

# THE GOD CONTEST

## LESSON PLAN

2-4  
year-olds

### Session Summary:

God has done amazing things to prove who he is. He is the one we should love and follow.

### Pray

Let's talk to God before we read the story:

*Dear God, please show us who you are. Amen.*

### Listen\*

(Read the story from *The God Contest*.)

### Game and Thinking

Play the game below and then ask three simple questions:

Give your child(ren) a few manageable challenges, asking each time, "Are you someone who can (for example) spin round three times?" If they answer "yes", tell them "Show me". Chances are they that will just show you without saying "yes" first, in which case after each challenge say, "You showed me that you're someone who can..."

*At the start of our story, did the people of Israel know which god was the real God?*

*Did the God of the Bible send fire to show he is the real God?*

*Later on did Jesus rise from the dead to show that he is the God of the Bible?*

### Listen to God from the Bible

In 1 Kings chapter 18 verse 21, Elijah says, "If the Lord is the true God, follow him".

### Pray

Let's talk to God again now:

*Jesus, you showed us that you are God by coming back to life after you had died. Only God could do that! Wow! Thank you that you invite us to be your friends. Amen.*

### Craft Idea

Using a piece of paper and some pencils/crayons, draw things that show who you are (a picture of yourself, your family, where you live, tracing letters to have a go at writing your name...) As you draw together, talk about what we know about who Jesus is. Do they know any other ways Jesus showed that he is the King of everything?

See ideas at the end of the session below for things to do "In the Week".



\* *The God Contest* by Carl Laferton/Catalina Echeverri is available from Christian retailers and at [thegoodbook.com](http://thegoodbook.com) (US) / [thegoodbook.co.uk](http://thegoodbook.co.uk) (UK).

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## IN THE WEEK

### ***Learn a memory verse:***

As a family, learn the verse below over the course of the week. You could write up the memory verse somewhere and cover words with post-it notes or write out the initial letters only, or try setting it to a familiar tune to help you learn it...

“If the Lord is the true God, follow him.” (1 Kings 18 v 21)

### ***Enjoy singing about who Jesus is:***

Two songs about the resurrection: “He lives! (An Easter Song)” (Colin Buchanan’s *The Easter Hokey Pokey*); “He has Risen!” (Awesome Cutlery’s *This is Awesome Cutlery*).

Two songs that speak of various ways that Jesus proved his divine identity: “Who is this man?” (*The King, the Snake and the Promise*); “Jesus is the King” (*Meet the King*).

A hymn of praise to the risen Christ: “Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed” (Keith and Kristyn Getty’s *Getty Kids’ Hymnal—In Christ Alone*).



# TALES THAT TELL THE TRUTH LESSONS

## INTRODUCTION



You can use these suggested lesson plans to give you a quick-to-prepare way of engaging with a story in the *Tales That Tell the Truth* Bible storybook series, and with the Scripture that underpins it, helping children to see what it means for them.

Each session includes:

- A “Session Summary” to help the adult leading the session know where it’s going.
- A suggested session for pre-school age children (2-4 years).
- A differentiated lesson plan for children from 5-11, with different activities signalled as being for “Younger” (approximately 5-7-year-old) and “Older” (approximately 8-11-year-old) children. In some instances, there are also possible further questions/activities you can use for older children in a family.

Use what you judge appropriate for your children’s experience, understanding and concentration. (You may find the “younger” questions more helpful for an older child who is unfamiliar with the Bible or the gospel message.) But try to include something from the “Let’s listen to God”, “Let’s think” and “Let’s pray together” sections, as well as the story-telling. Feel free to cover the material in more than one sitting!

Each lesson is put together so that it can be read out directly as it is written, with any explanatory notes for adults included in brackets. It is as light on necessary materials as possible but includes many of the elements your children might be used to from Sunday church:

- An introductory activity that establishes a key concept the children will need to grasp in order to understand the passage.
- Activities to help them engage as they listen to or read the Bible story.
- A story-telling segment that seeks to tell the Bible story in a memorable and visually engaging way. (This involves using part of a book from the *Tales That Tell The Truth* series. In some of the sessions, the book is deliberately read in two parts so that you can look at the Bible before reinforcing the message using the remaining pages of the book.)
- An opportunity to think about a passage of Scripture and what it means, using appropriate questions.
- An activity or discussion that encourages the children to understand what the passage means for us today.
- Encouragement to children to pray in light of what they’ve learnt about Jesus in the lesson.
- Games that reinforce the learning, but that also provide a concentration break and a chance to move around!
- Craft activities, ranging from those requiring minimal resources to more complicated projects.

Each session ends with specific suggestions for ways you can revisit what you have been thinking about over the course of the week. Here are some other ideas for ways to recap what you have learnt:

- Show your craft proudly over Zoom/Skype/Facetime etc... to a family member or friend!
- Replay the game. Can your children remember what it reminds us about Jesus?
- Encourage children to have a go at re-teaching the lesson to their dolls/playmobil/Sylvanian families.
- Read the storybook at bedtime.

As far as is currently allowed, why not try to get together with another family with children of a similar age? You can share around the “leading” and enjoy precious time together!

We pray that these resources will give families and churches a way of engaging their children with Scripture at a time when normal church family life has been disrupted and that they will grow all of us in love for our powerful, loving, saving Lord!

