








PRE-PRIMARY OVERVIEW

PRE-PRIMARY	LESSON 1	LESSON 2	LESSON 3	LESSON 4	LESSON 5
TITLE	Ready to Race: God Prepares Us	Communication: God Guides Us	Showdown: God Empowers Us	Pit Stop: God Refuels Us	Racing Team: God Invites New Racers
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	1 Kings 17:1–6 (At the Brook Cherith)	1 Kings 17:7–24 (In Zarephath)	1 Kings 18:17–46 (On Mount Carmel)	1 Kings 19:1–18 (On the Run from Jezebel)	2 Kings 2:1–15 (With Elisha)
FOCUS	God provides for our needs as He prepares us to serve Him.	God guides us through His Word and prayer.	God empowers us as we put our faith in Him.	God renews us when we become discouraged.	God wants us to invite others to join His team.
MEMORY VERSE	“It is God who works in you” (Philippians 2:13).	“Lead me in Your truth and teach me” (Psalm 25:5).	Theme Verse “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).	“Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31).	“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19).
MASCOT	Wynn 	Cam and Ginny 	Chase 	Zoey 	Spark Plug 
GAMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race to the Brook • Tire Scrub • Ready, Set, Roll! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race Rally Champs • Steering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chariot Race • Altar Soak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back on Track • Wind! Earthquake! Fire! <i>whisper</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mantle Hand-Off • Fiery Whirlwind Relay • Teamwork Juggle
SNACKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bread by the Brook • Cool Off • Banana Racer • Oil Check 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticks 'n' Dip • Obedience O's • Smile—Jesus Loves You! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power Pack Snack • On God's Winning Team • Trophy with Toppings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cave Chomp • Frozen Fuel • Fuel Up • Pit Stop Punch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop & Go Fruit Kabobs • Cross the Jordan • Brownie Car
CRAFTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speedy Sun Catchers • Elijah's Raven • Driver's Backpack Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color Your Own Racers • Stoplight Craft Kit • Get in Gear! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speedway Scratch Art Magnets • Jesus' Victory Craft Kit • Power Pennant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Is My Champion! • Racetrack Spinner • Trophy Encouragement Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Finish Craft Kit • Go and Tell Fuzzy • Victory Circle Trophy

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Regular Baptist Press

RegularBaptistPress.org • rbpVBS.org

© 2025 Regular Baptist Press • RBP33953 • ISBN 979-8-88973-099-6

Joshua Mason, Creative Manager • Erin Kealen, Writer • New King James Version

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PRE- PRIMARY

TEACHER BOOK



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READY TO RACE:

God Prepares Us

1 Kings 17:1–6***Memory Verse***

“It is God who works in you” (Phil. 2:13).

Theme

God provides for our needs as He prepares us to serve Him.

Takeaway

I will thank God for preparing me to serve Him.



- Greet students with enthusiasm and a smile. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (33933) and Rocket Racers passes (33934).
- Open the class time with prayer.

TIPS ►

A decorating ideas book is included in every Rocket Racers intro kit and at rbpVBS.org.

Plastic trees and plants can be purchased in pet stores in the fish section or at hobby stores.

TIP ►

If possible, keep the brook decoration intact throughout VBS. For lesson 5, it can be the "Jordan River."



VBS Resources Disk 1
(33902DC)
L1-PP-MemoryMatch

TIP ►

Printouts in the materials lists with names in the format **L1-PP-MemoryMatch** are located in the teaching resources folder of the VBS Resources (33902 or 33902DC).

TIP ►

If you have mostly younger students, use fewer pairs of matching cards.



Option 1: Brook Habitat

Materials

- Decorating ideas book (33908); plastic animals and plants; *optional*: photos of brooks.

Before class: Follow the instructions in the decorating ideas book to construct a brook. Leave some of the rocks outside the brook and place the animals and plants nearby. *Optional:* Display photos of brooks.

"Brook" is a name for water that's like a river but is smaller than a river. (*Point out the brook photos if you have them.*) Brooks often have rocks at the bottom. Sometimes small fish swim in the brook, and animals stop to drink from the brook. Let's finish building a pretend brook and learn more about the brook habitat.

ACTIVITY: Students gather around the brook and work together to place rocks at the bottom and around the edges. Have students arrange the plants and animals around the brook. Discuss how the brook provides water for the animals. Explain how brooks, rivers, and lakes depend on rainfall so we can have water to drink.

In today's true story from the Bible, we are going to learn about a man named Elijah. It didn't rain for a long time, but Elijah obeyed God, and God took care of him at a brook.

Option 2: Rocket Racers Memory Match

Materials

- Memory Match cards from the teaching resources on the VBS resources (33902 or 33902DC, **L1-PP-MemoryMatch**); card stock; scissors; zipper sandwich bags.

