



Who is God?



THE MISSION AIM

To know that God is, was, and always will be.



KEY VERSE

Revelations 1:8 (NIV): "I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord, "Who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."



Pre-Mission Activity



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Beach Ball or light ball for throwing

DIRECTIONS

DO: Have all the recruits stand in a circle. Explain that as recruits we first must get to know each other so that we can work together to complete our *Ready to Serve* missions.

Have the recruits throw the ball to another recruit in the circle. When the recruit catches the ball they are to say their name as well as one word that begins with the same letter as their name and describes an attribute of them. i.e.; Joyful Joe, Happy Hannah, Delightful Diane

The recruit then throws the ball to another recruit in the circle. Continue until all recruits have had a turn to share their name.

SAY: What an exciting time this is. We have now learned all of our names, and something about each one of us. Now it's time for us to meet the RTS Recon Team.
I am so excited to meet everyone. Aren't you?



Mission Uplink 1



Cue DVD to the episode: "Who is God?"

A looping video of the Ready to Serve Shield will come on screen as you prepare the recruits. When ready to begin the episode, press enter/play or click on the green arrow. The episode will begin with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. MISSION # 1 CARD will appear and remain on screen as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bibles
- Pencils for each recruit
- 2 Markers/overhead markers
- Word Search—print the word search onto an overhead or copy it onto a chart, blackboard, whiteboard or large piece of paper.

Optional: Make 2 copies of the word search in large print in order for each team to have opportunity to circle the Names of God. The team that circles first would then get the point.



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: (reading mission card from the satellite uplink), "Recruits, your mission is to find out who the people say God is. What names do people in the Bible use for God? What do they call Him? Be sure to send your discoveries back to the Recon Team. God bless recruits!" We've received our first mission, are you ready recruits? Can we take on this mission?

SAY: Sarai and Christie are going to look at who God says He is and Kate and Simon are looking at who Jesus says God is. We need to look directly at who the people of the Bible say God is.

SAY: To do this, we are going to work on a word search that contains many of the names of God that His people used to describe Him. I am going to split you into two groups. I will give you a name of God, and your group will try and find that name in the word search. When you have spotted it, have one person from your group come to the board and circle the correct Name of God. Be careful not to give away any other names that you might spot ahead of time. Your team will get one point for each word found.

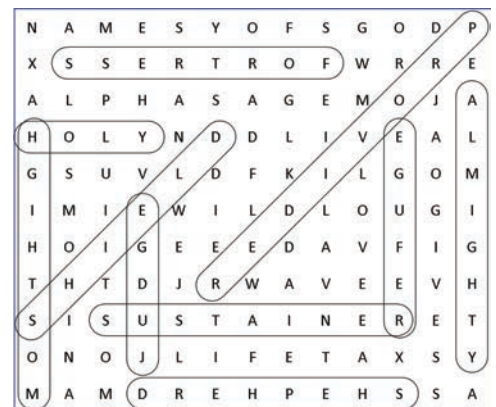
DO: Divide your recruits into two groups. Have each group line up relay style so that each team member will have an opportunity to come to the board and circle a name. Attach the enlarged word search to a wall without the names of God listed. (Or if needed place two copies of the word search on the wall. One copy for each team.) A point is given to the team who circles the word on the board first.

Have the recruits find the following names in the Word Search: Sustainer, Most High (hidden as one word), Almighty, Holy, Shepherd, Provider, Refuge, Fortress, Shield, and Judge.

Optional: You may wish to present both teams with a candy or small treat for cooperating and working through this word search.

SAY: Recruits, you have done an amazing job at finding the hidden names of God in our word search. We've found the names, now let's take a few minutes to discover what some of these names mean.

ANSWER:



Almighty

SAY: Let's turn to the back of our Bibles to Revelation 4:8c. It reads, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." God is the Almighty. Almighty means to have a never ending amount of power and influence. God does have amazing power. Can you think of a time when you've seen God's power? *(During thunderstorms; when family members are ill; when watching the tides at a beach.)* God is Almighty.

