



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ELIJAH (pt 1)

HOOK & INTRO

PASS THE MESSAGE

Prepare a simple “microphone”/speaker. E.g. roll a cardboard or paper into a funnel shape or use a paper cup with the base cut off.

Choose a child to be the messenger. The teacher will whisper something to the messenger, who will then share it with the class using the “microphone”. Depending on age range, you can choose a joke or Bible verse or tongue twister as the message.

Give a prize if the messenger managed to deliver the message correctly.

The idea is to introduce prophets in the Bible as messengers of God.

INTRO: PROPHETS

In the Bible, we've learned that God had a special people called the Israelites. They were the descendents of Abraham. God had promised Abraham that his family would be blessed and grow into a mighty nation.

God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, took care of them in the desert, and brought them into the Promised Land.

Often times, the Israelites would disobey God's laws and worship false gods. Because God loved His people, He sent his messengers, called prophets, to call the people of Israel back to Him. (Sometimes they didn't listen, so sometimes God had to allow them to get into some sort of trouble before they would call out to Him.)

And as we'll see through the weeks, ultimately, God wanted to share His plan with His special people — His plan to save them from their sins and to give them eternal life — through His messengers, the prophets.

Today we will learn about one of the prophets, called **ELIJAH**. Elijah's name means 'my God is Jehovah'.



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STORY (1 Kings 17)

Once, Israel had a very famous king called **King Ahab**. Do you know why he was soooo famous? King Ahab was famous because he was a very wicked king.

He was also famous because he had a very wicked wife. Her name was Jezebel. Jezebel was not an Israelite (God's special people). Jezebel did not worship Jehovah God, instead she worshipped a fake god, called Baal, which was made of stone. (They offered their infant children as sacrifices to their god.)

King Ahab who never should have married Jezebel in the first place brings her into his family and make her his wife. Worse still, he allowed her to worship Baal in their house. This was a very wicked thing.

The bad influence of Ahab and Jezebel affected the Israelites, and many people began worshipping Baal as a result. They forgot that they had the One True God who made the whole world, who loved them, and who brought them out of Egypt.

So God sent Elijah to warn King Ahab. Elijah told King Ahab: "As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will neither be dew nor rain in the next few years, except at my word."

What do you think King Ahab and Jezebel did as this messenger from God stood before them? It's not written in the Bible, but based on what Elijah did next, we can only imagine that they threatened to kill him!

But God proved His faithfulness and love to Elijah with 3 wonderful miracles!

Miracle #1:

God told Elijah to go hide by the Brook Cherith by the Jordan River. He told him that he could drink water from the brook. He also said that He had commanded the ravens to feed him there.

When Elijah got to the brook he had plenty of water to drink. Just as God had said, every morning and every night God sent ravens with bread and meat for Elijah to eat. I couldn't help picturing these obedient ravens swooping down on someone's picnic and grabbing a hamburger or hotdog for Elijah to eat! Even the ravens obeyed God.

As time passed with no rain, the brook began to dry up and there was no more water for Elijah to drink. God had taken care of him this far, would God continue to help Elijah? Of course!

God told Elijah, "Arise, go to Zarephath, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow to provide for you."

When he got to Zarephath, the widow was at the city gates gathering sticks for firewood.



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Miracle #2:

"Please bring me a little water in a cup," Elijah asked the woman. "Please bring me a morsel of bread."

"I do not have bread," the widow answered. "Only a handful of flour in a bin and a little oil in a jar." Sadly, the lady told the prophet that when this was finished, she and her son would starve to death.

"Do not fear. Make me a small cake from it first, and afterwards make some for yourself and your son," Elijah said. "The flour will not be used up, nor the oil, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth."

God would have to work a miracle for that to happen. And He did! The lady and her son ate for many days, yet the bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry! Elijah lived with them.

Miracle #3:

One day a sad thing happened. The widow's son died. In those days, women depended a lot on men to take care of them. After her husband died, her son was her only hope.

Elijah carried the boy's body to an upper room. He cried out to the LORD, saying, *"O LORD my God I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."* What an impossible prayer!

