



November 20, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue on in our story of Elijah. Specifically we take a look at two pivotal scenes on mountaintops. The first is with Elijah calling down fire on Mount Carmel and defeating the prophets of Baal. The second is on Mount Sinai and his face-to-face with God. In both interactions we see the power of God demonstrated. Both interactions are fantastic examples of God's power and God's intention to keep His promises. God will never tolerate the worship of something or someone else (Carmel), and God will never abandon or forsake us (Sinai).

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 2

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 18-19 (select portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 80 (Pages 177-181); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 213-217; The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 126-127.

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.
- King Ahab and Elijah had a show-down on Mount Carmel to see who served the One, True God.
- The prophets of Baal and Elijah both built altars to make sacrifices to God. Both prayed to their own gods, but only the One, True God responded and that was to Elijah's prayer. God showed the people of Israel He is the Only God.
- Elijah then prays for rain to come, and just as God promised, He brings rain.
- Elijah has to escape for his life and ends up hiding in Mount Sinai. There Elijah meets God and God instructs Him to go back to Israel. God wants Elijah to know that He always keeps His Promises. There is nothing and no one that is too powerful for God.

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: Altar

Supplies: Popsicle sticks, colored tissue paper, glue

Instructions: Glue 8 sticks together in a square to form an altar, glue another stick across the middle, glue tissue paper to middle stick.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Ears

Supplies: Strip, ears, verse sticker, crayons/markers

Instructions: Staple ends of strip to fit child's head, tape ears to both sides, place verse sticker in the middle, color if desired.



Story: *Split:* Elijah – Part 2

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 last week 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 were going to have a contest to see whose God was the One, True God. Let's find out what happens in the story between King Ahab and Elijah.
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:

- Where did King Ahab and Elijah meet?
- What was the name of the false god?
- What did the false prophets do to get Baal's attention?
- What did Elijah do before his turn?
- What did God do on the mountainside in front of Elijah?
- How many servants still served God in Israel?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does it mean that God heard the prayers of Elijah?
- Why did Elijah want God to send fire from heaven?
- How did the people of Israel respond after the fire from Heaven?
- What does it tell us about God that He sent the windstorm, earthquake and fire to the mountain?
- How do we see 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 continue to learn about God's prophet Elijah. If you remember from last week, 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 were going to have a contest to see whose God was the One, True God. Let's find out what happens in the story between King Ahab and Elijah.

Mount Carmel

All the land of Israel had gathered at Mount Carmel. King Ahab wanted everyone to see what he would do to God's prophet, Elijah. Ahab also had the prophets of the false god Baal there too. Elijah stood up before all the people and shouted, "How long are you going to be undecided?" If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer Elijah. They knew that they had left their God to worship Baal. Everyone was ashamed because they knew that what they did was wrong. There may have been a few that wished to follow God, but they were too scared to say so. Elijah stood there all alone for God on one side of the mountain, and the all the people of Israel, King Ahab and 850 servants of the false god stood on the other side. Elijah spoke up again. He told everyone there, "I am the only prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are many. Let us see who really is the all-powerful God! You will make sacrifices to your god, and I will make a sacrifice to my God!"

The prophets of Baal built their altar first. Altars were built with stones stacked upon one another and then with a big hole in the middle so fires could be lit. Once the prophets of Baal finished building their altar, they stacked it full of wood but did not light a fire. Then Elijah built his altar for his sacrifice to God. Elijah did not light the fire for his sacrifice either. Then came the real test to see which God was all-powerful.

Fire From Heaven

The real test would be to see if God would light the fire for Elijah or would the false god Baal light the fire the false prophets built for him. "The God that answers by fire would be the God people should worship," Elijah shouted. This would show everyone, which God was more powerful! So the prophets of Baal then looked upon the sky and began chanting and calling out to Baal to answer them. The false prophets did this and more. The false prophets then began running around and waving their arms in the air. The false prophets screamed and howled, "O Baal, please, please hear us! Oh please!" But there was no voice, nor anyone that answered.

After the priests had shouted to Baal all morning without getting any answer, Elijah began to make fun of them. He shouted and mocked them. "Cry louder! Wave your arms more! He is a god. Perhaps he is talking, or he is on a journey, or maybe he is taking a nap and needs to wake up! Keep crying louder and louder!" The frantic priests screamed and cried, "Baal, hear us!" The false prophets ran around the altar screaming more and more. The false prophets did this all day long. By evening there was still no answer and the false prophets were exhausted.