Before class: Print out colored copies of the Memory Match cards on card stock and cut them out. Make one set of matching cards for every two or three students. Place each set in a zipper bag.

A race car driver and his pit crew need to remember lots of things to get ready for the race. See if you can remember the matches.

ACTIVITY: Organize students into pairs or groups of three, with older and younger students in each group. Give each group a set of memory cards. Students lay the cards facedown, then take turns matching the cards. When a match is made, that student may keep the match until the end of the game. Encourage older students to help younger students as needed. Continue as time allows.

In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to learn about a man named Elijah. Elijah remembered the message God gave to him, and he obeyed!

Option 3: Where Does Rain Come From?

Materials

- Picture of clouds; cotton balls; large bowl of water.

Before class: Press a few cotton balls together to form a fluffy ball. Place all materials on a table nearby.

God made the world—all the people, animals, plants, and trees. He made EVERYTHING! Water is here in the world because God made it. And He made a way that water comes down from the clouds.

DISPLAY: Show the picture of clouds. *Optional:* Lead students to a window and show them real clouds. **ASK:** What are these? (*Pause for replies.*)

Clouds are made of tiny drops of water in the air. The more water there is in the air, the bigger the clouds get with water.

DEMONSTRATE: Dip a wad of cotton balls into the bowl of water and squeeze gently to make the water drip out. **ASK:** What happens when the cotton balls get full of water?

That’s what happens when the clouds become full of water. The water falls from the clouds. When it is warm outside, the water comes down in the form of rain. When it is cold, water comes down as snow.

ACTIVITY: Give each student a small wad of cotton balls. Workers supervise as they take turns dipping and squeezing their “clouds” to make them rain.

The water that falls from the clouds helps our plants grow. It falls into rivers and lakes and brooks so we can have water to drink.

Today we’re going to learn about a time when there was no rain for a long time. The plants dried up. There was not enough food to eat or water to drink. But God took care of His servant, a man named Elijah.

Materials

- Images of racing helmets or drivers with helmets from the **clip art folder** on the VBS resources (33902 or 33902DC); *optional:* one or more speedster helmets (33973).

Before class: Print out images of drivers in uniform.

Get ready, racers!

ASK: How many of you like to race your bike or scooter? (*Students respond.*) What do you wear to make sure you stay safe? (*Helmet, knee pads, elbow pads.*) Did you know that race car drivers wear safety gear too?

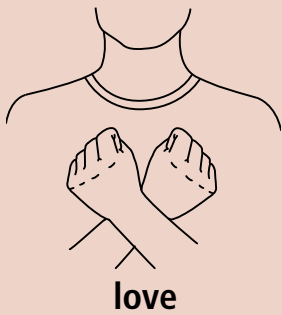


Speedster Helmet
(33973)

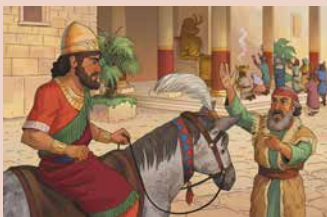
TIP ▶
Open in prayer and teach with
an open Bible.

LIST OF LESSON ACTIVITIES

- Sign “love” whenever the word is spoken.
- Hide by the brook.
- Drink from the brook.



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2

DISPLAY: Show images of drivers with helmets. **ACTIVITY:** If available, pass around the speedster helmet(s) for students to try on. **ASK:** Why do you think the driver would need a helmet? (*A helmet protects his or her head in case of a crash.*) Why would the driver need to wear a special suit? (*The driver’s suit is fireproof. If the car catches on fire, it will save the driver’s life.*)

Before a big race, drivers make sure they are dressed properly so they can stay safe. In today’s lesson, we will learn how God took care of a prophet named Elijah and kept him safe. God helped Elijah get ready for the job God wanted him to do.



Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (33907) or visual book PowerPoint download (33907EB); *optional:* brook decoration from the decorating ideas book (33908).

(*Hold up the Bible.*) The Bible is God’s Word. The Bible teaches us EVERYTHING we need to know about God—how He made the world and EVERYTHING in it. It also teaches us how much God loves the people He made—including you and me. When I say “**love**” today, make the sign for “**love**.”

ACTIVITY: Make the sign for “**love**” with the students. Every time you see **love** in red font, lead them in signing “**love**.”

At VBS we’re going to learn from the Bible about a man named Elijah.

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 1. Point to Elijah.

Elijah had a special job. He was called a prophet. Say it with me: “prophet.” That means God gave Elijah important messages to tell people. Sometimes Elijah told people what God would do in the future. Throughout Elijah’s life, God prepared Elijah for his job as a prophet.

