








# PRIMARY OVERVIEW

PRIMARY	LESSON 1	LESSON 2	LESSON 3	LESSON 4	LESSON 5
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Ready to Race: God Prepares Us</b>	<b>Communication: God Guides Us</b>	<b>Showdown: God Empowers Us</b>	<b>Pit Stop: God Refuels Us</b>	<b>Racing Team: God Invites New Racers</b>
<b>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</b>	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)
<b>FOCUS</b>	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.
<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	“It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).	“Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:5).	<b>Theme Verse</b> “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).	“Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).	“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).
<b>MASCOT</b>	Wynn 	Cam and Ginny 	Chase 	Zoey 	Spark Plug 
<b>GAMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Race to the Brook</li> <li>Tire Scrub</li> <li>Ready, Set, Roll!</li> <li>Water Balloon Weave</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Race Rally Champs</li> <li>Steering Practice</li> <li>Don't Run Out!</li> <li>Over the Top</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chariot Race</li> <li>Altar Soak</li> <li>Get King Ahab</li> <li>Trophy Topple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back on Track</li> <li>Wind! Earthquake! Fire! <i>whisper</i></li> <li>Pit Stop Challenge</li> <li>Gently Does It!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mantle Hand-Off</li> <li>Fiery Whirlwind Relay</li> <li>Teamwork Juggle</li> <li>Hop In, Let's Go!</li> </ul>
<b>SNACKS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bread by the Brook</li> <li>Cool Off</li> <li>Banana Racer</li> <li>Oil Check</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sticks 'n' Dip</li> <li>Obedience O's</li> <li>Smile—Jesus Loves You!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power Pack Snack</li> <li>On God's Winning Team</li> <li>Trophy with Toppings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cave Chomp</li> <li>Frozen Fuel</li> <li>Fuel Up</li> <li>Pit Stop Punch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop &amp; Go Fruit Kabobs</li> <li>Cross the Jordan</li> <li>Brownie Car</li> </ul>
<b>CRAFTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formula Fun Car</li> <li>Speedy Sun Catchers</li> <li>Elijah's Raven</li> <li>Racers, Start Your Engines!</li> <li>Driver's Backpack Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Color Your Own Racers</li> <li>Stoplight Craft Kit</li> <li>Towel Tube Racer</li> <li>Get in Gear!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speedway Scratch Art Magnets</li> <li>Jesus' Victory Craft Kit</li> <li>Fire Frame</li> <li>Pool Noodle 500</li> <li>Power Pennant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper Racer Craft Kit</li> <li>God Is My Champion!</li> <li>Racetrack Spinner</li> <li>Trophy Encouragement Card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photo Finish Craft Kit</li> <li>Go and Tell Fuzzy</li> <li>Victory Circle Trophy</li> </ul>

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# 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 both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (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.



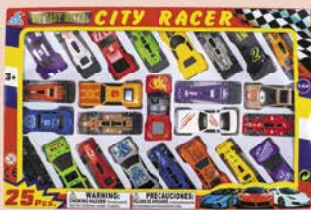
- Greet students with enthusiasm and a smile. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (33933) and Rocket Racers passes (33934).
- Open the class time with prayer.

**TIP** ▶

The pictures labeled **L1-Pri-Driver-Uniform** are located in the teaching resources folder of the VBS Resources Download.

**TIP** ▶

Be flexible with this activity. It can be done as a whole-group activity or as students arrive. Encourage trial and error. Students can work independently, in pairs, or in teams.



Speedster Assortment (34006)



## Option 1: STEM Station: Driver's Helmet Egg Drop

### Materials

- Pictures of a race car driver's uniform from the VBS Resources Download (33902 or 33902DC, **L1-Pri-DriverUniform**); padding to wrap around eggs (e.g., pulled-apart cotton balls, rags); tape; raw eggs; cookie sheet; paper towels for messes.

