



Supplies

- Bibles*
- index cards
- pens

Write Wishes

Give each child an index card and a pen. Say: **On your card, write one thing you wish God's power would do for you.** Allow time.

Ask: • **Raise your hand if God has ever done for you what you wrote.** Have kids talk about that.

Say: **We're learning that God is all-powerful. But it seems like he isn't doing a lot of the things we want him to. So if God is all-powerful, what can he do for me? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **Let's start by reviewing our Bible story, but this time, we're going to ask "why" a lot. As you listen to these verses, think about *why* God did what he did.**

Read 1 Kings 18:36-39.

Ask: • **Why did God light the altar on fire?** With each answer, keep drilling down with more and more "why" questions. For example, if kids say, "To show that he's the most powerful," respond with "Why?" When kids answer *that* question, ask another "why."

• **After thinking through all the "whys" of this story, was it more about God doing what *Elijah* wanted or God showing who *he* is? Explain your answer.**

Say: **We often like to hear that God is all-powerful and think of God like a magic genie in a bottle, there with the power to grant all our wishes.**

And God *can* grant our wishes. But that's not what his power is about. Ultimately, God's power is to show off himself, not to give us what we want. God isn't a vending machine.

Here's another thing the Bible has to say about God's power. It's a prayer from Ephesians, and it's my prayer for you. So close your eyes and bow your head as I read this prayer.

Read Ephesians 1:19-22.

Ask: • **This prayer asks that you would understand God's power. What's one thing you wish you understood about God's power?**

Say: **God is all-powerful**, and we're not. That can make his power hard to understand! But here's something important to remember: God's power is about *him*, not about us. It definitely impacts us, but it's to show us and others how awesome God is, not to get us whatever we want.

Let's revisit our wishes from earlier with that in mind.

Have kids read aloud their index cards and consider the question below. If you have a large group, you may wish to form groups of four so everyone can share and discuss, and then have a few kids report back to everyone.

Ask: • **If God *did* do that, how would it show his glory to you? to others?**

Say: **God is all-powerful**, but he's not a genie there to do whatever we want. And when God *does* do something awesome and powerful in our lives, we can make sure to give him credit so everyone around us sees his power.