

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

21

FIRE FALLS FROM HEAVEN

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



FIRE FALLS FROM HEAVEN

Memory Verse:

Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. (John 14:6 NCV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Elijah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Elijah to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

1 Kings 18

2 Kings 2:1-11

1 Kings 16:29-34 (Supplemental Scripture)

1 Kings 17, 19 (Supplemental Scripture)

Matthew 17:1-12

James 5:17-18



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FIRE FALLS FROM HEAVEN

1 Kings 18

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Elijah

His Heroic Feat: Points people to God

Pointing people to God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

After King Solomon, there were many other kings. They were judged by whether or not they followed King David's example. Many years after King Solomon, a man named Ahab became king. He didn't follow King David's example of a godly king, in fact, he "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him." (1 Kings 16:30 NCV) Ahab married an evil woman, Jezebel, and began to worship the god she worshipped. He even built a temple to the god Baal.

As punishment for the sins Ahab had brought into Israel, Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't. Elijah told Ahab what he had done and then God sent Elijah away to hide for a while. God even sent blackbirds to give Elijah bread and meat. He drank from a stream. When the stream dried up, God sent Elijah to another place. He found a woman there who was willing to give Elijah the last of the food she had. In doing so, God provided for the woman and her son until the drought was over. And when the son got sick and died, Elijah prayed for him and God brought him back to life. The woman told Elijah, "Now I know you really are a man from God. I know that the Lord truly speaks through you!" (1 Kings 17:24 NCV)

In the third year without any rain, God sent Elijah out of hiding to go and speak to King Ahab. The king called Elijah a troublemaker, actually, "the biggest troublemaker in Israel." (1 Kings 18:17 NCV) Elijah told the king it was actually the other way around. The king had caused problems by not obeying God and by worshipping the god Baal. Then, Elijah challenged the king to a showdown - a showdown between the god Baal and the one, true God. It would take place on Mount Carmel.

As Elijah waited on the mountain, the people began to arrive - Ahab, the people of Israel, four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and others. Elijah asked the people, "How long will you not decide between two choices? If the Lord is the true God, follow Him, but if Baal is the true God, follow him!" (1 Kings 18:21 NCV) The people wouldn't answer Elijah, but he had an idea for how to prove whose God was real. Elijah suggested that he and the prophets of Baal each sacrifice a bull on the altar. Each would pray and the God who answered with fire was the true God. Everyone agreed and the prophets of Baal took their turn first. They prayed from morning to noon. When Baal hadn't answered, Elijah made fun of them. They prayed louder, cutting themselves and dancing around the altar. They did this until the evening, but there was no answer from Baal.

Then, Elijah rebuilt the altar. He also dug a ditch around the altar. He put wood on the altar and then placed the bull on the wood. Then Elijah did something very odd. He asked for four jars of water to be poured all over the meat, wood and altar. This is odd for two reasons: wood doesn't burn when its wet and the people are in a drought - it is the third year without rain! That wasn't all, though. Elijah asked for four more jars of water a second and then a third time. By this time, "the water ran off the altar and filled the ditch." (1 Kings 18:35 NCV)

Then, Elijah went near the altar. He prayed to God, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Prove that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant. . . Lord, answer my prayer so these people will know that you, Lord, are God and that you will change their minds." (1 Kings 18:36-37 NCV)

As soon as Elijah finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned up not only the sacrifice, but also the wood, the stones, the ground around the altar and even dried up the water that had run into the ditch around the altar! "When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground, crying, 'The Lord is God! The Lord is God!'" (1 Kings 18:39 NCV)

And then, Elijah prayed for rain. "After a short time the sky was covered with dark clouds. The wind began to blow, and soon a heavy rain began to fall." (1 Kings 18:45 NCV) And as King Ahab returned to the palace in his chariot, God gave supernatural power to Elijah and he ran ahead of the king's chariot all the way to the palace!

Elijah continued to confront Ahab about his disobedience and near the end of his life, even King Ahab repented of the evil he had done. And then, near the end of Elijah's life here on earth, the Bible tells us, not that Elijah died, but that he was taken up to heaven, alive, in a chariot of fire. And that is how Elijah's life on earth ended, carried victoriously to the God he had pointed people to!