Drivers carefully prepare before each race. Part of preparing is suiting up in protective gear, like a fire-resistant suit and gloves for gripping the steering wheel. But a helmet could be the most important item!

**ASK:** Why do you think a helmet is so important? (*It protects the driver's head in a crash.*) **DEMONSTRATE:** Show a raw egg. Drop it on the cookie sheet and watch the egg break. Tell the students they will experiment with different "helmet designs" to protect an egg. **ACTIVITY:** Older students work in groups to design a way to protect an egg from breaking as younger students help. Each group chooses one type of padding to wrap around an egg. Then each group tests its egg by dropping it from an equal height over the cookie sheet. **ASK:** Which type of padding is best? Why?

Like drivers prepare for a race, God prepares us!

*For younger students:* During the egg-wrapping phase, they may do best helping the older students. Let the younger students be in charge of dropping the eggs and cheering if they don't break.

## Option 2: Scrub-a-Tire Prep

### Materials

- Speedster assortment (34006); *optional:* masking tape.

**ACTIVITY:** As students arrive, encourage older students to build a track using masking tape. Younger students can play with the cars.

Are you ready to race? Great! But what about your tires? Stock car drivers do something called "scrubbing" to prepare their tires. During practice laps, they purposefully swerve their cars back and forth. It looks like crazy driving, but they're in complete control. Scrubbing warms up the surface of the tires and helps them grip the track better. Let's do some practice laps with these race cars and scrub our tires!

**ACTIVITY:** Let students take practice laps on the track as they swerve their speedsters back and forth.

Practice is important. In our lesson, we'll see Elijah getting "practice laps" in trusting and obeying God. God can help you prepare to serve Him too.

## Option 3: Racing Banners

### Materials

- Long strip of paper (e.g., bulletin board paper); removable mounting adhesive; markers, colored pencils, or crayons.

*Before class:* Using mounting adhesive, hang the paper on a wall at the students' level. Place the drawing supplies in containers in front of the mural.

Banners are a big part of auto racing. They advertise racing teams, racing sponsors, and more. Let's make a racing banner for our classroom!

**ACTIVITY:** Lead the students in decorating the banner. They could sign their names, draw racing pictures, add sayings like "On Track with Our Powerful God!" or "God Is #1!" or "God Is the Champion," write the theme verse (Rom. 8:37), or draw race cars.

In our Bible lesson today, God tells His message using a way that is even better than a banner. He uses His prophet, a man named Elijah.



### Materials

- Whiteboard; dry-erase marker.

Pretend you're a famous race car driver. What would you do to prepare for a race?

**ACTIVITY:** List each action below on the board, along with actions the students suggest, and lead students in pantomiming each one.

- Make sure your car is in tip-top shape. (*Move closed hand in a semicircle as if tightening a bolt.*)
- Exercise. Drivers need to be in shape too! (*Make muscles with both arms.*)
- Put new tires on your car. (*Move both hands forward as if placing a tire on a car.*)
- Put on your helmet. (*Pantomime putting on a helmet.*)
- Buckle up your seatbelt. (*Pantomime buckling a seatbelt.*)

But what if you did all those things and forgot to put enough gas in your car? You'd get partway through the race and . . . put-put sputter cough sputter . . . kerplunk! You'd be stuck.

Just like race car drivers rely on gasoline for their cars, people today—and in Bible times—rely on rain to bring them water. Rain is important. It keeps farm crops growing, animals healthy, and people alive! In our Bible lesson today, we're going to learn about a time when God stopped the rain for over three years. Why would God do something like that? Let's go to the Bible to find out.

### TIP

This banner could be a mural that you leave up and work on all through VBS.

**TIP**

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

**LIST OF LESSON ACTIVITIES**

- Illustrate the foolishness of idol worship with a doll.
- Students go to the “brook” and “drink from the brook” (mini water bottles or disposable cups).
- Actions: Students react to Ahab by showing their shock; students run in place.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

**TIP**

Elijah’s name means “The Lord is my God.” What a perfect name for God’s prophet!

