



GOD'S INCREDIBLE PLAN

Unit 8 • Divided Kingdom/Prophets

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In the study of the Divided Kingdom / Prophets we see the contrast between God's faithfulness and the faithlessness of most of the descendants of Abraham. Yet a few faithful people shine out in the darkness.

"Solomon's death left a weakened kingdom of Israel. Consequently, rebellion occurred and Solomon's general, Jeroboam, took ten tribes under his leadership to form the northern kingdom which continued to be called Israel. Solomon's son Rehoboam, was able to retain only two tribes of the original twelve, both located in the southern portion of the kingdom. The two tribes were those of Judah and Benjamin and this kingdom became known as Judah. This southern area of the original kingdom, now called Judah, included Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple.

"God's Spokesmen: The Prophets. God chose to speak to His People in a different form since there no longer was a king over a unified people. Thus, from this time forward to the end of the Old Testament, God raised up prophets and spoke through them. He had used prophets before (such as Samuel during the time of Saul and David) but the importance of the prophets increased dramatically after the division of the kingdom, since God used them to call the people back to Himself and His ways.

"The prophets spoke God's Word, explaining the past, exposing the sin of the present, and declaring what God was going to do in the future. They were God's appointed spokesmen, foretelling current events as well as delivering a great amount of 'predictive' prophecy. Much of this predictive prophecy concerned a future, glorious Kingdom right here in God's Land. In the Garden of Eden, Eve had been given a first glimpse of the One 'who would crush the head of the serpent' (see Genesis 3:15). Now the prophets told more about this One who would be David's Greater Son and who would rule forever on David's throne as the King of Kings.

"The northern kingdom lasted from 931 B.C. until 721 B.C. when Assyria conquered the nation and most of the inhabitants were dispersed. Even during the decadence and decay of this era, however, God never left His people without a witness. During this period of time in Israel's history a great prophet of God lived and spoke. His name was Elijah."[1]

The prophet Isaiah spoke to Judah, the southern kingdom, and to the future of all mankind. Through Isaiah, God spoke of His Plan of Salvation, revealing more details than ever before. He told of a future full of hardship, but ultimately the promise of salvation for the whole world. God, Himself, would come to earth and personally solve man's dilemma.

[1] Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, ©1978, Fleming H. Revell Co., pp. 60-61.



THE LORD IS GOD

God's Incredible Plan • U8#1 1st-3rd Grade • Feb. 8, 2026

Concept

The God of the Bible is the only true God.

Goal

Students will learn that God is the only real God and wants us to look to Him for our happiness.

Passage

1 Kings 17, 18, 19, 2 Kings 2

Key Verse: "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." 1 Kings 18:21 (NIV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 <i>"Elijah's Travels" game boards</i>• 2 <i>spinners, one for each game board</i>• 2 <i>sets of Elijah game laminated playing pieces</i>• Playdough, enough for 16 small balls <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 <i>Tribes of Judah map puzzle from Unit 6#2</i>• <i>Divided Kingdom 11" x 17" map</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mighty Acts of God, Starr Meade</i>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who Will You Follow? worksheet, 1/student• Pencils, 1/student

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"The message of Elijah was simple: Jehovah, He is God. Elijah delivered with force and power the message that God is the God of nature and the God of judgment. This was made clear when Elijah prayed for drought and got it, and when he prayed for fire from heaven and got that.

"The courage of Elijah was phenomenal. He challenged everything of prominence in the northern kingdom: Ahab the king, Jezebel the queen, their power, their 450 false priests, and the people following their leadership. His challenge to the people of Israel was clear: How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if your idol is god, follow him.

"After watching Elijah's victory over the false priests and prophets of the idol Baal, the people of Israel cried out, 'Jehovah, He is God!' Sadly, however, the people went to their homes and nothing changed in their lives.

"Elijah was a strong voice for God. The reason he could speak with such courage was that Elijah, like Moses before him, knew God personally. He also knew he was God's personal representative. That created in him the courage and the responsibility to speak out against the false gods and the hundreds of false priests and prophets arrayed against him.

"The contrast between the actions of Elijah and the response of the people illustrates man's continual dilemma. The people admitted, on an intellectual basis, that Jehovah was God but they went away without establishing a personal relationship with Him. When the reality of their confrontation faded, their interest waned and their idolatrous environment again became their focus. They may even have blamed God for not being 'real' to them. The fact remains that in spite of Elijah's great victory and long ministry, Israel did not turn to God and call on His name. As a result, God, true to His word, removed His protection from Israel and allowed Assyria to conquer the nation in 721 B.C., causing most of the inhabitants to be dispersed."^[1]

Elijah believed in the God of Abraham, and followed wherever He called him to go. He did not do this perfectly, as when he ran from Jezebel, but most often faithfully and with great courage. He called the people to believe in God and to act out that belief by putting God first, and following His Word.

