

Bible Story 21: ELIJAH, THE PROPHET OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 16:29-33; 17:1-24; 18:1,17-39,45

MEMORY VERSE: Jeremiah 10:10

BIBLE STORY:

During a long period of time, there was a drought in Israel. God did not allow any rain in Israel and all its land was dry. Why? The king of Israel, King Ahab, did many things against God.

During this time, Elijah, the prophet of God, was living. God provided water and food for Elijah. How? God told Elijah to go to a small stream where he could drink water. Ravens brought food to him every morning and evening. Finally the stream dried up and God told him to leave.

Then God told Elijah to go to meet a widow. She was very poor. Elijah asked her to bake bread for him, herself and her son. She only had a little flour and a little oil left in her jar. Yet, she willingly made bread for him. He then told her that during this time when there was no rain, she would never be without flour or oil. A miracle happened! God never let the flour and oil run out so that the widow, her son and Elijah would have food when it was not raining.

One day, the widow's son was very sick and stopped breathing. Elijah healed him. Much time passed - one, two, three years passed without rain.

The king and people in Israel worshiped an idol of Baal. Elijah had a contest to show that God was all powerful. Two altars were made with a sacrifice, a young bull, on top of each one. The prophets of Baal prayed and shouted all day, from morning until evening. They called on Baal to burn their sacrifice. Nothing happened.

Then Elijah fixed his altar. He put twelve stones and dug a ditch around his altar. He put a young bull on top of the wood. Then he had one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve - yes, twelve large jars of water poured onto the sacrifice and wood. Everything was very wet! Then he prayed to God. Immediately God burned the sacrifice and the wood, and dried the water. Why? This showed that God is all powerful!

The people shouted: ***“O Heavenly God. You are the Eternal God!”***

The people saw that God was all powerful! The Israelites destroyed the altar to Baal and returned to worshipping only God. Afterwards, God sent rain.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What is a drought? Why did God not send rain to King Ahab and the people of Israel?
2. How did God provide water and food for Elijah?
3. How does God protect our lives?
4. How did the widow help Elijah? What happened to the flour and oil?
5. What happened when the widow's son was sick?
6. Who are some people who help us around our home, neighborhood and church? How?
7. How can we help people in need, such as people who go through an illness, a drought, a fire, a tornado or a hurricane?
8. Tell about the contest that Elijah had with the prophets of Baal.
--- Why did Elijah do this?
9. What did the prophets of Baal do in the contest? What happened?
--- What did Elijah do at the contest? What happened?
--- Who was the most powerful?
--- What did the people do after the contest?
10. Elijah was defending God. Are there times when you can stand up for God? When? How?