**TIP**

If students don’t have a background in Bible knowledge, explain that God’s people had been captive in Egypt, but God set them free through ten plagues that showed His power. Later He made the mighty walls of Jericho fall down.

**Materials**

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (33907) or visual book PowerPoint download (33907EB); clear disposable cups filled with drinking water (or mini water bottles); doll or action figure; *optional*: brook decoration from the decorating ideas book (33908).

*Before class:* Set clear cups of cool water (or mini water bottles) in a line (one cup or water bottle per student), like a brook, on the floor or a table in the corner of the room. If desired, place them by the brook from the decorating ideas book.

God uses brave men and women to lead His people. In Bible times, God used prophets to deliver His messages, remind His people how to obey, and warn His people. Often prophets told people what God would do in the future.

**DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 1.

Elijah was one of God’s prophets. He was from Gilead, a rugged, mountainous area with rich soil for farming and land for raising animals. Growing up in Gilead was one way God prepared Elijah for the rough life of a prophet. Elijah was probably strong and hardworking. He loved and served the true God of the Bible.

But when Elijah lived, most of the people in Israel did not love or serve God. Instead, they served false gods and made idols, statues they would worship. God saw what was going on. His people had forgotten about Him, even though He had rescued them from captivity in Egypt and made the walls of Jericho fall down flat.

**ACTIVITY:** Show the doll or action figure. Point out that it won’t do any good to serve that figure—it isn’t alive and can’t do anything.

And the king, whose name was Ahab, was making things worse!

**READ:** 1 Kings 16:30, 33. **ACTIVITY:** Have students show you their shocked, sad faces at this bad time in Israel and because Ahab was making things worse.

Ahab did more evil than all the other kings before him. But Ahab wasn’t the only problem. He was married to Queen Jezebel, who hated God. Jezebel wanted to wipe out the worship of God from Israel altogether.

God saw the mess in Israel, so He sent Elijah, one of His bravest prophets. God loved His people very much. He wanted them to see their sin and repent.

**ASK:** Whoa. Wait a minute. What is sin? (*Let students answer.*)

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God’s holiness. Sin disobeys God’s instructions to us. God is holy—He is perfect and completely without wrong, even a tiny bit.

**DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 2.



Lesson 1 Visual 2

Because God is holy, the sin of His people was a serious problem. So He sent Elijah to King Ahab with an announcement.

**READ:** 1 Kings 17:1. **ASK:** What did Elijah say would happen? (*There would be no rain for three years.*)

No rain? For three years?! This was terrible news! Rain was the main source of water in Israel. Without rain, plants, animals, and people would eventually die.

If any news would make King Ahab furious, this was it! Let's pretend to be Ahab for a moment.

**ACTIVITY:** Show me your furious Ahab face. How angry might he have sounded? Might he have said, "How dare Elijah come marching in here and threaten me! Who does he think he is?"

It was time for Elijah to get out of there!

**READ:** 1 Kings 17:2, 3.

God said, "Go! Hide! Get out of town fast, Elijah! Your life is in danger!"

**DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 3. **ACTIVITY:** Students pretend to be Elijah and run in place. **SAY:** Faster! Look behind you. Is King Ahab and his army chasing you? Look! Over here is the brook Cherith. We're safe. Whew! Catch your breath. Sit down. (*Students sit down by the "brook."*)

Sure enough, the rain stopped, just as Elijah had said. The land dried up, the plants dried up, and animals and people suffered.

**DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 4.

But God protected and provided for Elijah at the brook Cherith, a little stream of cool, clear water. Maybe there was shade and a nice breeze. There Elijah was safe. God provided everything he needed.

**READ:** 1 Kings 17:5, 6. **ASK:** How did God provide for Elijah at the brook?

Imagine ravens bringing food to you! Only God could provide for Elijah like that. No way would ravens deliver food unless God sent them. And Elijah had plenty of fresh water to drink.

