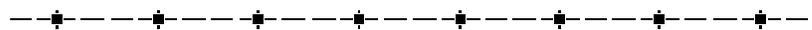


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



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

Old Testament

Elijah is Fed by Ravens

Last week we learned that David made the plans to build a temple for the Lord. But Solomon would build it. He spent seven years building the temple. Solomon listened to God and did exactly what the Lord commanded. When the temple was dedicated, God's presence filled the temple.

I Kings 17:1-6

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 17:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

Put God's kingdom first.
Do what He wants you to do.
Then all of those things
will also be given to you."
(Matthew 6:33 NIV)

Begin With Prayer

After King Solomon died, the new king of Israel was named Ahab. He was a very mean man. He worshiped idols and not God. He even led the whole country to worship other idols. (I Kings 16:29-33)

God sent Elijah to give King Ahab a message. Elijah was a messenger for God. He told people what God said. Elijah told King Ahab that God told him to pray that the land would not have dew or rain for a long time. It would only rain if Elijah prayed and asked God to make it rain. (I Kings 17:1)

Goals

1. Understand that Ahab was a bad king.
2. Learn that Elijah was God's messenger.
3. Recognize that Elijah's life was in danger.
4. Understand that God provided for Elijah's needs.

All the water in the rivers and lakes dried up. It was like a desert in the country. God knew the king would be angry with Elijah for letting this happen. Elijah knew that if the people found him, they would try to kill him because there was no water in the land.

God told Elijah to go to the Kerith Valley. God told Elijah He would provide for him there. "You will drink water from the brook. I have ordered some ravens to feed you there." (I Kings 17:2-4 NIV)

God provided for Elijah in an unusual way. Elijah did not go out and get food while he was hiding. Instead, God had some black birds (called ravens) bring food to Elijah to eat. Every morning and evening the ravens brought Elijah meat and bread to eat. He drank water from the brook. God provided for Elijah's needs and took care of him during that time. (I Kings 17:5-6)

The Bible says that we should look at the birds that don't plant or gather crops, but God feeds them. We are worth more than they are. The Bible

Elijah is Fed by Ravens — Bible Facts

1. Elijah was God's messenger.
2. Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three years.
3. It did not rain.
4. God's provided for Elijah.

tells us to look at the lilies. They don't work or make clothing, but God dresses them more gloriously than King Solomon. We are better than lilies. We don't have to worry because our heavenly Father knows we need those things. People who don't know God run after those things. But we don't have to do that. (Matthew 6:26-32)

All we have to do is, "put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you." (Matthew 6:33)

Review

1. **Who was Elijah?** (Elijah was God's messenger.)
2. **What did Elijah do?** (Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three years.)
3. **What happened next?** (It did not rain.)
4. **What did God do?** (God provided for Elijah.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to provide for our need, a Savior. (John 3:16) Jesus died on the cross for us. If we ask Jesus to come be a part of our lives, He will. (Romans 10:9-10) If we confess our sins, He will forgive us. (I John 1:9) Would you like to ask Jesus to be your Savior?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior.
3. Ask God to forgive your sins.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to ask God for forgiveness.

Application

Elijah had to give King Ahab some bad news. Ahab was a bad king, but, Elijah was God's messenger. He did what God told him to do. Elijah's life was in danger. God told Elijah where to go. He provided for Elijah's needs. God wants to provide for our needs, too. All we have to do is, "Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you." (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

Planning for the next week:

Elijah and the Widow — I Kings 17:7-24

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 17:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Make beaks out of construction paper. Use yarn to tie them on the children's faces.

A long time ago, there lived a man named Elijah who loved God. Elijah gave people messages from God. At that time, there was a mean king named Ahab who ruled the country. He told the people to worship other things and not worship God. This made God very sad. (Make a sad face.)

Elijah told the wicked king that God would not let it rain in this land until Elijah prayed for it to rain again. It did not rain for a long, long time. All the rivers and lakes dried up, and there was no water for the plants to grow. Everything dried up (pretend like you are a leaf drying up).

All of the rivers dried up and the whole land turned brown. The people began to get very thirsty. (Make a sound like you are panting for water.)

God told Elijah to walk to a valley to hide from the king. So, Elijah walked and walked until he found the valley and a little river of water! The water tasted so delicious! (Make slurping sounds.)

Elijah was all alone in the middle of the desert with no food to eat. Soon, his tummy started to rumble and growl.

Suddenly, some black birds called ravens brought Elijah meat and bread in their beaks. They flew down by the river and landed next to Elijah. Then, they opened their beaks and gave Elijah the bread and meat. Elijah told God thank you for sending the birds with food.

Every morning and evening, the birds came with food for Elijah. God took care of Elijah and helped him with his needs.

God gave Elijah what he needed, and he'll give us what we need, too. Let's pray and thank God for taking care of us.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins.
3. Ask God to help you love Him.

Memory verse for younger children

Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Matthew 6:33

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Make a raven using a paper bag and handprints. Write the memory verse on the raven. Make some for those who are not in class.

Test your memory — Bring a black jacket with a hood. Have someone put on the jacket and a bird beak and pretend to be a raven. Bring a robe. Have someone wear the robe and pretend to be Elijah. Bring a blue plastic table cloth to represent the brook from which Elijah drank. Use these items as you tell the story.

Taste activity — Bring gummies in the shape of insects for a snack.

Bring wheat toast for a snack. Tell the kids ravens eat grains. The ravens brought bread to Elijah.

Think about it — Elijah obeyed God. His life was in danger as a result of his obedience. Talk about what it means to obey God.

•**Touch activity** — Make bird beaks out of construction paper. Use yarn to tie them on the children's faces.

•**Run and play** — Ravens eat insects, fruit, grain, rodents, trash and even injured animals. Let the children pretend to be insects and rodents. Let some pretend to be ravens. They can make signs with labels or construction paper. Play Red Rover. Let the ravens call for a particular animal or insect to come. If the animal is able to break through he can stay on the side of the ravens. The other team will do the same.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to trust Him for all our needs.

•**Sing** — Sing "Seek Ye First," "Jehovah Jirah," or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the paper bag ravens with the memory verse to them. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Put God's
kingdom first.
Do what He
wants you to do.
Then all of those things
will also be given
to you.

Matthew 6:33

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Elijah

was

God's

messenger

Word Search

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

ELIJAH

AHAB

PRAY

RAIN

WATER

KERITH

RAVEN

BREAD

MEAT

Word Search

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

ELIJAH

AHAB

PRAY

RAIN

WATER

KERITH

RAVEN

BREAD

MEAT

Word Search

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

ELIJAH

AHAB

PRAY

RAVEN

BREAD

MEAT

Word Search

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

ELIJAH

AHAB

PRAY

RAVEN

BREAD

MEAT

Anagram

AEIHJL

EEEGMNSSR

AABH

GIKN

ABD

AEDPRY

AINR

EIHKRT

OOKRB



Anagram

ELIJAH

MESSENGER

AHAB

KING

BAD

PRAYED

RAIN

KERITH

BROOK