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Elijah pointed people to God. How about you? Do you point people to God? Our memory verse echos the contest on Mount Carmel between Baal and God and says, "Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. (John 14:6 NCV)

Have you come to God the Father through a saving relationship with His son, Jesus Christ? If not, let's talk. And if you have, who can you tell this week?



NEXT WEEK
Nineveh Repents!

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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After King Solomon, there were many other kings. A man named Ahab became king. He did evil things, more than any other king before him. Ahab married an evil woman and began to worship the god she worshipped.

The king caused problems by not obeying God and by worshipping the god Baal. Elijah challenged the king to a showdown - a showdown between the god Baal and the one, true God. It would take place on Mount Carmel. God, and His prophet Elijah, versus everyone else and the god, Baal.

Elijah suggested that he and the prophets of Baal each sacrifice a bull on the altar. Each would pray and the God who answered with fire was the true God. Everyone agreed and the prophets of Baal took their turn first. They prayed from morning to noon. When Baal had not answered, Elijah made fun of them. They prayed louder and danced around the altar. They did this until the evening, but there was no answer from Baal.

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a collage to resemble the altar and fir from heaven from our lesson today. Use randomly torn pieces of construction paper in colors that will resemble stone and fire. Be sure to include the memory verse and reference.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Let Others See Jesus in You," "I Will," "Days of Elijah," "Our God," "Mighty to Save" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Reenact the lesson. Write the part to be played on index cards or strips of paper to be chosen randomly. Assign each student a part. Parts might include: Elijah, prophet of Baal, altar, wood, bull, water, etc.
- Bring sunflower seeds for snack.
- Make bird feeders from pine cones, peanut butter and birdseed.
- Make origami birds from black paper. Talk about the ravens God sent to feed Elijah.
- **For more training:** Read Romans 11. Discuss this chapter in light of our lesson on Elijah and the disobedience of the people of Israel.

Jesus answered,
"I am the way, and
the truth, and the life.

The only way
to the Father
is through me.

John 14:6

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HERO IN TRAINING

Fire Falls From Heaven

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: 1 Kings 18

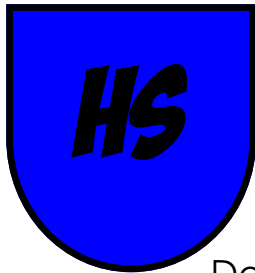
Memory verse:

Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. (John 14:6 NCV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

What can you do this week to point others to Christ? Who can you share with? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
What did Jesus say about Himself.
Fill in the missing words from the memory verse.

Jesus answered, "I am

the _____,

and the _____,

and the _____.

The _____ way

to the Father

is through me.

John 14:6

WORD

SEARCH!

B D D R E H P E H S G D E
D R S E D O R E E A N I L
R J E Z E B E L S S E A I
O B L T R U E G O D V H T
L T O S D A R E R B A A L
E H M A N R D N I D E B E
T W O W U E L I J A H H N
T T N N H L E E H O M T O
F R S D R O L S I D O G T
O V I C U R R Y S W R O S
E S D I O P E H O I F E E
G O L I F T H P D S E S V
U T U L S T E H P O R P I
O N A N S B R E V O I P F
H T B U I L T T E M F L E

- Ahab

- Jezebel

- Baal

- prophets

- four hundred

- Elijah

- true God

- fire from heaven - God is Lord

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
What did Jesus say about Himself.
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John 14:6

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

B	D	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	G	D	E
D	R	S	E	D	O	R	E	E	A	N	I	L
R	J	E	Z	E	B	E	L	S	S	E	A	I
O	B	L	T	R	U	E	G	O	D	V	H	T
L	T	O	S	D	A	R	E	R	B	A	A	L
E	H	M	A	N	R	D	N	I	D	E	B	E
T	W	O	W	U	E	L	I	J	A	H	H	N
T	T	N	N	H	L	E	E	H	O	M	T	O
F	R	S	D	R	O	L	S	I	D	O	G	T
O	V	I	C	U	R	R	Y	S	W	R	O	S
E	S	D	I	O	P	E	H	O	I	F	E	E
G	O	L	I	F	T	H	P	D	S	E	S	V
U	T	U	L	S	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	I
O	N	A	N	S	B	R	E	V	O	I	P	F
H	T	B	U	I	L	T	T	E	M	F	L	E

- Ahab

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