The false prophets had had their turn, and now it was Elijah's. Elijah stood before all the people on the side of the mountain and said, "Come closer to me." All the people crowded as close to Elijah as possible. Elijah had built his altar out of an old altar from long ago. Elijah built the altar with 12 large stones. Elijah then laid the sacrifice on the altar and the wood. He then dug a little ditch around the altar, and then, so that the people could see he was perfectly honest, and was not playing any tricks, he said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood on the altar." And they did it. Elijah then said, "Do it again." And they did it again. Then Elijah said a third time, "Do it again." And the servants filled the trench with water again. The Bible says the water ran down around the altar soaking everything and filling the ditch.

When everything was ready, Elijah looked up to heaven and prayed. Many of the older folks could remember the last time someone prayed to God, but many of the young people couldn't. All they remembered were prayers to Baal. Everyone there listened intently to Elijah's prayer. Elijah prayed, "Lord God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all of this because you commanded me to do it. Lord, please hear my prayer so that everyone gathered here will know you are the Lord God, and they have turned their back to You."

After Elijah finished his prayers suddenly the fire of God fell down from heaven on the altar. The fire burned the sacrifice and the wood completely. In a minute the whole altar was on fire! The fire was so hot that the water in the trenches boiled away, and even the stones the altar was built upon were on fire.

Everyone gathered there fell on their knees and cried out, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" When they saw the power of God, they were finished worshipping the false god, Baal. The Bible calls this repentance, which means to turn away. God's people turned away from worshipping Baal and instead started worshipping God.

God showed who was the real God to worship that day. The false prophets of Baal were no more. Elijah then commanded King Ahab, "Now, go, eat and drink. A heavy rain is coming." Then Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel and began to pray. Elijah turned to his servant and said, "Go and look toward the sea." The servant did this and told Elijah he saw nothing. Elijah told the servant, "God again, seven times." When the servant came back the seventh time, he reported to Elijah, "I see a small cloud. It's the size of a man's fist. It's coming from the sea." Elijah commanded the servant, "Go, tell Ahab, 'Get your chariot ready and hurry home, before the rain stops you.'" The sky became black with stormy clouds. There was a great rain. Elijah tucked his robe into his belt and ran before Ahab's chariot all the way into the city of Jezreel through the rain. The rain had come at the prayers Elijah made.

Elijah On the Run

Elijah quickly had to leave Israel. Queen Jezebel and King Ahab wanted to put Elijah in prison and hurt him because of what happened on Mount Carmel. Elijah traveled for over forty days to escape Queen Jezebel and King Ahab until finally Elijah arrived at Mount Sinai. Mount Sinai, if you remember, was where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Elijah found a cave to live in on Mount Sinai. A short while later God came to Elijah and said, "Why are you here in a cave?" Elijah answered, "I have always served you the best I could. But the people of Israel have broken their agreement with you. They have destroyed your altars. They have killed your prophets with swords. I am the only prophet left. And now they are trying to kill me, too!"

"Go. Stand in front of me on the mountain. I will pass by you," the Lord told Elijah. Elijah did as the Lord commanded, and then a very strong wind blew. The wind shook the whole mountain. It broke apart large rocks that tumbled down the mountainside. After the wind stopped, then there was a large earthquake. And after the earthquake ended, there was a roaring fire surrounding the mountain. Elijah stood there and saw the mighty power of God in each of these acts. God wanted Elijah to see that He was all-powerful, more powerful than King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. After these things ended, Elijah heard a quiet, gentle voice. Then a voice said to him, "Elijah! Why are you here?" Elijah answered God just as he had before, "I have always served you the best I could. But the people of Israel have broken their agreement with you. They have destroyed your altars. They have killed your prophets with swords. I am the only prophet left. And now they are trying to kill me, too!"

God then told Elijah something very important. "Elijah, I still have in Israel 7,000 faithful servants who have not worshipped Baal. They will never worship him; they will only worship Me." God told Elijah that He had a plan to get rid of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. God told Elijah he was part of that plan too. There was also one more instruction God gave to Elijah before Elijah left Mount Sinai and went back to Israel. Elijah was to meet another servant of God's, and his name was Elisha.