Holy

SAY: Did you catch it? In that same scripture reference we hear that God is Holy. We are to worship Him and to bow down and pray to God for he deserves to be treated as a Holy God. He has done nothing wrong. He is not stained by sin. When we look back into the book of Psalms David referred to God as Holy. Let's look at Psalm 99:3, "Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy." God is Holy.

Provider

SAY: In Exodus we read how God provided for the Israelites over and over again. When they needed food he provided quail and manna, when they needed water to drink he gave them water out of a rock. Let's turn to Philippians 4:19. Who would like to read this verse for us? "And my God will meet (or provide for) all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." We see how God provides for us everyday. He provides shelter, food, clothing and people to take care of us. God is our Provider.

Refuge

SAY: Psalm 91:1-2 says, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust." These two words, refuge and fortress refer to the fact that God shelters us like a tent in a rainstorm. He keeps us safe and secure. Even when things are not going the way we would hope they would go, God knows what is best for us and He will take care of us. God is our Refuge.

Shield

SAY: To find the meaning of this word Shield, we need to look into our Bibles at 2 Samuel 22:31, 36. Let's help each other search for this book and chapter.

DO: Help the recruits locate this scripture reading. This is a good opportunity for the older recruits to lend a helping hand to the younger ones.

SAY: Okay, does everyone have it. Follow along as I read the verses to you.

DO: Read 2 Samuel 22:31, 36 to the recruits.

SAY: What do you think this verse means? God is a shield. Think about what a shield does? *(It protects us, guards us, and keeps us from getting hurt.)* You are correct. He will protect us and guard us from danger. God is a shield.

SAY: If you were to think about your life experiences what name would you give God? Would it be friend, listener, helper or something else? *(Encourage the recruits to share their ideas.)*



Give clues to recruits on how to find certain books in the Bible. i.e. Psalms is in the middle of your Bible.



Allow recruits the opportunity to read but do not force them. Many are still learning to read fluently and may feel apprehensive about reading aloud. Be prepared to read the verses to the recruits.





Mission Uplink 2



Press play/green arrow in the bottom corner to play MISSION #2 VIDEO. MISSION # 2 CARD will appear and remain on screen as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Building Blocks
- Tower labels: One labelled "God's Tower" and the other "Baal's Tower"



The Story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is from 1 Kings 18:16-39.



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Well recruits, it appears we have another mission. Let's read our mission to see exactly what it is the Recon Team needs us to do. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits your mission is to research the story of the god Baal. How does our God, the one true God, stack up against him?" We now know God to be the Alpha and the Omega, to be Holy, the Provider, our Shepherd, our Refuge and Fortress, our Shield and our Judge but others have forgotten Him. So, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.

SAY: Recruits, let's do it. Let's look into this story and show how God stacks up against the false god, Baal.

DO: As you are telling the story of Elijah have the recruits build two towers. One tower represents Baal. Each time we see Baal doing as the people ask, add a block (this will be a very short tower). The second tower will represent God. Each time we see God doing as the people ask or going beyond, add a block.

SAY: To do this I want you to listen carefully as I tell you the story. I want you to build two towers right here in front of me.

DO: Place a starting block down on the floor for each tower. Place the signs for God and Baal in front of the towers to distinguish God's tower from Baal's. Have the rest of the blocks in a pile in front of the two towers so that the recruits can easily reach them and add them to the towers when needed.

SAY: Each time we hear how Baal came through and did as the people asked, we will add a block to Baal's tower and each time we hear how God came through and did as the people asked, we will add a block to God's tower. If we hear in our story that God or Baal did more than what was requested of them, we will add a block to the correct tower.

SAY: Elijah and Ahab met and began to discuss the troubles occurring in Israel. Ahab felt that Elijah was the reason for Israel's troubles. However, Elijah informed Ahab that it was the fault of Ahab and his family for forgetting God's laws and commandments and for following Baal.



