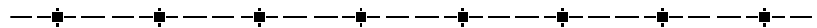


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Prophet Opposes the Enemies of God

Elijah

I Kings 17-19

A Prophet Opposes the Enemies of God
I Kings 18:30-39

Memory Verse:

My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.
(James 5:19-20 The Message)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Elijah confronted King Ahab.
2. Understand that Elijah obeyed God.
3. Learn that Elijah confronted 450 prophets of Baal.
4. Recognize that God wants us to help others turn their hearts to Him.

Last week we learned about King Jehoshaphat. He was a good king like his father, Asa. He lived the way King David lived. He did not worship idols. Jehoshaphat sent priests to teach people the law. He fought alongside Ahab, who was a bad king.

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 18:30-39 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

This week we will learn about Elijah. He was a prophet of God from Tishbe in the land of Gilead. Elijah told King Ahab that God said it would not rain in the land for several years. (I Kings 17:1)

After three years, Elijah went to talk to Ahab. Ahab told Elijah that he was always causing trouble for Israel. But Elijah told Ahab that he was the one who had caused the trouble. (I Kings 18:17) "You and your father's family have. You have turned away from the Lord's commands. You have followed the gods that are named after Baal." (I Kings 18:18) Then Elijah told Ahab to gather the people from all over Israel to meet him at Mt. Carmel. Elijah told Ahab to bring the 450 prophets of Baal, a god who they worshipped, with him.

Ahab did what Elijah asked and everyone gathered at Mt. Carmel. Then Elijah challenged the people to decide on who was the true God. (I Kings 18:19-20) "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, follow him. But if Baal is the one and only God, follow him." (I Kings 18:21 NIV) The people did not answer Elijah.

Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal. He told them to sacrifice to their god. Elijah would sacrifice to the Lord. (I Kings 18:22-23) Elijah told them, "You call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God." The people agreed that what Elijah said was good. (I Kings 18:24 NIV)

So the prophets of Baal prepared their sacrifice. They called on Baal from morning until noon, but there was no response. Elijah made fun of them. They continued shouting, dancing, and even cutting themselves, but Baal didn't answer. This continued until it was time for the evening sacrifice. (I Kings 18:25-29)

Elijah rebuilt the altar of God that had been destroyed. He got 12 stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. Then Elijah dug a ditch around the altar. It was so deep it could hold 13 quarts of seeds. Next, Elijah put firewood on the altar. Then he cut the bull into pieces for the

Elijah — Bible Facts

1. Elijah was a prophet from the land of Tishbe in Gilead.
2. Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to call on their god to answer by fire.
3. Elijah challenged the people to choose to serve the one true God.
4. God answered by fire.
5. The people fell on their faces and worshipped God.

sacrifice. He placed the pieces on the wood. After that Elijah told the people to fill four jars with water and pour it into the ditch. He had them do it three times until the ditch was full of water. (I Kings 18:30-35) It seemed as if Elijah didn't want to win. Everyone knows that water puts out a wood fire. But Elijah knew that he was doing God's work. He trusted God completely.

When it was Elijah's turn to offer the sacrifice, he stepped forward and prayed. "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel." (I Kings 18:36) Elijah prayed that God would answer him; that the people would know that he was God's servant; that everything he was doing was in obedience to God; that way everyone would know that God was the only true God. Elijah wanted the people to know that it was God who wanted their hearts to change so that their hearts would turn back to Him. (I Kings 18:37) God wants us to help others turn their hearts to Him. Can you guess what happened? The Bible says that , "The fire of the Lord came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood and the stones and the soil. It even licked up the water in the ditch." (I Kings 18:38)

What do you think the people did when they saw what God did? They saw and heard something very special. They saw God's prophet stand up against the prophets of Baal. They heard him pray and they saw God respond. The Bible says, "All of the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!" (I Kings 18:39 NIV) God sent Jesus so that we could know that He is the true God. He wants us to worship Him.

Review

1. **Who was Elijah?** (Elijah was a prophet from the land of Tishbe in Gilead.)
2. **What did he do?** (Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to call on their god to answer by fire.)
3. **What else did Elijah do?** (Elijah challenged the people to choose to serve the one true God.)
4. **What did God do?** (God answered by fire.)
5. **What did the people do?** (The people fell on their faces and worshipped God.)

Do You Know Jesus? God wants us to worship Him. God sent Jesus so that we could know Him. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. He came to provide us a way to heaven. We can live with Him forever if we ask His forgiveness and invite Him to be a part of our lives. (Romans 10:9-10; John 14:6)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you worship Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God is the true God.

Application

The Bible tell us , "... if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back..." (James 5:19-20 The Message) That is what Elijah did. He obeyed God. Elijah confronted a bad king. Then Elijah confronted 450 prophets of Baal. He knew God. Elijah trusted God to answer his prayer. God answered by fire. Because of Elijah's faithfulness the people turned their hearts to God. God wants us to help others turn their hearts to Him.

