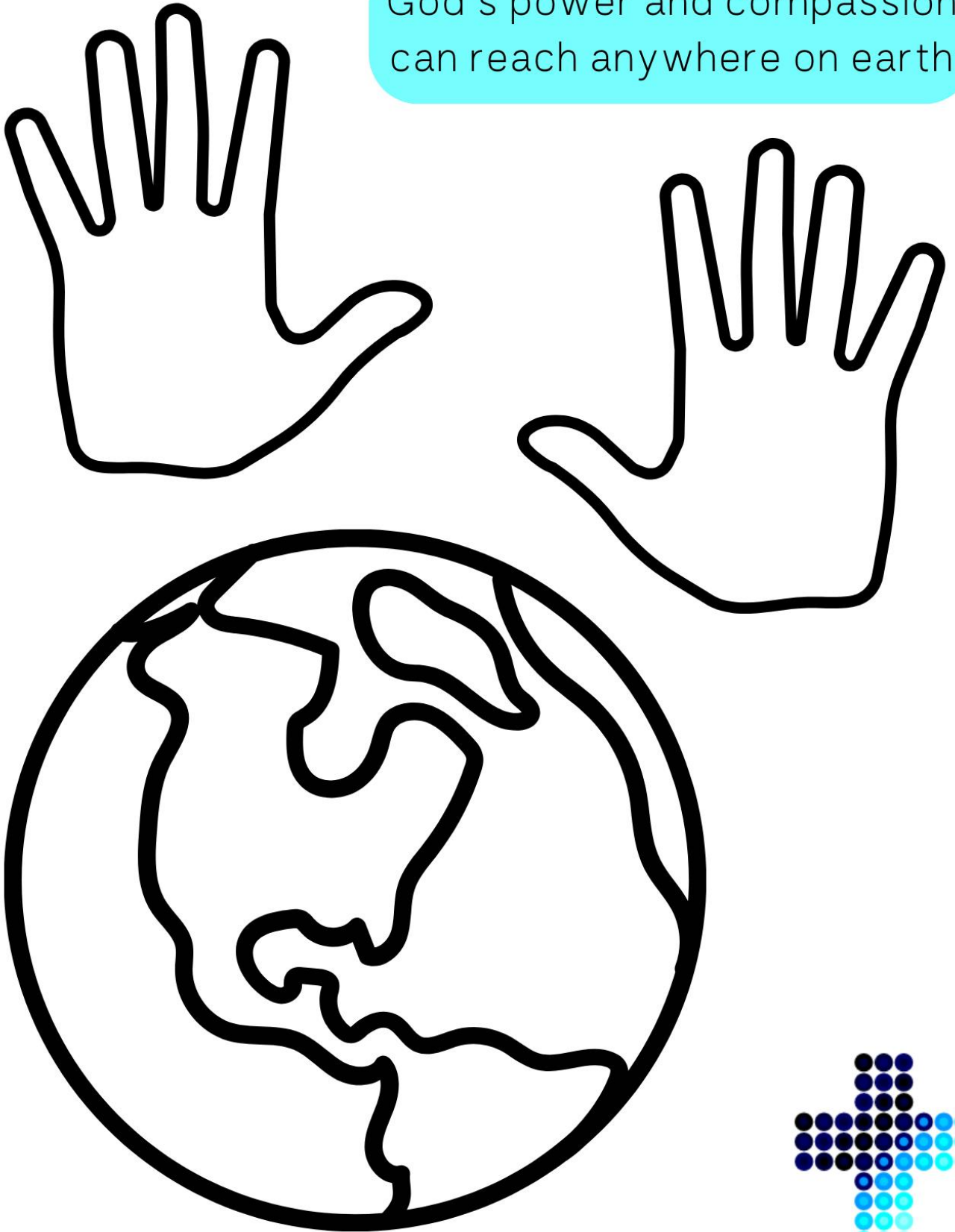
# CRAFT: WORLD HANDS

God's power and compassion can reach everywhere on earth

- 1) Prepare card circles (or ask the children to draw round a selotape reel and cut out the circle)
- 2) Each child draws around their hands (or use the template) on card and cuts them out
- 3) Colour the circle in to look like the earth
- 4) Stick your hands onto the circle to look like the earth is being held in God's hands

# Craft Session 3 Wicked King, Gracious God

God's power and compassion can reach anywhere on earth



# SESSION 4 GOD IS THE GREATEST

Big idea: God has no rival and He will not share His glory with another

God showed Elijah, Ahab and all the people that He alone is God and He invited the nation of Israel to repent, turn away from worshipping idols and turn back to Him.