The LORD heard the voice of Elijah and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. When Elijah took the child and gave him to his mother she said, "Now by this I know that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth."

(Source:

<http://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-elijah-confronts-ahab/#sthash.nsMOEVO1.dpuf>;

<http://www.bibleforchildren.org/languages/english/stories.php>)



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LESSON

GOD PROVIDES FOR OUR EVERY NEED

He provided food for Elijah through the ravens.

He provided for the widow and her child with never-ending flour and oil!

Whenever we give what little we have to God, whether it is money, time or energy, it opens up our hearts so that God can fill us up with more. And when we give our lives to God, we can trust Him to make things right for us and to be the rewarder of our faith.

WE CAN TRUST HIM EVEN IN BAD TIMES

When Ahab and Jezebel tried to kill Elijah, Elijah trusted God to protect him.

When the widow's son died, he trusted God to do the impossible and bring him back to life!

We, too, can trust in God in every circumstance of life. Certainly, God is able to take care of us, no matter how hopeless our situation seems, just as He cared and provided for the widow and her son.

We don't need to look to other fake gods because we have Jesus, our Everything!

Our faith is built as God delivers us from one difficult situation and then another, just as the widow's faith was built. Let us keep our confidence in God. He will never fail us! God wants us to learn how to trust in Him.



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

PICK A WORD REVIEW

Choose 5-7 key words from today's lesson (eg: Ahab, Baal, flour, oil, ravens, Elijah, widow, son etc.). Write them on a small piece of paper and place them in a bowl. Pass the bowl around class and have each child pick one word each. After everyone has chosen a word, allow the children to take turns sharing what their word is and how it fit into today's lesson.

FLOUR GAME

Prepared some flour, 2 bowls, 2 small spoons and 2 small jars that are the same size.

Split your class into 2 equal teams. Set up a table for each team. On each table set up a bowl filled with enough flour to fill up a jar. Place one jar and a spoon on each table. Have 2 teams line up facing each table.

When you say "go", the first child in line goes to the table and takes a spoonful of flour and put into the jar. Then returns to tag their friend who goes next. Continue until all kids have their turn. Winner is team with most amount of flour in the jar.

TESTIMONY TIME

Share a testimony of how God provided and protected you. Get kids to share their testimonies too.

Close in prayer.



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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ELIJAH (pt 2)

HOOK & REVIEW

OBJECT LESSON

Prepare 2 metal trays, some matches, water and old newspaper.

Crumple the newspapers and place them into each tray. First tray, light match and set the paper on fire.

Second tray, pour water until newspaper is soaked. Then try to light it on fire.

Explain to kids: When the paper is wet, it's almost impossible to light it on fire.

REVIEW: GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH

In the Bible, we've learned that God had a special people called the Israelites. They were the descendents of Abraham. God had promised Abraham that his family would be blessed and grow into a mighty nation.

God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, took care of them in the desert, and brought them into the Promised Land.

Often times, the Israelites would disobey God's laws and worship false gods. Because God loved His people, He sent his messengers, called prophets, to call the people of Israel back to Him. (Sometimes they didn't listen, so sometimes God had to allow them to get into some sort of trouble before they would call out to Him.)

And as we'll see through the weeks, ultimately, God wanted to share His plan with His special people — His plan to save them from their sins and to give them eternal life — through His messengers, the prophets.

Last week, we began learning about one of the prophets, called **ELIJAH**. Elijah's name means 'my God is Jehovah'.

We learned how Elijah confronted King Ahab and his wife Jezebel for leading God's people to worship other fake gods (Baal). As a result, Elijah said that there would be no rain over Israel for the next few years. Then Elijah had to run away to hide, but God provided for Him with many miracles. (1 Kings 17)

Let's find out what happened next ...



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STORY (1 Kings 18:16-46)

It's been 3 years since Elijah announced "no rain".

One day, God told Elijah to back to the king to tell him that God will send rain on the earth.

Go to Ahab?! His wife Jezebel had already murdered 100 prophets of God. What if she murders Elijah too?

But Elijah didn't argue.