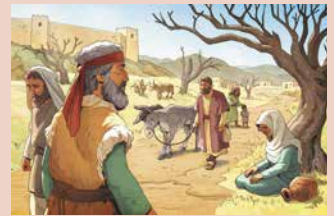
**ACTIVITY:** Allow each student to take a cup of water or mini water bottle from the "brook." Sip the cool, clear water like Elijah at the brook. Sit back. Rest quietly.

It feels good to be safe and cared for, doesn't it? How wonderful of God to comfort and provide for Elijah. God kept him safe.

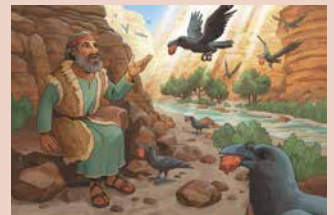
God knows all things. He knew a time was coming when Elijah would have to stand up for God in a big way. God was protecting Elijah and teaching Elijah that he could trust God. Even as Elijah was serving God, God used what happened to Elijah to prepare him for even tougher tasks ahead.

**TIP**

Engage students with God's Word by inviting volunteers to read some of the Scripture passages. Younger volunteers will probably need help.



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4



## Materials

- Bible.

God prepared Elijah for what was ahead, and He prepares us too. The most important way He prepares us is by telling us the solution to our problem of sin. The Bible says each one of us is a sinner. We have all done, said, or thought something that disobeys God and goes against His holiness.

**READ:** Romans 3:23.

Because God is holy, completely without sin, He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. But God's Word doesn't stop there. Listen to this!

**READ:** Romans 6:23.

What wonderful news! Because Jesus died to take your punishment and rose to life again, God offers you life forever in Heaven with Him.

Another kind of preparation happens after you trust in Jesus as Savior. As we obey God, He uses many ways to prepare us for what's ahead, like He used Elijah's time at the brook Cherith. Like Elijah, you can trust and obey God, no matter what happens!

**ACTIVITY:** Ask students to bow their heads, close their eyes, and think without talking. Invite those who want to learn more about trusting Jesus as Savior or how they can let God prepare them to look up at you. Assign workers to counsel and pray with responding students.



## Pass the Bread Please

### Materials

- Bread roll, tennis ball, or other ball; music download (33930); music playback device.

**ASK:** How did God care for Elijah at the brook? (*God sent ravens to bring Elijah food.*)

God provided everything Elijah needed during his time at the brook. Let's play Pass the Bread Please.

**ACTIVITY:** Students sit in a circle. Play a VBS song as students pass the "bread" (a literal bread roll or a ball) around the circle. When you stop the music, the student holding the bread answers a review question. If the student doesn't want to answer, he or she can pass the bread to the next student. Continue until every student has had a chance to answer a question.



# SCRIPTURE MEMORY

## LESSON 1

**“It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).**

**READ:** Philippians 2:13 from your open Bible.

**DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 verse poster (33966).

God (*point up*) was at work (*sign “work”*) even when Elijah was resting by the brook Cherith. And God is working in everyone who has trusted in Jesus. Philippians 2:13 says that God is working on preparing them to serve Him. He helps us want what is right (*tap temple with index finger*) and do it (*sign “do”*).

**ACTIVITY:** Let’s use actions to help us remember the verse.

“It is God	( <i>Point up.</i> )
who works	( <i>Sign “work.”</i> )
in you	( <i>Sweep finger out as if pointing to everyone in the room.</i> )
both to will	( <i>Tap temple with index finger as if thinking or learning.</i> )
and to do	( <i>Sign “do.”</i> )
for His good pleasure.”	( <i>Point up, then sign “good.”</i> )
Philippians 2:13	( <i>Hold hands open as if holding a Bible.</i> )

### Option 1: Cool Water Verse

#### Materials

- Disposable drinking cups in two different styles or colors; permanent marker; light blue tablecloth (32528).