5-9 years

# SESSION 4: GOD IS THE GREATEST

WARM UP GAME = beanbag catch

## INTRO

How could we find out who in the room is the strongest?

We have been learning about King Ahab, a wicked King of Israel who was turning the people away from God to worship Baal. God said through Elijah the prophet that it would not rain until Elijah prayed again. God then hid Elijah away and looked after him. In today's story, Elijah is going to come out of hiding and show the people once and for all, who is the real God - Yahweh the God of Israel, or Baal?

BIBLE STORY = Elijah and the prophets of Baal

*There is a nice object lesson here that you could use or adapt for telling the story:*

<https://www.futureflyingsaucers.com/elijah-prophets-baal-object-lesson/>

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out the power of God and the grace of God in showing Himself to Ahab and the people even though the people had been unfaithful to Him.

Suggested questions: What would it have been like to be on the mountain when the fire came down? What does the story show us about God? God showed Himself to Ahab and the people and gave them a chance to turn back to Him. Do you think they deserved this? What does grace/gracious mean?

GAME - Fire from Heaven

PRAYER - Thank God for His grace towards us. Ask Him to show you more of who He is.

CRAFT Fire from heaven collage picture

## MEMORY VERSE

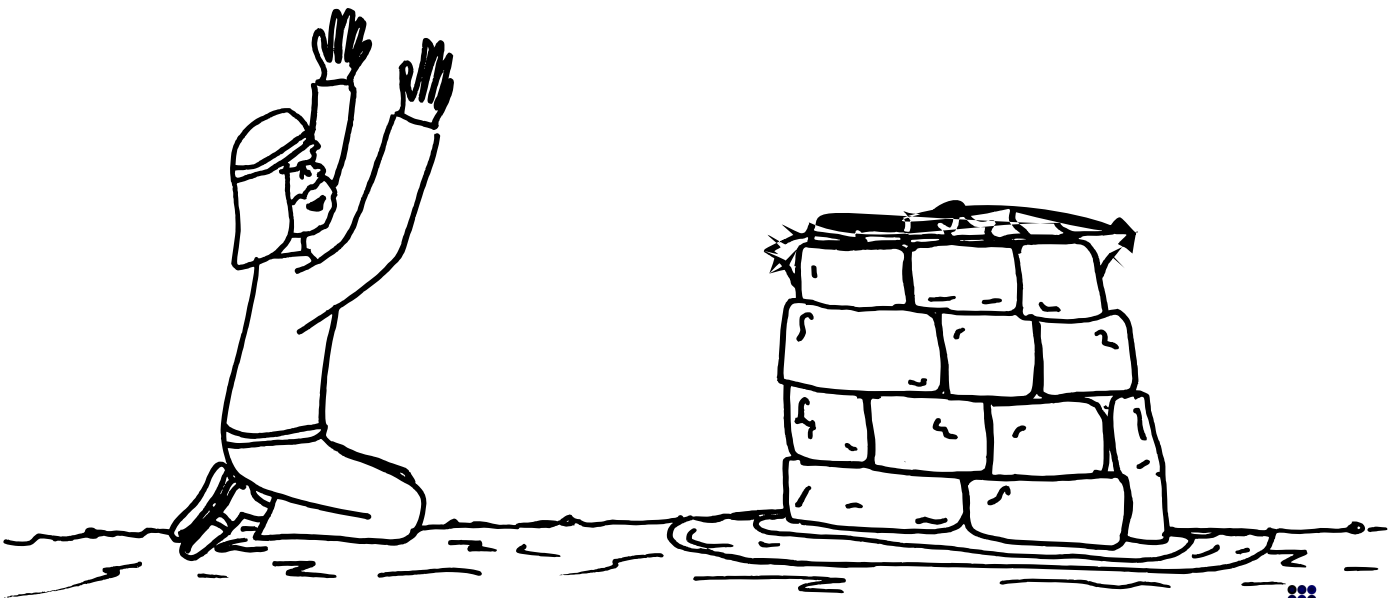
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalms 86:15