Elijah told Ahab to gather all of the people and the prophets of the false god Baal on Mount Carmel. Elijah told them, "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him." The people stood in silence. Elijah explained to them how he was the only prophet of God left and yet before him there were 450 prophets of Baal. So, he set out a challenge for them.

SAY: Elijah asked for two bulls. He had the prophets of Baal choose the bull that they wanted. Then, Elijah and the prophets were to each cut up their own bull into pieces and place it on the wood but not to set fire to it.

SAY: This is where the challenge begins. It is time to start adding the blocks to our towers. Recruits, are you ready? Elijah told the prophets to call upon their god, Baal and he would call upon his God. Each would ask for fire. Elijah said that the god that answers by setting fire to the wood is the one true God.

And so, the prophets of Baal set out to do what Elijah had asked of them. They called on their god all morning long and yet no fire was started. No one answered their calls.

SAY: Should we add a block to Baal's tower? *(The recruits will answer no, as the god Baal did not do as the people asked.)*

SAY: At noon Elijah began to mock the prophets, suggesting that they yell louder because maybe Baal was sleeping or away on a trip. The prophets did yell louder and yet there was still no response.

Elijah then began to prepare the altar of the Lord. He first took 12 stones, one for each of the tribes of Jacob, and he built the altar. He dug a trench around the altar, he cut up the bull and laid it on top of the altar. Then he had four large jars of water poured over the offering and onto the wood. Then four more jars of water. And again, four more jars of water. The water ran down the altar and even filled up the trench around the altar. Now that is a lot of water.

Then, Elijah began to cry out to God. He asked God to let the people know that God is in fact the God of Israel. And guess what. The fire began.

DO: Recruits should now have their hands up. Allow a recruit to put a block on God's tower.

SAY: **The fire burned the bull,** (a recruit should add a block to God's tower) **the wood,** (a recruit should add a block to God's tower) **the stones** (a recruit should add a block to God's tower) **and the soil** (a recruit should add a block to God's tower).

The fire even burned up all of the water in the trench. (A recruit should add a block to God's tower.) **When all of the people saw this, they knew that Elijah's God was the one true God.**

SAY: **Who has the bigger tower?"** *(God's tower is bigger.)* Michael had already told us that, "God set out to show His people who He was." And God did just that. The people learned that God was and is the one true God.

SAY: **Did Baal start the altar on fire?** *(No, Baal was not able to start the fire.)*



This visual will aid in the discussion of how God stacks up against the other Gods.



DO: Explain that Baal could not start the fire but God could even when Elijah poured so many buckets of water put on top, God could still start the fire and He showed the people that He is God.

SAY: How did God stack up against Baal? *(God was able to do things that Baal could not, God answered Elijah's prayers to Him, and God showed the people that He is the true God.)*

SAY: I think Simon said it best when he said, "You're going down, Baal."



Mission Uplink 3



Press play/green arrow in bottom corner to play MISSION #3 VIDEO. FIELD MISSION CARD will appear and remain on screen as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bible—have the following verses bookmarked so that you can easily find them: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28

MISSION PROJECT

SAY: Our very first mission today was to look into the Word of God, the Bible and to find out what some of the people called God. We were doing this to help our friend Taren. He believes in God but is finding it confusing and frustrating to hear all of the different opinions of who God is. We found that there are many names used for God; Almighty, Holy, Refuge and Fortress, Shepherd, Provider, Shield, Sustainer, Most High and Judge. These were just a few and each of these names shows a different aspect of God, but they all led us to see that God is the one true God. I hope that Taren can now see that God is many things but most importantly, He is the one true God. Now, we have one last mission for today, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Local Squad, find out what God means when He says, 'I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end?'" I think this would be a good time to look up our key verse. Who can find the Revelation 1:8 for us?

DO: Allow time for a recruit to look up the verse and to read it out loud.