[1] Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, ©1978, Fleming H. Revell Co., p. 61.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Activity Station

- **Game – Elijah's Travels**
 - **Instructions:** To use the laminated pictures as playing pieces, make 16 small balls of playdough and push each picture into a playdough ball. Each group of 8 students should have a playing board, a spinner and a playing piece. Start at "Tishbe" (start) and use the spinner to advance to the fiery chariot at the finish. The first player to get Elijah to the fiery chariot wins. Point out the 8 sites on the map as the students reach them and read the box for each one.
- **Worksheet – Who Will You Follow?**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a worksheet and follow the directions.
- **Missions Prayer**
 - **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Instructions: Put the 12 Tribes of Israel map puzzle and "The Divided Kingdom" map on the white board to show the students the progression of the boundaries of the nation from Joshua to the division of the northern and southern kingdoms after the death of Solomon.

After King Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two parts because Solomon and the people had not allowed God to rule. The Northern Kingdom was still called Israel and included the lands of ten of the tribes. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah and was made up of the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin. (*Point to the two kingdoms.*)

Most of the kings of both Israel and Judah were evil and followed other gods. Since the kings weren't leading the people for God, God chose men called prophets to speak to the people for Him. The special mission of the prophets was to remind the people that they were helpless without God so they would hopefully turn back to Him. The prophets reminded the people of all the things God had done for them and told them what God had planned for them in the future.

God sent the prophet, Elijah, to speak to the Northern Kingdom, Israel. He had bad news to tell them because they had turned away from the real God and worshipped the idol named Baal. God wanted the people to change their minds and turn back to Him. He said to the people through Elijah, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). This is today's key verse. Let's say that together (repeat).

To remind the people that He is real, God did many powerful acts through Elijah. Would you like to hear about God's fireworks? Listen while I read about what happened.

Instructions: Read Mighty Acts of God, “Elijah and the Prophets of Baal,” pp. 105-107

Who remembers our key verse? Open your Bibles to 1 Kings 18:21. “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

How did you do at following the leader? What does a soldier do when he “follows orders?” (He does what his commanding officer tells him to do.) What do your mom or dad do when they “follow a recipe” to cook something? (They do what the recipe tells them.) When we follow, we have to depend on the leader to give us good orders to follow.

Rather than depending on the real God, the people of Israel depended on idols, pretend gods made up by people. So God sent Elijah to tell the people they were wrong. Baal was just a pretend god. He couldn’t help or protect them, or give them the things they needed. Only the God of the Bible is real. Elijah said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). Do you remember in the skit how God proved to the people that He was the only true God? What did God do? (He burned up all the water and wet wood.) What did Baal do? (He did nothing.) That’s because Baal is a pretend god. He was made up by people so he couldn’t give any orders. The God of the Bible proved that He is the real God.

In our country today people don’t usually worship statues of weird-looking idols like Baal. But many still believe in pretend gods rather than believe in the true God. We choose to believe pretend gods because we don’t believe that the real God is good, that He loves us and is powerful enough to take care of us.

Good News

God created everything—the earth, the stars, angels, plants, animals, and us. He loves us more than we can ever imagine. He loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for our sin. Because Jesus paid for our sin we can be God’s children. To become His child we ask God to forgive us because Jesus died on the cross for us. We can tell Him that we know we can’t be good enough to be His children, and we want to accept the free gift of forgiveness that Jesus wants to give us. The Bible tells us that all who believe in Christ will become God’s children. If we do that, Jesus will come to live forever in our hearts through His Holy Spirit.

Let’s get into our small groups to talk and to pray.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

- We want to follow God sometimes, but sometimes we don't. Is there a toy you'd really like to have? Something that you believe would make you happy forever?
- Have you ever gotten a toy you thought you had to have? What was it? Did it make you happy? Does it still make you happy? Do you still use it?
- God wants us to follow Him because only He knows what will really make us happy. But God allows us to make our own choices, good and bad ones. Who remembers our key verse? "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him " (1 Kings 18:21). How can you know if you follow God?

Commercials for toys often promise that you will be happy if you buy them. Toys are fun to play with and can bring a lot of enjoyment, but they can't make us happy all the time. Our toys can be like the gods that the Israelites worshipped. Just like we think our toys will make us happy, the Israelites thought that the pretend gods would make them happy. God made us. He made us so that we can only be truly happy if we know and love Him. Let's pray. If you believe He is God and want to follow Him, pray with me that He will remind us that He is the only real God and wants us to look to Him for our happiness.

Transition

Let's have some fun pretending we are camels running through the desert carrying Elijah away from wicked Queen Jezebel. Let's get into two teams first.

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Game - "Camel Connection" [1]

Instructions: Divide into two teams. Team players sit on the floor in a single file line and link arms with the player next to them to form a "camel connection." At the signal, the team must scoot to the finish line on the other side of the room. When players become separated, they must reconnect before the team can continue the race. The winning team must completely cross the finish line.

[1] Adventure Club Traveling Through God's Time, 1992, David C. Cook, p. 151.