# ELIJAH CALLS DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN

Then fire from the Lord came down. It burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the ground around the altar. It also dried up the water in the ditch. When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground. They cried, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!" 1 Kings 18v38-39



# GAME: BEANBAG CATCH

*Equipment: beanbag*

*Simple name learning game*

Everyone in a circle. Go round the circle and say your name. Throw a beanbag from one person to another across the circle, calling the name of the person you are throwing to. Make sure everyone has had a chance to catch and throw.

# GAME: FIRE FROM HEAVEN

*You will need: 2 hoops to be altars, two soft toys or cushions you can pretend are a sacrificial animal on the altar, beanbags or playpit balls (preferably yellow or red in colour) to be fire*

Lay the two hoops on the ground at one end of the room, one for each team. Put a sheep/pillow in each hoop to be the animal on the altar. Divide the children into two teams and line them up at the opposite end of the room. Give them balls/beanbags to throw. They take it in turns trying to throw the fire (beanbags) onto the sacrifice (in the hoops) and see which team gets the most hits.

# CRAFT: FIRE FROM HEAVEN

*You will need: work sheets, red/yellow/gold paper to cut and stick, glue, scissors*

Use the worksheets or draw your own picture of Elijah on Mount Carmel. Use the fire-coloured paper to create a collage of fire coming down from Heaven on the sacrifice. Colour in the picture

# SESSION 5 GOD LISTENS

Big idea: God listens to His servants who keep on praying and shows grace to those who don't deserve it

Elijah had faith that God would send rain. God listened to the persistent prayer of His servant, Elijah. Ahab didn't deserve rain, but God responded to the repentance of the people and the persistent prayers of His prophet

5-9 years

# SESSION 5: GOD LISTENS

## INTRO

What do you think the word “grace” means? God shows us His grace when He gives us good things that we don’t deserve.

What does “repent” mean? To repent is to turn around and go the other way.

## ACTIVITY – Repent!

Now we will see what God did when the people repented...

**BIBLE STORY** – Elijah prays for rain 1Kings 18v41-46 (you may wish to act it out)

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out the persistence and faith of Elijah – he declared what was going to happen before he had even started to pray and then he prayed 7 times until there was a cloud! Also, the grace of God in sending rain on Israel when they did not deserve it. Even when the people have been unfaithful to God, God is faithful to them and at the first sign of repentance, He sends blessing. It’s like He is waiting, longing to give us His blessing, and as soon as His people turn to Him, He pours out His love on them.

Suggested questions: Why did Elijah keep praying? What does the story show us about God? Why did God send rain?

**GAME** – Pray, look, rain, run

**PRAYER** – Thank God for His grace towards us. Ask God to help you to keep on praying and to know Him better and better.

**CRAFT** Mountain rain

## MEMORY VERSE

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalm 86:15



# ACTIVITY: REPENT!

To “repent” is to turn around and go the other way.

Ask everyone to stand up and start walking from one end of the room to the other. Whenever you shout “repent!” they must turn and walk in the other direction.

After a few goes ask them to all start on the same wall. Designate one person to pretend to be God and stand at the beginning wall and one person to pretend to be Baal and stand by the opposite wall.

