



*January 8, 2017*

Dear Teacher,

This week we pick up where we left off before Advent with stories on Elijah. However, in today's lesson we take a closer look at the life of Ahab, the most wicked king to ever reign in Israel, and his contention with Elijah and the Lord. Ahab lead the Israelites astray in sin and promoted the worship of Baal to the people instead of worshipping and following God. And yet despite Ahab's wickedness, God still remembers and loves His people. God shows this love in helping the Israelites defeat a much greater enemy. And even with this, it's not enough to convince Ahab to love God and follow Him as we see in the story of Naboth.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Split:* Elijah and Ahab

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 20-21 (select portions)

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 80 (Pages 181-184)

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- Because of Solomon's disobedience, God was going to tear the kingdom apart. There was the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
- A wicked couple, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, ruled the northern kingdom of Israel. They worshipped a false god called Baal.
- Ahab and the kingdom of Israel was threatened by the Syrian King Ben-hadad and his army.
- Ben-hadad threatens to crush all of Israel. God rescues Israel and helps them to defeat the much larger Syrian army.
- Ahab sees the power of God in Israel's victory over Ben-hadad, but this does not change his heart.
- Ahab desires the vineyard of Naboth. Naboth will not give Ahab his vineyard and this makes Ahab upset.
- Jezebel devises a plan to get Naboth's vineyard for Ahab. Naboth is murdered to attain it.
- God sees this wickedness and uses the prophet Elijah to pronounce judgment on Ahab and Jezebel.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

### Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Sword

*Supplies:* Popsicle sticks (one large, one small), foil, jewels, promise sticker, glue

*Instructions:* Glue small and large popsicle sticks together to form the sword, wrap long end of large stick with foil, glue jewels to small stick, place sticker on foil.



### Snack

## 11am Sunday Schedule

*Craft:* Grapes

*Supplies:* Cardstock grape template, purple circles, green tissue pieces, crayons/markers

*Instructions:* Glue purple circles to cardstock as grapes, glue green tissue pieces for leaf, color as desired.



*Story:* Split: Elijah and Ahab

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, this week we continue to learn about God's prophet Elijah. If you remember from a month ago, King Ahab and Elijah had met on Mount Carmel. King Ahab served the false god Baal. But Elijah served the One, True God of Israel. King Ahab and Elijah continue to feud as to who serves the real God. We found out more about Elijah and Ahab in our story today.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### Questions for Review

**Scripture Memory (2 Kings 6:17)**

**Catechism Questions (1-13)**

**Hymn of the Month: Fairest Lord Jesus**

**Free Play**

### Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the king of Israel? And the queen?
- Who was the king of Syria?
- What did the King Ben-hadad want from Ahab?
- What did the leaders of Israel tell Ahab to do?
- What did God do to help Israel?
- Who owned the vineyard?
- What did Ahab do when Naboth did not give him the vineyard?
- What happened to Naboth?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why doesn't Ahab worship God?
- Who does Ahab worship instead?
- Who did God use to deliver judgement to Ahab?
- What did Elijah say?

### Scripture Memory for January:

"O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So, the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:17

### Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*

### Story

#### **Transition**

Boys and girls, this week we continue to learn about God's prophet Elijah. If you remember from a month ago, King Ahab and Elijah had met on Mount Carmel. King Ahab served the false god Baal. But Elijah served the One, True God of Israel. King Ahab and Elijah continue to feud as to who serves the real God. We found about more about Elijah and Ahab in our story today.

#### **The Mean King**

If you remember, King Ahab did not love God nor did King Ahab follow God. King Ahab ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel worshipped the false god Baal. The prophet Elijah, who worshipped the One True God, challenged King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and the prophets of Baal to a contest. Elijah won the contest because God sent down fire from heaven and it burned his watered-down altar. The prophets of Baal tried this same thing, but they could not do it.

Not long after this, a very mean king invaded and surrounded King Ahab's capital city of Samaria. The very mean king's name was Ben-hadad [**pronunciation:** ben-ha-dad]. King Ben-hadad ruled over a land called Syria. Ben-hadad had a great army. Ben-hadad then sent a message to King Ahab, "You must give me your silver, your gold and the very best people in your family." Ahab answered, "My king, I agree to what you say. I and everything I have belongs to you."

Ben-hadad sent messengers to Ahab again. The messengers said, "Ben-Hadad says, 'I told you before that you must give me your silver and gold, and the very best people in your family. About this time tomorrow I am going to send my men to you. They are to search everywhere in your palace. And they are to search the homes of the men who rule under you. My men will take anything they want.'" Once Ahab heard this message, he called a meeting of all the elders of his country. King Ahab told them all that was said by King Ben-hadad. The elders and all the people said, "Pay no attention to him. Don't do what he says."

King Ahab told the messengers, "Tell the king this: 'I will do what you said at first. But I will not obey your second command.'" The messengers took the message back to Ben-hadad. King Ben-Hadad heard the message and then sent another message to Ahab: "I will completely destroy Samaria and your whole kingdom. There will be nothing left. If I don't do this may the gods punish me terribly!" Ahab replied to Ben-hadad's threat, "The man who puts on his armor should not brag too soon. It's the man who lives long enough to take it off who has the right to brag." When Ben-hadad heard this, he became angry and told his commanders to get ready for battle.