*Before class:* Write a word or two from the memory verse, including the reference, on the bottom of each cup. Make two sets of verse cups, one style or color per team. Cover a table with a blue tablecloth, and arrange the cups right side up.

God provided Elijah with cool, clear water at the brook. Flip these cups to reveal something God provides for His children.

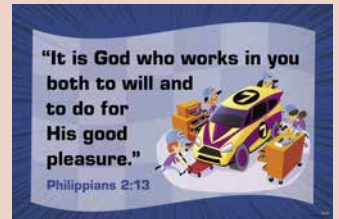
**ACTIVITY:** Organize your class into two teams. Line up each team on opposite sides of your classroom. On your signal, one student from each team runs to the brook, chooses one of the team’s cups, and flips it upside down to reveal the word on the bottom. The student runs back and tags the next player, who takes a turn. When the team’s cups have all been turned upside down, they run to the brook and work together to put the cups in verse order. The first team to have its cups in verse order and read the verse in unison wins.

*For younger students:* Let them be the cup flippers, running to the table and turning the cups upside down.

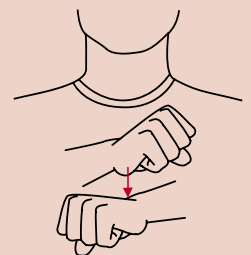
*For older students:* Let them arrange the cups. When they’re finished, have both younger and older students recite the verse in unison.

#### TIP

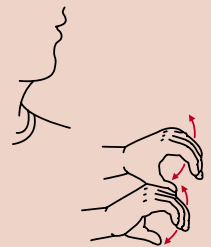
Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



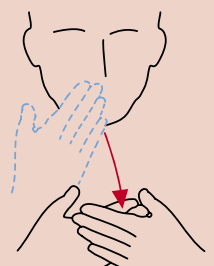
Lesson 1 Verse Poster (33966)



**work**



**do**



**good**

## Option 2: Lesson Motion Verse

Say the verse together, each time using a different motion from the lesson (e.g., proclaiming to King Ahab, walking in place to the brook Cherith, pretending to fly like a raven, eating bread, drinking water).



## Option 1: Ready to Serve

### Materials

- Paper grocery bag; items that can be used while serving others (e.g., artificial flowers, get-well card, dusting cloth, plastic trash bag, gardening gloves).

*Before class:* Place all serving items in the grocery bag so the students can't see them.

One of the best ways to prepare to serve is serving.

**SAY:** We're going to discover ways you can serve others for God. **ACTIVITY:** Volunteers take turns reaching into the bag and choosing an object. Let them guess, without looking, what they are feeling and then take out the object. **ASK:** How could you use that object to serve others for God? (Possible answers include sending a card or taking flowers to someone who is sick; helping with chores around the house; throwing away trash at school, home, or church; helping a neighbor or your family with yard work.)

## Option 2: God Provides: Watercolor Pictures

### Materials

- Watercolor paint sets; small paintbrushes; water in small jars or containers; white construction or watercolor paper; plastic table covers; paper towels.

*Before class:* Cover the tables with plastic. Arrange the water containers down the center of the table. Set out paint sets and paper, and provide a paintbrush for each student. Have paper towels on hand for messes.

**ASK:** How did God provide for Elijah while he was at the brook? (God took care of Elijah by the brook Cherith. He had water to drink, he was safe from King Ahab, and God sent ravens to feed Elijah.)

Sometimes we forget how much God provides for us. What are some ways God provides for our needs? (Encourage the students to think of necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and church.)

**ACTIVITY:** Students paint a picture of a way God cares for them and provides for their needs. **PRAY:** Close in prayer, thanking God for providing for us and asking God to help the students to, in turn, serve other people.

*Younger students:* Provide help if they need it from a worker or an older student.