The Bible teaches that everyone has turned away from God and God is calling us back to Himself. In this story, the Israelites have turned away from God and are following the false god Baal. *Everyone start walking towards Baal.*

Elijah made them stop and think! *Everyone stop!*

He said there would be no rain and there was none. But the people still followed Baal. *Walk towards Baal again.*

Then after three years Elijah made them stop again. *Stop!*

He called everyone together on Mount Carmel to see if God or Baal could send fire from Heaven. God sent fire from Heaven and Elijah told the people to choose who they would follow. They repented and turned back to God. *Everyone turn around and walk towards the first wall.*

# GAME: PRAY, LOOK, RAIN, RUN

*Equipment: None*

Ask the children to walk around the room and follow these instructions as quickly as they can:

- When you say “Pray!”, they must kneel in a prayer position
- When you say “Look!”, they must stand on tip toes and pretend to look out to sea
- When you say “Rain!”, they must jump up and down and cheer
- When you say “Run!” they must run around the room

# CRAFT: MOUNTAIN RAIN

*You will need: paper plates, PVA glue, rice, pens, (cotton wool)*

- Each child takes a paper plate and draws a mountain, a cloud above the mountain (could use cotton wool) and colours it in
- Glue on rice to look like rain falling from the cloud onto the mountain

# SESSION 6 GOD STRENGTHENS AND SPEAKS

Big idea: God gives rest to the weary and speaks to His children

Elijah was terrified of losing his life and ran into the wilderness, where God took care of him and met with him at Mount Horeb (Sinai), drawing Elijah into His presence and showing Elijah who He is and what is to come

5-9 years

# SESSION 6: GOD STRENGTHENS

ICEBREAKER GAME – balloon knee pass

## INTRO

When do you feel weary/worn out? What do you like to do to rest?

Recap the main characters: Ahab, Jezebel, Elijah

Elijah had been at Mount Carmel, showing everyone that Yahweh, the God of Israel, is the one true God by calling down fire from Heaven and praying for rain. However, the evil Queen Jezebel, who wanted everyone to worship Baal, threatened to hunt Elijah down and kill him. So, in spite of a huge victory at Mount Carmel, he runs for his life.

**BIBLE STORY** – Elijah meets with God 1Kings 19v1-18 (you may wish to act it out)

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out that Elijah was weak and afraid, just like we get scared sometimes. Elijah needed God's help. God was patient and gentle with him, feeding him and then calling him to Mount Horeb, which is known as Mount Sinai. This is the same place Moses met with God. God showed him his glory and spoke with him, strengthening Elijah.

Suggested questions: How was Elijah feeling at the start of the story? Why was he afraid? How did God look after him? How did God appear to Elijah on the Mountain? How might Elijah have felt after he had met with and spoken to God?

**GAME** – Chinese whispers

**PRAYER** To hear the person whispering, what did you have to do? *Be quiet, lean in and pay attention to what they are saying.* Often God speaks to us when we are quiet and listen. Have a go at sitting/lying down and listening to some worship music. When a thought/prayer/picture comes into your head, write/draw it and share it with each other. See what God is saying to you and pray for these things.

Thank God for His kindness and gentleness. Ask God to strengthen each other.

**CRAFT** Cups telephone

## MEMORY VERSE

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalm 86:15



# ICEBREAKER: BALLOON PASS

*You will need: a balloon per team*

Line the children up one behind the other. The person at the front of the line puts the balloon between their knees and passes the balloon to the person behind them. The balloon is passed to the back of the queue only using your knees. The person at the back runs to the front and starts again until everyone has been the person at the front of the queue. This can be done in two or more teams

# CHINESE WHISPERS

*Equipment: None*

Ask the children to sit in a circle. One person begins by whispering a sentence in the ear of the person next to them. That person then whispers to the next person and so and forth until the sentence has gone all around the circle. The last person speaks out what they heard and the first person says what they began with.

# CRAFT: TELEPHONE CUPS

*You will need: paper cups, something sharp to poke a hole in the bottom of the cups, string, pens*

- Poke a hole in the bottom of the cups
- Each child decorates two cups
- Cut a length of string, thread it into the cups and tie a knot to stop it falling out.

# SESSION 7 GOD OF THE WHOLE EARTH

Big idea: God's power is not limited to one time or place.

God is sovereign over every place and at all times. He is faithful to His covenant people even when they are unfaithful and He is gracious to them.

5-9 years

# SESSION 7: GOD OF THE WHOLE EARTH

ICEBREAKER GAME – banana tag

## INTRO

If someone hurt you, but then needed help, do you think you would help them?

