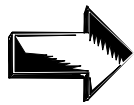


Old Testament

Elijah and the Contest 1 Kings 18:16-46

Younger Verse Love your enemies. Matthew 5:44

Older Verse Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever had to stand up for what you believed in? Did you have to tell someone how you felt, knowing that they may not feel the same way? It’s hard standing up for what is right when everyone else is not. Today’s lesson is about Elijah. He stood up for God. Let’s see what happened...

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Remember last week we learned that Elijah was a messenger for God. He told the people what God wanted them to know.

In the land, the king, named Ahab, did many things that the Lord said were wrong. He did more evil than any of the kings before him.

Elijah told the king that no rain or dew would fall on the ground until God commanded it.

Sure enough...the land began to dry up and turn brown because no water fell on the earth.

During the third year without rain, the Lord spoke His word to Elijah. The Lord said, “Go and meet king Ahab. I will send rain.” So Elijah went to meet Ahab.

Along the way, Elijah met a friend named Obadiah. He went and told the king where Elijah was.

The king quickly came to meet Elijah. He frowned; “Elijah, you’re the biggest troublemaker in the land!”

Elijah responded, “I have not caused trouble; you and your family have because

Lesson Goals

Obey God—do what He says, not what friends say
Trust Jesus in your heart
Stand up for God and what is right

you have not obeyed God. You have worshiped statues called Baal instead of worshiping the only true God.”

Then Elijah told the king. “Let everyone meet on Mount Carmel. Bring the 450 Baal prophets too.”

Everyone came to the mountain and Elijah talked to the group. He said, “How long will you try to serve both Baal and the Lord. If the Lord is the true God, follow Him. But if Baal is the true God, follow him.”

But the people didn’t stand up for God.

Then, Elijah challenged the people, “Let’s see who is the True God. Let’s have a contest.” He arranged wood for them and for himself. Then he told them to kill and cut up a bull and put it on the wood.

Then he told the people, “You people who love Baal, pray to him. And I will pray to the Lord. The God who answers the prayer will set fire to the wood and the bull. We will see who is really God.”

The people liked this contest. The people who worshiped Baal started praying, but nothing happened. They shouted and danced around the wood altar, but nothing happened.

Elijah began to make fun of them. He said, “Pray louder! Maybe Baal is busy traveling or he is sleeping or taking care of some business.”

Nothing ever happened because Baal was just a statue.

Elijah then gathered 12 stones and built an altar for the Lord. Next, he dug a ditch around the altar. After this, he cut up a bull.

Then he asked for a precious thing—water. (remember it hadn’t rained in 3 years) He poured 4 jars of water on top of the altar. He did this 3 times. (ask the group how many jars $4 \times 3 = 12$) (You might tell the kids that it is very hard to light a fire when the wood is wet. He is showing the people that only God could do this miracle.)

Elijah bowed down and began to pray to God. He asked God to show the people that He was God.

Instantly fire came down from heaven and burned the bull and wood. It even dried up the water in the ditch.

When the people saw this, they fell down to the ground and cried, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”

Elijah then told the king to go eat because a heavy rain was coming.

Then Elijah prayed 7 times. Soon a dark cloud was in the sky. It started to rain! God answered Elijah’s prayers. The people saw that God was real!

In James 5:16-17 it says that great things happen when good people pray. You know what, Elijah was a person just like us. God heard his prayers and answered them. Elijah loved God and was not ashamed to tell people that God was real. He stood up and was courageous. Elijah knew he had to stand up for God and not say what everyone wanted to hear. He had to tell the truth and obey God.

We have a choice too. We can follow God and trust/believe Him or we can do what everyone else does. Elijah chose God. I (teacher) chose God. Will you choose God?

Learning Activities

Reinact the story (you may even want to video it [it’s been done before]) to help the kids understand it. Let them work on sheets that will help them learn.

**Memory Verse
Activities**

This verse is an easy verse to say but hard to live out. It is hard to love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you (bully you). Share how Jesus wants us to love others even when they do not love us.

Prayer Time

What a great lesson about prayer. Take time to share needs and really PRAY for them. Write them on a piece of paper so you can remember to pray all week long for the needs and for our “enemies.”

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring Red Hots, Fireballs, “Fire” Jolly Ranchers, Hot Tamales etc. as treats.

Planning for Lesson 58
God speaks in a whisper
1 Kings 19:1-16

Preschool Lesson
For
Elijah and the Contest

Elijah was a man that loved God very much. One day, God told Elijah to pray that it would not rain in the land. Sure enough, it stopped raining all over the land. Elijah told the king the reason it was not raining was because he did not love God. Elijah told the king that God was very sad that he did not obey Him.

The king was furious! He told the whole kingdom to look for Elijah. God took care of Elijah and kept him from harm.

Elijah prayed for 3 years that it wouldn't rain. It did not rain for 3 years. That is a very, very, long time. Everything in the land was dry and brown.

Finally, God told Elijah to find the king. He challenged the king to a contest. He told the king to bring the people who did not love God. They would try to pray to a statue and ask for fire to come down on the wood. Then, he would pray to God and ask for help.

The king's men tried and tried to bring fire, but nothing happened. Elijah smiled. He knew that a statue could do nothing to help the people.

Then, Elijah prayed to God and asked Him to bring fire. Instantly, God brought fire down from heaven and burned the wood.

When the people saw this, they fell down to the ground and cried, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"

Elijah then told the king to go eat because a heavy rain was coming.

Then Elijah prayed 7 times. Soon a dark cloud was in the sky. It started to rain! God answered Elijah's prayers. The people saw that God was real!

God showed the people that He was real and could do amazing things. They started to worship Him and love Him.

Sing this song to the tune of "Mickey Mouse."

Who's the one who prayed and prayed that it would not rain?

E-L-I, J-A-H, Elijah was his name.

Then he prayed, (then he prayed) Then it rained (then it rained)

G-od brought the rain, yes, He did (yea, yea, yea).

When we face hard times, we can pray to God.

He will hear, He will help, because He loves us so.

Hands-On Activities
For
Elijah and the Contest

Try bringing rocks and water to help the kids visualize the lesson. Bring red plastic wrap to place over the rocks to symbolize fire .(If you bring matches instead, please be very careful as you light the match)

Bring a candle to illustrate the lesson.

For a fun snack, get some Carmel or Karo syrup. Coat pecans or cashew pieces with the sticky syrup and enjoy Mt. “Carmel” bites. Another idea is to bring muffins or cupcakes and let the kids decorate the “altar” with candy.

Another food craft is to bring bread (for the rocks), and jerky for the bull. Put ketchup on the jerky to symbolize the fire. Then eat it up! (It’s gross but kids love stuff like this!)

As you tell the story, have the kids make sound effects. Make bubbling noises for the water, Use a piece of paper or foil to make the fire sound. Bring a spray bottle with water to squirt as rain begins to fall! (They can make rain sounds by patting their knees slow then fast.)

This is a fun action game. Bring paper sacks and decorate with markers to look like “flames.” Open the bags and place on the floor. Blow into the bag so that the bag moves across the floor. Have a race to see who can move the bag across the floor quickest. Talk about how we must worship and serve God instead of other things. (Game courtesy of Gospel Light)