He went to King Ahab and issued a challenge — Meet him at Mount Carmel with all Israel and the 850 false prophets.

At Mount Carmel, Elijah spoke to the people. *"If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."* But the people did not respond.

Elijah had two bulls prepared as sacrifices. But no fire was to be used to light them. *"You call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD,"* he said. *"And the God Who answers by fire is the real God."* The people agreed.

So the false prophets chose one of the bulls. And from morning to noon, the false prophets called upon their false gods and danced around the altar. "Baal, answer us!" But did the false god answer? NO!

They leapt and danced and cut themselves with knives until they bled. But was there fire? NO!

Then it was Elijah's turn.

Elijah asked the people to pour water over his bull. Water! Not once, not twice, but 3 times.

The bull was soaking wet! The wood was soaking wet! The altar was soaking wet! How could it catch fire now? Seems impossible!

But our God is a God of the Impossible!

Elijah prayed. *"O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God ..."*

Guess what? Suddenly the fire of the LORD fell.

It burned up the bull and the wood. Then it burned up the stone altar! Amazing!

When the people saw it, they cried, "The LORD, He is God!"

And Elijah said, *"Seize the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape!"*

Elijah did what King Ahab should have done long before. He got rid of all the false prophets.

And to prove that He was really God, Elijah told Ahab that rain was on the way. Could there really be rain after 3 years? The sky was empty! How could there be rain?

But soon, there was a small cloud. Not very big. About the size of a man's hand.

In a little while, the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain.

God sent the rain. God showed the people that Elijah was telling them the truth. God showed that He alone is the true God. Isn't He great?



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LESSON

GOD HEARS US

Do you want to know something even greater?

The true God of Elijah is the same God who lives IN us today.

Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we are made holy and can come near to God; and His spirit can live IN us forever.

Unlike the prophets of Baal, we don't have to shout or yell all day long for our true God to hear us.

God is NEVER too busy or too far. He never slumbers nor sleep! (Psalm 121:4)

These are the Days of Jesus! Expect God to do great things in us & through us!

(Source: <http://www.bibleforchildren.org/languages/english/stories.php>;

<http://youarefreeindeed.blogspot.com/2009/03/god-of-elijah-is-god-in-us.html>)



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY/GAME

Psalm 116:1 *I love the LORD because He hears and answers my prayers.*

1 Kings 18:21a *If the Lord is the true God, follow him.*

TESTIMONY TIME

Share how God answered your prayer. Get kids to share how God answered their prayers.

Close in prayer.





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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ELIJAH (pt 3)

HOOK

Choose 1 hook:

HOW MANY SOUNDS CAN YOU HEAR?

With all lights off, all closed eyes and everyone quiet, ask the children to listen carefully and try to count how many sounds they can hear.

Some of these sounds may be:

- Sound of pastor preaching in main hall
- Sound of air-con fan blowing
- Sound of car or motorbike passing by outside
- Sound stomach growling

Turn on the lights after 3-5 minutes. Ask the children what sounds they heard.

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME

Start out in a normal speaking voice saying, "If you can hear me, touch your nose." Continue saying action phrases while gradually lowering your voice to the quietest of whispers. The kids will have to listen very carefully so as not to miss the command phrase. End with "sit down".

GUESS THE WHISPER

Have one person sit blindfolded in a chair. Let someone come behind him and whisper. Let the blindfolded person try to guess who whispered.



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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ELIJAH (pt 3)

STORY (1 Kings 19:1-18)

REVIEW

[this is background info for teachers to help you transition into today's lesson; can review briefly with class]

We began learning about one of the prophets, called ELIJAH. Elijah's name means 'my God is Jehovah'.

We learned how Elijah confronted King Ahab and his wife Jezebel for leading God's people to worship other fake gods (Baal). As a result, Elijah said that there would be no rain over Israel for the next few years. Then Elijah had to run away to hide, but God provided for Him with many miracles. (1 Kings 17)

Then after three years, there was a great showdown at Mount Carmel.