Recap the story:

King Ahab was a wicked king of Israel who led the people to worship the idol Baal. God showed Himself to the people of Israel by sending a drought, then fire from Heaven, then rain in response to the prayers of Elijah the prophet. The people of Israel turned back to worship Yahweh. Now Ahab is under threat from a foreign king. Let's see if God will come to their aid...

**BIBLE STORY** – Ahab v Ben-Hadad– story from 1 Kings 20v1-30 (see story sheet for shortened version for acting out/storytelling)

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out that Ahab does not appear to have prayed to Yahweh the God of the Bible, yet God sends a prophet to Ahab and offers him help anyway. This is an example of God's "grace". God looks after His people, even when King Ahab did not deserve help. Ben-Hadad thought maybe God's power was limited to just the plains or just the hills, but God is God of the whole Earth and His power is not limited.

Suggested questions: What trouble was Ahab in? Why did God send a prophet to Ahab and what did He say? How did Ahab respond? What did God show Ben Hadad and King Ahab about His power?

**GAME** – Hills and plains

**PRAYER** What difficulties do you face in your week? Anything at school or at home? God loves to help us. Let's pray for God's help and thank Him for taking care of us.

**CRAFT** Battle scene

**MEMORY VERSE**

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalms 86:15



# KING AHAB V BEN-HADAD

For this storytelling, assign one leader as the Narrator; one leader as Ben-Hadad; one child as King Ahab; one child as the prophet; and the rest of the children as Israelites.

**Narrator:** One day the King of Syria, Ben-Hadad made war against Samaria, where King Ahab ruled in Israel. Ben-Hadad had 32 kings and thousands of chariots and horsemen with him. It was terrifying! He came right up to the walls of Samaria and sent a message to King Ahab.

**Ben-Hadad:** I am so powerful that no one can stand in my way! Ha ha! Give me all your gold! Everything good in your city belongs to me now! Mwahahaha!

**Narrator:** Ahab was in trouble, so he asked his friends what to do

**Ahab:** What should I do?

**Narrator:** His friends said "Don't listen to him!"

**Israelites:** Don't listen to him!

**Narrator:** Now Ben-Hadad was really angry. He told everyone to get ready to fight.

**Ben-Hadad:** Take your positions!

**Narrator:** Just then, a prophet of the Lord came to King Ahab and said "God says, "I am going to help you win, and you will know that I am the Lord.""

**(Prophet:** God says, "I am going to help you win and you will know that I am the Lord.")

**Narrator:** Ahab asked the prophet who should start the battle and the prophet said that Ahab's governors should start it. Ahab gathered the governors together and 7000 people of Israel to follow them. They went out at midday and defeated Ben Hadad's army, but Ben Hadad rode off on a horse. **(Israelites chase off Ben Hadad)**

**Narrator:** Then the prophet came to Ahab again and said “prepare your army! Because Ben-Hadad will be back in the Springtime.”

(**Prophet:** Prepare your army, because Ben-Hadad will be back in the Springtime)

**Ben-Hadad:** Do you know why I think I lost that battle? Because their gods must be gods of the hills! If I battle them on the flat plains, they will lose. Their gods won't be able to save them there.

**Narrator:** So Ben-Hadad gathered another huge army with commanders, horses and chariots. In the spring, he came again to Israel and set up for battle at a place called Aphek. He filled the plains with his enormous army and the army of Israel looked like two puny flocks of goats.

A prophet came to King Ahab again and said “because Ben Hadad has said I am a god of the hills only and not the plains as well, I will make you win against this huge army and you will know that I am God.”

(**Prophet:** because Ben-Hadad has said I am a god of the hills only and not the plains as well, I will make you win against this huge army and you will know that I am God.)

**Narrator:** For six days the Israelites waited and on the seventh day they charged against the Syrian army and struck down 100000 soldiers. (**Israelites** and **Ahab** chase **Ben-Hadad**) The rest of Ben-Hadad's army fled into the city called Aphek, but the wall of the city came tumbling down on the rest of Ben-Hadad's army.

It was a great victory for the Israelites. God won on the hills and He won on the plains, because He is God of the whole earth.