SAY: Do you remember these words? Michael and the Recon Team shared them with us. Simon told us that when God was referring to Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, He was saying that He is the beginning and the end. That tells us that God was here from the very start. He has always been and He always will be. Let's look at some other scripture verses that help us to know that God is the beginning and the end. He has always been here and always will be.



DO: Have the recruits sit in a circle. As you read out the scripture from Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28. Ask the recruits to jump up and yell out what the verses tell us about God being the Alpha and the Omega.

Genesis 1:1—God was there in the beginning

John 1:1—God was there in the beginning as was the Word

Revelation 1:8—God is, was and is to come

Psalm 90:2—you are God from everlasting to everlasting, were here before the mountains were created

Isaiah 40:28—Everlasting God, creator of the ends of the earth



Prayer Huddle



Press play/green arrow in bottom corner to advance to the next slide and the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD will appear and remain on screen as you and the recruits complete the prayer huddle.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Pens
- “Hello My Name is...” name tags
- Big T-shirt (you may use an actual t-shirt or may cut one out of Bristol board)
- Slips of paper with the following Bible verses written on them. Do not include the name in brackets as these are the names the recruits will be discovering.

Joshua 22:22 (Mighty One)

Genesis 1:1 (Creator)

Job 19:25 (Redeemer)

Daniel 7:9 (Ancient of Days)

John 6:35 (Bread of Life)

Matthew 22:42 (Christ)

Isaiah 28:16 (Cornerstone)

Isaiah 7:14 (Immanuel)

Isaiah 64:8 (Potter)

Psalm 103:2-3 (Healer)

Isaiah 9:4 (Prince of Peace)

John 15:5 (Vine)

Psalm 2:2 (Anointed One)

Revelation 22:16 (Bright Morning Star)

Isaiah 55:4 (Commander)

Isaiah 9:6 (Wonderful, Counsellor)

Zechariah 9:9 (King)



DIRECTIONS

DO: Ahead of class time prepare slips of paper with the scripture references on them. Names in brackets should not be included on the slips of paper as these are the names the recruits will be discovering.

SAY: As we close today we want to take some time to reflect on the missions that we completed. Let's begin by trying to remember all of the names of God that we can. As you think of a name of God, write it on one of the "Hello, my name is" name tags and stick it onto the big t-shirt. When you have finished, see if you can find a new name of God that you didn't learn about today. Choose a slip from the centre of the circle, look up the reference and write the name of God on a name tag. You can then stick this new name on our shirt as well.

SAY: We are going to allow just 5 minutes for you to do this. Hopefully, we can fill up our shirt.

DO: Have the Bible reference slips of paper in the middle of the circle, and give everyone a Bible. Each person should look up some new name/attribute of God from these slips, and write a name tag for it. They can do more than one. Spend time in prayer saying the names of God and thanking God for how he demonstrates those names in our daily lives.

SAY: Next week we will begin our time together discussing a few of these names of God. Your challenge this week is to search your Bible for another, new name for God and bring it with you next week to share with the recruits.

NOTES



NAMES OF GOD

N	A	M	E	S	Y	O	F	S	G	O	D	P
X	S	S	E	R	T	R	O	F	W	R	R	E
A	L	P	H	A	S	A	G	E	M	O	J	A
H	O	L	Y	N	D	D	L	I	V	E	A	L
G	S	U	V	L	D	F	K	I	L	G	O	M
I	M	I	E	W	I	L	D	L	O	U	G	I
H	O	I	G	E	E	E	D	A	V	F	I	G
T	H	T	D	J	R	W	A	V	E	E	V	H
S	I	S	U	S	T	A	I	N	E	R	E	T
O	N	O	J	L	I	F	E	T	A	X	S	Y
M	A	M	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	S	A

ALMIGHTY

HOLY

REFUGE

FORTRESS

SHEPHERD

PROVIDER

SHIELD

SUSTAINER

MOST HIGH

JUDGE