Who did Elijah challenge at Mount Carmel? *King Ahab's 850 false prophets*

What was the challenge? *To call on their god to light the bull sacrifice*

The false prophets called and danced and cut themselves all day long. Did the false god answer? *No!*

How many times did Elijah ask the people to pour water over his bull? *3 times*

And did the real God answer him? *Yes! The fire from heaven burned up the bull, the wood and the stone altar*

What other miracle did God do that day? *He sent rain after 3 years of no rain*

This was an incredible victory for God and Elijah. After being in hiding from Ahab and his wife Jezebel for so long, Elijah must have really enjoyed the experience and been so happy.

Let's see what happened after these fantastic, great miracles ...



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RUNNING SCARED

Last week we saw how God brought rain and helped the people see that He was the only true God.

When the evil queen heard what happened, she was very angry. She sent a message to Elijah that she was going to kill him.

What do you think Elijah did?

Elijah was afraid! Yes, the great man of God was afraid!

Elijah — God's prophet who said it would not rain, and it didn't.

Elijah — The one who had special food delivery by the birds.

Elijah — The one who prayed for a dead boy and he came back to life!

Elijah — God's prophet who called down fire from heaven.

Elijah was not only afraid, but he ran for his life! He faced 850 false prophets that day. And now he was running like a scared chicken! What happened?

ELIJAH FORGOT

Elijah forgot who it was who provided food for him and brought the widow's son to life. He forgot who sent down fire from heaven. He thought it was all about himself. And he was exhausted and scared.

Instead of **faith** in the true God, Elijah focused on his **fears** and problems. Instead of trusting God, he ran away to hide.

He went into the desert and sat under a bush and prayed that he would die! *"I have had enough, LORD,"* he said. *"Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."* Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF

What did God do? God didn't scold Elijah. Instead, he sent an angel to wake him up to eat and drink. Twice!

We can trust a God who cares for us — especially our physical needs. He knows we need to eat, drink and rest.

After that, Elijah felt stronger and travelled in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Mount Horeb, where he stayed in a cave.

There, God came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"



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Elijah told God that he felt so alone. Elijah complained: *"I have been so passionate for you God! The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."*

God wanted to help Elijah. He asked Elijah to stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by.

In the Old Testament, no man could see God. God was too holy for sinful man to come near Him and feel His presence. But God gave Elijah a "preview".

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF

<use sound effects and pictures >

First, there was a mighty wind [make a blowing wind noise] that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind.

Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain [pretend like the earth is moving and shaking]. However, God was not in the earthquake.

Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain [make sizzling noises]. But, God was not in the fire either.

Then, there was a very, quiet whisper [whisper as you say this]. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.

Again, God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?"

Again, Elijah told God that he felt so alone.

Then, God told Elijah that there were many people who loved Him and worshiped Him. There were not 1, or 2, or 3 ... but 7,000 prophets of the true God whom God had also protected!

He also gave him some instructions. Elijah was happy about this good news. He followed God and obeyed Him.

God showed Elijah that He would take care of him. God loves us too and wants to take care of us



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LESSON

LET'S HEAR GOD

God can do great and miraculous works like raising the dead and sending down fire from heaven. But He can also speak to us in a gentle whisper.

In John 10:27, Jesus said that: *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

Jesus died for us at the cross to redeem each and every one of us. He loves us and wants to be with us always. He is our good shepherd and we are His sheep. He calls us by our name. He speaks to us every day. It may be in great miracles and signs, or it could be in a gentle whisper — in the everyday things you see (e.g. the birds of the air and the flowers of the field), in the words of the Bible, or a quiet prompting in your heart.

He is there to guide us through His Word and His Holy Spirit: *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"* (Isaiah 30:21)

So let's take time everyday to be still, to tune our ears and to call upon Jesus ... and we will hear Him. The more we listen, the better we are in tune with God's frequency — just like the sheep who knows the voice of its shepherd.



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY/GAME

Psalm 116:1 *I love the LORD because He hears and answers my prayers.*

CROSSWORD

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crosswords/b-crossword-elijah.gif>

LISTENING TIME

Spend some time in quiet for kids to listen for God's voice. Ask them to share what they think God is speaking to them.

Close in prayer.