# ICEBREAKER: BANANA TAG

*You will need: no equipment*

1 person is on and tries to tag the other children. When tagged, you stand still with your arms together pointing straight up in the air. To be freed, someone has to “unpeel” your arms by pushing them apart and to your sides. Then you can continue to run

# GAME: HILLS AND PLAINS

*Equipment: 2 large buckets, bean bags, cups*

Split the children into two teams and line them up at one end of the room.

**Hills:** Set up the two buckets upside down at the other end of the room and balance an equal number of cups on each bucket.

The children take it in turns to knock down the cups with beanbags

First team to knockdown all the cups wins

**Plains:** This time set up the cups on the floor at the end of the room opposite where the children are standing and ask the children to take turns knocking down the cups with beanbags.

First team to knock down all the cups wins.

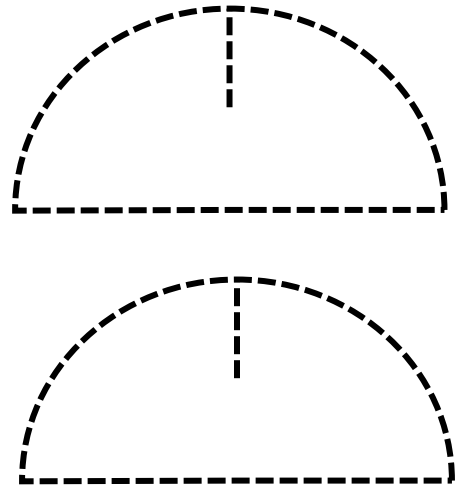
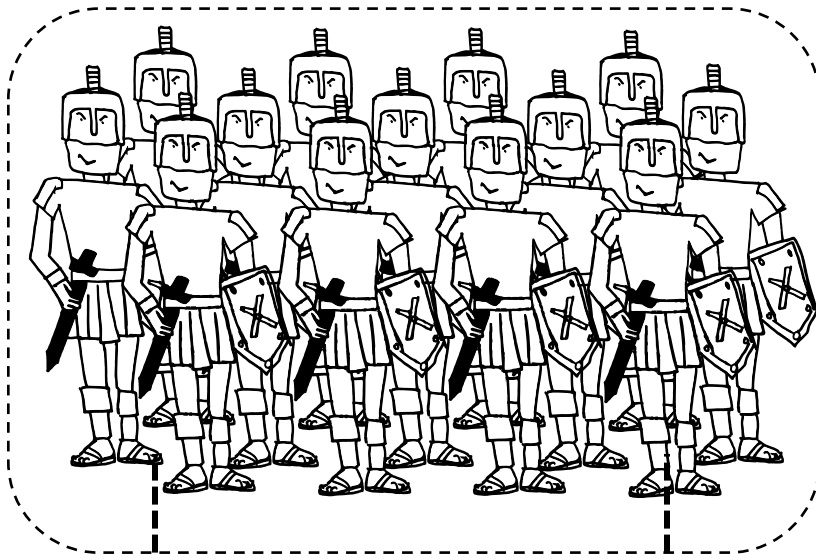
# CRAFT: BATTLE SCENE

*You will need: paper bowls, A4 paper or card, one worksheet per child, pens and glue*

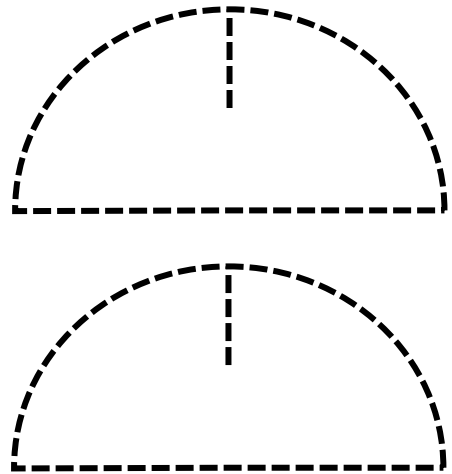
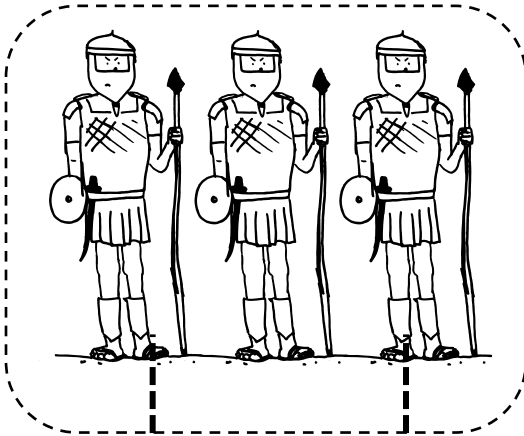
- Glue the bowl upside down on the A4 card/paper to be a hill.
- Colour in a battle scene of plains and a hill.
- Colour in and cut out the two armies and Ben-Hadad's chariot on the worksheet
- Cut out the stands and attach them to the armies and chariot
- You can use these cut outs to reenact the story