Planning for the next week:
Elisha (A Prophet Serves a Widow and Her Sons) — II Kings 2-4

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 18:30-38 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Have the children make altars using blocks. Play races to see who can make an altar first.)

Elijah was a prophet of God from Tishbe in the land of Gilead. (I Kings 17:1) He challenged the people of Israel to decide on who was the true God. (I Kings 18:19-21) Elijah rebuilt the altar of God that had been destroyed. He got 12 stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. Then Elijah dug a ditch around the altar. After that Elijah told the people to fill four jars with water and pour it into the ditch. He had them do it three times until the ditch was full of water. (I Kings 18:30-35)

Elijah prayed that the people would know that God was the only true God. Elijah wanted the people to know that it was God who wanted their hearts to change so that their hearts would turn back to Him. God wants us to help others turn their hearts to Him.

Can you guess what happened? The Bible says that , “The fire of the Lord came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood and the stones and the soil. It even licked up the water in the ditch.” (I Kings 18:36-38)

What do you think the people did when they saw what God did? The Bible says, “All of the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!" (I Kings 18:39 NIV) God sent Jesus so that we could know that He is the true God. He wants us to worship Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you worship Him.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn about worshipping God.

Consider this: Make musical instruments. Make maracas out of paper plates. Staple two paper plates together. Fill them with pebbles, dried beans, or popcorn. Use the maracas to sing. Tell the children that singing to God is a way to worship Him.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Copy pictures of jars. Put the words to the Bible verse on jars. Cut out the jars. Have the children put the verse in order. Practice the verse.

- **Test your memory** — Draw a picture of a bonfire on newsprint. Make sure it is tall. Write key words on colored index cards. If possible, use colors that coordinate with the bonfire (red, orange, yellow, brown). As you tell the story, place the cards on the bonfire. You may use tape or push pins to place them on the picture of the bonfire. Ask the children to retell the story.

Perform a drama of the story. Label everyone as the characters and other items in the story. Have the person who is designated as the altar kneel on the ground. Have the bull sit on the altar. Other characters to include are: Elijah, Ahab, the prophets of Baal, and the Israelites.

- **Taste activity** — Bring candy corn. Remind the children that God answered by fire.

- **Think about it** — Elijah confronted King Ahab about his idol worship. King Ahab could have killed Elijah. Talk about the importance of being courageous for the Lord.

Elijah confronted 450 prophets of Baal. Talk about the importance of trusting God when we are outnumbered.

Elijah added water to the ditch he built around the altar. Talk about the importance of faith.

- **Touch activity** — Build an altar. Use paper bags or large boxes to make stones. Create a fire with crepe paper.

Elijah was a champion. Have the children make altars using blocks. Play races to see who can make an altar first.

Make musical instruments. Make maracas out of paper plates. Staple two paper plates together. Fill them with pebbles, dried beans, or popcorn. Use the maracas to sing. Tell the children that singing to God is a way to worship Him.

- **Run and play** — Elijah had everyone meet him at Mt. Carmel. Divide the children into groups of three. Have the children form a pyramid. Ask two children to kneel on the ground on their hands and feet. Then ask a third child to stand.

- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to worship only Him.

- **Sing** — “Oh How I Love Jesus,” “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” or another song related to the story.

Memory Verse

My dear friends,
if you know people
who have wandered off
from God's truth,
don't write them off.

Go after them.

Get them back
and you will have
rescued precious lives
from destruction
and prevented
an epidemic of wandering
away from God.

James 5:19-20 The Message

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Fiijah

obeyed

God.

Word Puzzle

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

ELIJAH

PROPHET

KING

AHAB

BAAL

MT. CARMEL

SACRIFICE

ANSWER

FIRE

Word Puzzle

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

ELIJAH

PROPHET

KING

AHAB

BAAL

MT. CARMEL

SACRIFICE

ANSWER

FIRE

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

ELIJAH

BAAL

MT. CARMEL

PROPHET

AHAB

KING

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

A H A B J T K V K I N G

Q F C R L P R O P H E T

B I F S W L J C K V P B

M T C A R M E L K C J N

F S R B K L C T R D V J

J D S T D R E L I J A H

P F D P K M T P K C V D

B A A L J L S V B T F C

ELIJAH

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AHAB

KING

Anagram

1. EOYB–
2. RSTTU–
3. EECALLGHN –
4. TCNNOORF–
5. RTNU–
6. SHTRAE–
7. RNWSAE –
8. IERF –

Anagram

1. EOYB– OBEY
2. RSTTU– TRUST
3. EECALLGHN – CHALLENGE
4. TCNNOORF– CONFRONT
5. RTNU– TURN
6. SHTRAE– HEARTS
7. RNWSAE – ANSWER
8. IERF – FIRE