One day God told Elijah to give a message to King Ahab.

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 2. Point to King Ahab.

Ahab was a wicked king who did not **love** God or obey God. The people of Israel did not love or obey God either. They bowed down to an idol called Baal. (*Point to the people worshipping Baal.*) Bowing down to Baal was very wrong.

SAY: The Bible calls the wrong things we do “sin.” **ACTIVITY:** Teach students the following definition and motions: A sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*), or do (*place fist in hand*) that disobeys God (*point to sky*.)

(*Point to Elijah in the picture.*) Elijah **loved** God. He went to King Ahab to deliver the message from God.

“King Ahab!” said Elijah. “God says there will be no rain for years until I say so!” After Elijah told King Ahab the message, God told Elijah to leave the city and hide near a brook, or stream. He protected Elijah.

ACTIVITY: Students pretend to hide. *Optional:* Have students sit by the brook.

SAY: Whatever God says ALWAYS comes true. It did not rain for a long, long time.

ASK: What do you think happened to the plants, animals, and people?

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 3.

The plants did not get the water they needed to grow into food (*point to crops*), and the people and animals were so, so thirsty (*point to people and animals*)!

But God kept Elijah from being thirsty. He lived by this brook for a long time. Whenever he was thirsty, he drank from the brook.

ACTIVITY: Students pretend to drink water from a brook with their hands. *Optional:* Have them use the brook decoration. **ASK:** But what else would Elijah need to have in order to live at the brook? (*Pause for responses.*)

God knew that Elijah would need food to eat. Listen to what God did to bring Elijah food.

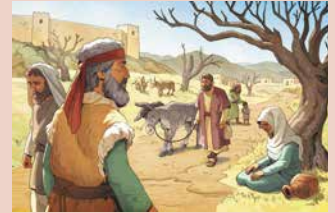
READ: 1 Kings 17:6. Emphasize the word “ravens.”

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 4. Point to Elijah, then the ravens.

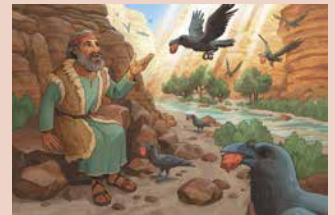
God used special birds called ravens to take food to Elijah! What would you think if tomorrow morning you woke up (*have students stretch and yawn*), and here came birds, bringing you breakfast? That’s what God did for Elijah! Then every evening before Elijah went to bed, God sent ravens to Elijah with food again. (*Have students pretend to eat then lay head on folded hands as if going to bed.*) And every day, Elijah drank water from the brook.

PRAY: Thank God for providing food, water, and other things we need.

Elijah obeyed God, and God protected Elijah at the brook just as He had promised. God protected him from getting hungry and thirsty by giving him food and water. God also protected Elijah from getting hurt. He showed Elijah that he could trust God to protect him—which would be important for Elijah to remember in the days ahead. God **loved** Elijah, and God **loves** us too!



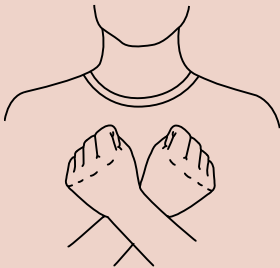
Lesson 1 Visual 3



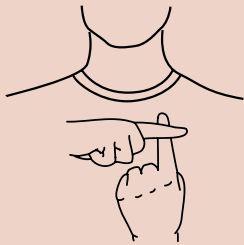
Lesson 1 Visual 4



Salvation Poster
(33936)



love



cross



Speedster Helmet
(33973)

DECISION TIME

Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (33936).

SAY: God **loved** and cared for Elijah. God **loves** us, too—even when we are bad and disobey Him. **ASK:** What are some things kids do that are bad? (*Disobeying parents, being mean to a sibling.*) **ASK:** What does God call the bad things we do? (*Sin.*)

DISPLAY: Refer to the salvation poster as appropriate for your class.

The Bible says that everyone does bad things. We are all sinners. And because God is holy, He must punish our sin. But God also **loves** us so much that He sent Jesus, His Son, to take our punishment for us by dying on the cross (*lead students to make the sign for “cross”*).

Jesus didn't stay dead. (*Hold up your fingers as you count.*) One, two, three days later, Jesus was made alive again! Now Jesus lives in Heaven with God. If we believe in Jesus and choose to trust Him as our Savior, God forgives all our sin and makes us right with Him. This is the **BIGGEST** way God loves and cares for us!

PRAY: Thank God for sending Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin.

DISCOVER!

Option 1: Hold the Helmet

Materials

- Lesson 1 visuals (33907) or visual book PowerPoint download (33907EB); speedster helmet (33973).