# BATTLE SCENE CRAFT SESSION 7

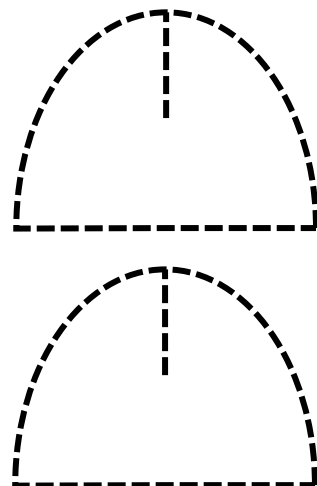
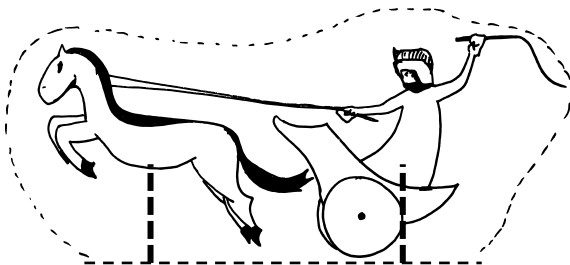
Syrian army



Israelite army



Ben-Hadad



# SESSION 8 GOD OF JUSTICE

Big idea: God is patient, but He is also just and if we choose not to repent, we face the punishment for our sins

God patiently showed Himself to Ahab and gave him many years to repent and trust Him. Ahab chose not to repent and remained wicked and faced the consequences. Jesus is a very different kind of King. He used His power for good.

5-9 years

# SESSION 8: GOD OF JUSTICE

ICEBREAKER GAME – Welcome beanbag

## INTRO

Recap the story:

King Ahab was a wicked king of Israel who led the people to worship the idol Baal. God showed Himself to the people of Israel by sending a drought, then fire from Heaven, then rain in response to the prayers of Elijah the prophet. The people of Israel turned back to worship Yahweh and God helped Ahab in battle. After all that, you would think that Ahab's heart would have changed. Let's see...

**BIBLE STORY** – Naboth's vineyard – story from 1 Kings 20v35-22v40 (see story sheet for shortened version for acting out/storytelling)

After telling the story, discuss it. In your discussion try to bring out that God was patient with Ahab and gave him many opportunities to repent, but Ahab chose wickedness. Instead of turning to God, saying sorry and thanking God, he became angry and selfish. Eventually, God brings on him the punishment that he deserves.

Suggested questions: Why was Ahab grumpy at the beginning of the story? What should Ahab have done instead of being angry with God? Why did he want Naboth's vineyard? How did he and Jezebel scheme to get it? Do you think God was right to punish Ahab and Jezebel? Ahab used his power as King to do bad things. What should a good king be like? What kind of King was Jesus?

**GAME** – Good king, bad king

**PRAYER** How do you want to be like Jesus/how do you not want to be like Ahab? Pray for these things.

**CRAFT** – King Ahab, King Jesus

## MEMORY VERSE

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

Psalm 86:15



# NABOTH'S VINEYARD

*For this storytelling, assign one leader as Ahab; one child or leader as Jezebel; one child or leader as Naboth, one child or leader as Elijah and the rest as Israelites.*

**Ahab:** I'm so annoyed! Gah! We just had a great big battle with Ben-Hadad the King of Syria and we won. Great. I followed Yahweh's prophet's instructions exactly. I did everything I was supposed to. All I did was make a deal with Ben-Hadad at the end of the battle and let him go free and then Yahweh sends this prophet after me to tell me off! What?? What did I do? Can't a king make a deal with another king if he wants to? Who's in charge of Israel anyway? Me or Yahweh? I'm the king, aren't I? Well now I'm really annoyed. I'm going home...

