



November 13, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we take a slight break from learning strictly about the kings of Israel and Judah, and look into the life of Elijah. Elijah was a righteous man and prophet of God. Told to go and speak God's words to wicked Ahab, we see Elijah's complete obedience to the Lord. In this story we see incredible ways in which God keeps His promises to Elijah and Elijah's confidence in the Lord is also on display. Despite the surrounding wickedness in Israel, this story displays a wonderful picture of trust and obedience followers of God are to have towards Him.

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 – Part 1

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 17-19 (select portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 80 (Pages 175-177); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 201-211.

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.
- God decided to send the prophet Elijah to tell King Ahab that no rain would come for three years.
- Ahab and Jezebel's servant, Obadiah, however was faithful to God too and hid the priests of God from Ahab and Jezebel.
- Elijah trusts in God's Promises. God takes care of Elijah.

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: Bread

Supplies: Brown cardstock slice, white cardstock slice, verse sticker, ribbon, glue stick

Instructions: Glue white slice to brown slice, place sticker in center of white slice, tie ribbon and loop through hole, color/decorate if desired.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Raven Puppet

Supplies: Black paper bag, google eyes, orange beak, feathers, glue stick, tape

Instructions: Glue eyes and beak to make raven face, tape feathers to the back of bag



Story: *Split:* Elijah – Part 1

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, this week we learn about a guy named Elijah. Elijah was God's prophet which meant Elijah told people what God wanted them to hear and know. Prophets were not popular guys because they often had to deliver bad news. Let's find out what kind of news Elijah delivers in our story.
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 (1 Kings 17:24)

Catechism Questions (1-12)

Hymn of the Month: Doxology

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the prophet who spoke God's words?
- What did God stop from falling from the sky?
- When the brook dried up, where did God send Elijah?
- What did Elijah promise the lady?
- Who did Elijah meet on his way to find King Ahab?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why did God stop the rain?
- Why was it a miracle that ravens brought food to Elijah?
- What decision did the lady have to make?
- What did Elijah promise to Obadiah?
- How did God keep His Promises in our story today?

Scripture Memory for November:

And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth." 1 Kings 17:24

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.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, this week we learn about a man named Elijah. Elijah was God's prophet which meant Elijah told people what God wanted them to hear and know. Prophets were not popular men because they often had to deliver bad news. Let's find out what kind of news Elijah delivers in our story.

The King Becomes Angry

The kingdom of Israel was wicked. Very bad and disobedient people ruled the kingdom for many years, but the worst was King Ahab. King Ahab, if you remember, was married to Queen Jezebel. They were wicked rulers who worshipped false gods called idols. God, however, wanted His people to know Him, so God sent a prophet named Elijah. Elijah was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. God sent Elijah to warn Ahab that such sin as his would surely call down the terrible judgment of God.

Elijah lived far from King Ahab's palace, but when God told him to deliver the message to King Ahab, Elijah went. Elijah arrived at the king's palace and walked right into the palace. Elijah then said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be no rain or dew these years until I say so." Once Elijah said this, he turned and left the king's palace. God then told Elijah, "Go away from here. Hide yourself near the brook Cherith. You can drink the water of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

So Elijah lived hidden near the brook. A brook is a very small stream of fresh water. Each morning and each evening the ravens brought him bread and meat. This was a miracle because ravens eat lots of food and very quickly! But God is in charge of all the earth, so He could have ravens bring food to Elijah without eating the food. And God caused the stream of water to flow so Elijah would have fresh water to drink. After a time the brook dried up because there was no rain.

The Lord then said to Elijah, "Get up, go to Zarephath [**pronunciation: zair-eff-ath**]. I have commanded a lady there to look after you." Elijah immediately left the dried up brook and hiked to Zarephath. It was over a hundred miles to journey to Zarephath and Elijah had to travel secretly. Elijah had to travel secretly because King Ahab wanted to throw Elijah in prison. King Ahab did not like what Elijah had said to him!

As Elijah traveled across the land he could see everything was dry and brown. He could tell it had not rained in Israel in a very long time. All the crops in the fields were shriveled up. Everyday the sun would rise in the sky and everything was scorched. There was never a cloud in the sky, never any sign of rain. After a very long journey, Elijah finally arrived in Zarephath.

The Widow

Once Elijah arrived at the city of Zarephath, he saw a lady gathering a few sticks to make a fire. "Please give me some water to drink," Elijah said. As she went to get Elijah some water, he also said to her, "And some bread too." The woman answered, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have a single loaf of bread in the house. I only have a little flour left in the barrel, and a little olive oil in the jug. I have come out here to gather a few sticks to make a fire, so that I can bake one last little cake from the flour and oil I have left for my son and me. After that is eaten, we have nothing more; we will have to die of hunger."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid, for the God of Israel says that the flour in your barrel and the oil in your jug will not fail until the day that I send rain upon the earth." So the woman made Elijah a little cake first. Then she made one for herself and her son. And every time she baked, the flour in the barrel did not run out and neither did the jug of oil. There was always plenty to be found. This was only a miracle that God could do!

The Rain Finally Comes

Three years passed without rain. Remember, Elijah had told King Ahab rain would not come until God said so. Each day the sun rose high into the sky and scorched the earth. And each day people would look into the sky to find clouds of rain, but they never saw any clouds only the hot sun. The rivers, brooks and streams were completely dried up in the land of Israel. The fields lay baked and brown under the blazing sun. There was no grass or grain in the fields too. This meant that cows, sheep and goats did not have food to eat. All the cattle were starving! The people that lived in Israel were suffering too. There was little food to eat much less share.

King Ahab and Obadiah

King Ahab saw the great drought and told his advisor, Obadiah, "Go into the country where the brooks and springs are, and see if we cannot find just a little grass for the horses and mules, so that they will not all die." In order to cover all the land, Ahab and Obadiah went in different directions looking for water.

During this time Elijah was still living in Zarephath. God said to Elijah, "Go, show yourself to Ahab. I will send rain upon the earth." So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab, but he ran into Obadiah who was looking for grass. Obadiah bowed down before Elijah and said, "Is it possible that you are Elijah?" Elijah answered, "I am Elijah. Go, tell the king that I am here." Obadiah said to the prophet, "I won't! King Ahab has been looking for you for a very long time. People have sworn to him that they are not hiding you in their homes. And now you say, 'Go, tell King Ahab that Elijah is here?' As soon as I go to tell him, the Lord could have you go somewhere else. When Ahab cannot find you, he will kill me." Elijah responded with a promise, "As truly as the Lord God of Israel lives, today I will show myself to Ahab." So Obadiah quickly ran off to find King Ahab. Once he found King Ahab, Obadiah told him that he had found the prophet Elijah. And so King Ahab left to go and meet Elijah at once. When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, "Are you the one who is troubling Israel?" Elijah answered sternly, "I have not troubled Israel. You and your wicked father have troubled Israel, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have worshipped false gods. Now gather all the people of Israel to Mount Carmel."

Next week we will find out what happens on Mount Carmel between God's prophet Elijah and King Ahab...