SAY: A helmet protects a race car driver's head. We're going to use the helmet to remember how God protected Elijah. If you want to tell something about the picture I hold up, raise your hand. **ACTIVITY:** Display visual 1. Hand the helmet to a student who raised his or her hand. After the student tells something about that part of the story, he or she hands the helmet to another student, who tells something different. Repeat with the other visuals. Continue until every student has had a chance to tell something about one of the pictures.

For younger students: Some students might enjoy putting on the helmet as they speak. If students can't think of anything, offer a simple prompt (e.g., “What is Elijah doing in this picture?”).

Option 2: Puppet Review

Materials

- Lesson 1 visuals (33907) or visual book PowerPoint download (33907EB); Spark Plug puppet (33949).

We have a special guest today. Say hello to Spark Plug!

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visuals. **ACTIVITY:** Have the puppet ask several questions and students respond.

- Hi, there! I heard you learned about a prophet today. Who was it? *(Students respond. Ask a student to point to Elijah in visual 1.)*
- (Refer to visual 2.)* Who is Elijah talking to here? *(King Ahab.)*
- What did he tell the king? *(It wouldn't rain for a long time.)*
- Oh no! That sounds bad. What happened? *(Refer to visual 3. Plants dried up. People and animals got hungry and thirsty.)*
- So, what happened to Elijah? Did he get hungry and thirsty too? *(He hid by a brook. He drank from the brook. Ravens brought food. Point to the ravens in visual 4.)*

What an amazing, true story! Do you think God protects us too? *(Yes!)*



Spark Plug Puppet
(33949)



“It is God who works in you” (Phil. 2:13).

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 verse poster (33966).

God prepared Elijah to do BIG things for Him. When we trust Jesus as Savior, God works in our lives by teaching us from the Bible how we can serve Him.

Use the following motions to teach students the memory verse.

“It is God	<i>(Point up.)</i>
who works	<i>(Sign “work.”)</i>
in you.”	<i>(Point to someone.)</i>
Philippians 2:13	<i>(Hold hands open as if holding a Bible.)</i>

Option 1: Pass the Race Car

Materials

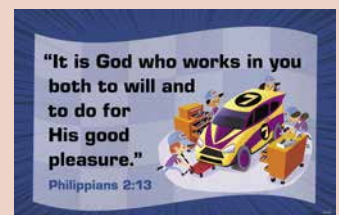
- Race car from the speedster assortment (34006).

ACTIVITY: Students sit in a circle. When you give the car to one student, the class says the first word of the verse. The student passes the car to the next student, and the class says the second word, and so on. Be sure to include the reference. Continue around the circle several times.

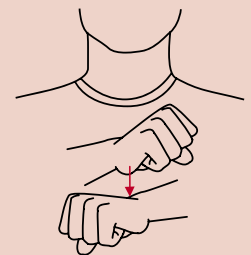
For older students: Each student individually says the next word, rather than the entire class saying the word.

TIP

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



Lesson 1 Verse Poster
(33966)



work

Option 2: Elijah and the Ravens

ACTIVITY: Students stand in a circle. Have one student stand in the middle as “Elijah.” The other students walk around Elijah, saying the verse as they flap their arms like a raven. Choose a different student to be Elijah and continue the activity as time allows.

For older students: The students “fly” around Elijah until Elijah says “Stop!” and points to a raven. That student then becomes Elijah.



Option 1: God Takes Care of Me

Materials

- Red construction paper; scissors; picture or sample of your favorite food.

Before class: Cut a heart from red construction paper. Hide the food nearby.

See if you can guess my favorite food. (*Give clues, e.g., it's a red fruit.*)

ACTIVITY: Reveal your food after a few guesses. Students take turns giving clues about their own favorite foods for classmates to guess.

God provides for us by giving us good food to eat. What other things does God provide? (*Clothes, water, house, car.*)

DISPLAY: Hold up the paper heart and explain that a heart reminds us of people who love us.

Who are some people who love you? (*E.g., parents, babysitters, teachers.*) God protects us by giving us people who love us and take good care of us.

PRAY: Thank God for giving us the things we need and people who care for us.

Option 2: Thank You, God!

Materials

- Empty medicine bottle; water bottle; small shirt; can of food; picture of friends and family or toy people figures; house figurine or picture; large basket.

Before class: Place the items in the basket.

ACTIVITY: Have a student take out one item from the basket and hold it up. Students tell how the item reminds them of a way God provides for our needs. Ask a volunteer to thank God for providing that item or person to meet their needs. Repeat the activity with each item.

I'm so glad that God gives us what we need so we can serve Him!