*(Stomps home and looks out of window)*

**Ahab:** Hmmph. Who's vineyard is that? Naboth's! Ah that goody two shoes. He's one of those Yahweh worshippers and look how big the grapes are in his vineyard! My vegetables have hardly grown this year but his are enormous! I bet Yahweh's been blessing him. Hmmph! How annoying! I want his vineyard. I'm the king. It should be mine

*(Goes to see Naboth)*

**Naboth:** Hello your majesty, how can I help you?

**Ahab:** How much for your vineyard?

**Naboth:** Sorry your majesty, it's not for sale

**Ahab:** I'll give you a better one. Anywhere you like, but I want yours. I'm the king. I can get you a better one.

**Naboth:** That's been in my family for generations and God said that the land He gives us we are not to sell to another tribe. That's how He looks after us. He makes sure my children and my children's children will have land too.

**Ahab:** Gah! This God is really annoying me! *(Stomps home)*

**Jezebel:** What on earth's the matter with you?

**Ahab:** Naboth won't give me his vineyard. Hmmph.

**Jezebel:** What? Well don't just stand there. Who's the king of Israel? You or him?

**Ahab:** I am. But He seems to think Yahweh is, so he won't sell it to me. Says it goes against God's rules.

**Jezebel:** This is easy to fix. I'll sort it out. Call everyone together and get two nasty men to say awful things about Naboth then have him killed.

**Ahab:** Great idea!

*(All the Israelites come together)*

**Ahab:** So glad you could all come! We have a very important announcement! These two fellows say that Naboth has spoken wickedly against Yahweh and against me the King! Take him away and kill him!

*(Naboth is taken away)*

**Ahab:** And now I shall have his vineyard *(rubbing hands with glee)*

*(Elijah dramatically appears)*

**Elijah:** Ahab!

**Ahab:** Oh, not you again, Elijah, my old enemy!

**Elijah:** Have you killed a man and stolen his land? You and Jezebel will die because of this!

A short while later, Jezebel was killed in the same city where Naboth had been killed and Ahab was killed in battle against the king of Syria

# ICEBREAKER: BEANBAG WELCOME

*You will need: 1 beanbag*

Practice each other's names by throwing a beanbag to one another across the circle and calling "Welcome...Anna!", "Welcome...Samuel!" etc. to the person you are throwing it to.

## CRAFT:

*You will need: Paper, pens*

Fold your piece of paper in half. You can use the worksheet if preferred. On one side, draw Ahab and write/draw what made him a bad king. On the other side, draw Jesus and write/draw what makes Him a good King.

# GOOD KING, BAD KING

*Equipment: None*

Label when end of the room as good king and one end of the room as bad king

Read out the following statements and get the children to run to the good king or bad king side to say whether they think it is something a good or bad king would do

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Helps people                                | 12. Eats all the best food while others in the kingdom go hungry |
| 2. Takes people's money                        | 13. Needlessly makes war   |
| 3. Protects people                             | 14. Makes peace  |
| 4. Loves his people like they are his children | 15. Makes foolish decisions                                      |
| 5. Takes people's land                         | 16. Is wise  |
| 6. Makes people slaves                         | 17. Is merciful  |
| 7. Prays for the people                        | 18. Looks after the poor   |
| 8. Serves people                               | 19. Looks after foreigners                                       |
| 9. Pays people a fair amount of money          | 20. Let's rich wicked people pay him to do evil                  |
| 10. Looks after people                         | 21. Puts people in prison for doing nothing wrong                |
| 11. Hurts people                               |  |

*Isaiah 9:6 prophecies about what kind of King Jesus will be:*

A child will be born to us.

God will give a son to us.

He will be responsible for leading the people.

His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,

Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.



KING AHAHAB KING JESUS