### **God Helps King Ahab**

King Ahab could only find a little courage. He was scared by King Ben-hadad and his army. Ahab knew he could not pray to God; Ahab and Queen Jezebel had torn down all the altars to the Lord. Ahab had disobeyed God and was very wicked. Ahab knew that Baal was not real and would not be able to help.

But God had not forgotten His people. So God sent a prophet to King Ahab. The prophet said to Ahab, "Have you seen this great army of Ben-hadad's? I will defeat them for you, and you will know that I am the Lord." Ahab replied to the prophet, "Who will do the fighting?" The prophet answered, "The young princes." Then the king asked, "Who will command the main army?" The prophet answered, "You will."

Ahab gathered the young princes and the army of Israel. There were so few soldiers compared to Ben-hadad's large army. The army of Israel prepared for battle and left the safety of the city walls to fight Ben-hadad's army. Soldiers in the Syrian army saw the Israelites approaching and sent the news to Ben-hadad. The message read: "The army of Israel is approaching!" Upon hearing the message Ben-hadad told his commanders, "Whether the army of Israel is coming to fight or make peace, capture them alive!"

### **Ahab Fights Ben-hadad**

The Israelites were not afraid of the Syrian army because they knew that God was going to help them. When the army of Israel started fighting the army of King Ben-hadad, the soldiers of Ben-hadad became very afraid. The courage of the Israelites caused the Syrian soldiers to run away. For such a large and mighty army, they disappeared from the battle field quickly including their king. The army of Israel chased after the Syrian army.

That day all of Israel knew that God was the One, True God. He was the all-powerful God that could defeat His people's enemies. Even though King Ahab and the people of Israel had forgotten God, God did not forget them. They were His people. God loved them. And perhaps some of the Israelites would come back to worshipping God.

However, as soon as the celebration of victory was over, King Ahab went back to his wicked ways.

### **A Vineyard**

A man named Naboth had a vineyard, a place to grow fruit for wine, next to King Ahab's palace in a place called Jezreel. The vineyard had been passed down to Naboth from his father, his grandfather, his great-grandfather, his great-great-grandfather and so on. This was Naboth's land and there was a rule in Israel that each man's land or farm must always remain in his own family.

King Ahab was jealous of Naboth's vineyard and wanted it for himself. King Ahab had plans to plant vegetables there. So, King Ahab offered Naboth a lot of money for the vineyard, but Naboth did not sell the vineyard. Then King Ahab offered Naboth a better vineyard, but Naboth did not want to trade it. Naboth told King Ahab, "The Lord forbids me to sell the land which has come down to me in my family." When he heard this, Ahab went home angry and upset. He did not like what Naboth had said. Ahab laid down on his bed, turned his face to the wall and refused to eat. King Ahab pouted for a very long time. Finally, his wife Jezebel noticed him pouting. She asked Ahab, "Why are you upset? Why do you refuse to eat?" Ahab told her, "I talked to Naboth and said to him, 'Sell me your vineyard. Or, if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it.' But Naboth would not sell or trade me for his vineyard." Jezebel answered, "Is this how you rule as king over Israel? Get out of bed. Eat something. Cheer up. I will get Naboth's vineyard for you."

### **Jezebel's Plan**

Jezebel did not care about the Lord or what He wanted; she was determined to get Naboth's vineyard. She wrote letters to the rulers of the city of Jezreel. She signed them with Ahab's name, and sealed them with Ahab's seal. She did this so people would believe that it came from King Ahab himself. Jezebel sent the letter to rulers and important men who lived in Naboth's town. The letter said: "Declare a day during which the people are to give up eating. Call the people together and give Naboth a place of honor among them. But seat two troublemakers across from him. Have them say they heard Naboth speak against God and the king. Then take Naboth out of the city and stone him."

The elders were afraid to disobey Jezebel and Ahab. They proclaimed the fast and set Naboth in front of all the people. Then two troublemakers sat across from Naboth. They said they had heard Naboth speak against God and the king. The people carried Naboth out of the city and they stoned him. Then the leaders sent a message to Jezebel. It said, "Naboth has died." When Jezebel heard the news, she said to Ahab, "Get up, and take Naboth's vineyard, which he would not sell to you. He has died."

### **The Word of the Lord**

The Lord had seen all that happened and all that Ahab did. What Ahab did was wicked in the eyes of God, and God would not tolerate this sin. The Lord then told the prophet Elijah, "Get up and go meet Ahab. He is at Naboth's vineyard to take it as his own. Tell Ahab that I, the Lord, say to him, 'Ahab! You have killed Naboth and have taken his land. So, I tell you this! In the same place that Naboth died, you will also die.'"

Elijah entered Naboth's vineyard to find Ahab. Ahab was busy looking at the vines, delighted that at last he owned this piece of land. Once Ahab saw Elijah, he said, "So you have found me, my enemy!" And Elijah said to Ahab, "You have always chosen to do what the Lord says is wrong. So the Lord says to you, 'I will put an end to you and your wicked family. No one will be left. I will do this to you because you have made me angry. And you have caused the people of Israel to sin.'" There was never a king so wicked as Ahab. Everything he did displeased the Lord. Ahab was an Israelite. He knew that God rules the world, and he had seen God's power. After hearing Elijah's words, he was sorry for what he had done. Ahab tore his clothes, and put rough sackcloth on his bare skin. He would not eat; nor would he see any visitors. The Lord said to Elijah, "I see that Ahab is now sorry for what he has done. So I will not cause the trouble to come to him during his life. I will wait until his son is king. Then I will bring this trouble to Ahab's family."