

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS
AUGUST 2, 2020

As we begin a new month, we are going to move our Bible lesson to the Old Testament. This week we are introduced to a very important prophet named Elijah. Our stories this month take place near the river or involve water. What do you think of when you see a bowl with water in it or see a large tub with water in it? This week we are reminded that God will never leave us.

Turn in your Bibles to 1 Kings. Do you remember where the books of Kings are in the Old Testament? 1 and 2 Kings are near the middle of the History section following Joshua, Judges, Ruth and 1 and 2 Samuel. Begin reading 1 Kings 16:29-30.

Prophets and kings are usually linked in the Old Testament. Whenever you see a prophet, you will usually find a king nearby behaving badly. Part of the prophet's job was to remind the kings of how God wanted them to live.

Continue reading 1 Kings 17:1-7

Why did Elijah have to hide? How did God take care of him?

We've read the story. Let's see what would happen if we changed some words. I am going to give you some parts of speech. Do you remember what parts of speech are? Nouns are people, places or things; verbs are action words and adjectives are words that describe other words. Here are the parts of speech I want you to fill in. You should use different words for each of the squares.

1. adjective	2. noun	3. proper name	4. adjective	5. noun
6. proper name	7. animal (plural)	8. verb	9. verb	10. noun
11. noun	12. verb	13. noun	14. noun	15. verb

Now I am going to write the story with some blanks. I want you to fill in the blanks with the words that correspond to the number before the blank. This is going to be silly.

Our Bible story is about a (1)_____ (2)_____ named (3) _____
_____, a (4) _____ (5)_____ named (6)_____
_____, and some (7)_____. (2)_____ (3)_____
_____ did many (1)_____ things. He did not (8)_____ the way God wanted him to
(8)_____. (6) _____ did many (4) _____ things. He
was a prophet. He helped people know how God want them to (8) _____. God sent (6)
_____ to talk to (2)_____ (3) _____.
But the (2)_____ did not like what (6) _____ said to him and
wanted to (9) _____ (6)_____. So, God had (6)_____
_____ hide from (2)_____ (3)_____. God sent (7) _____
_____ to bring (6)_____ (10)_____ and
(11)_____ each morning and each evening. When (6)_____ was thirsty, he (12)
_____ (13)_____ from a nearby (14)_____

_____. God took care of (6)_____ and kept him safe. (2)_____ (3)

_____ did not (15)_____ (6)_____.

Pretty silly story right? Here is the way the story should be told.

Our Bible story is about a bad king named Ahab, a good man named Elijah, and some ravens. King Ahab did many bad things. He did not live the way God wanted him to live. Elijah did many good things. He was a prophet. He helped people know how God wanted them to live. God sent Elijah to talk to King Ahab. But the king did not like what Elijah said to him and wanted to hurt Elijah. So, God had Elijah hide from King Ahab. God sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat each morning and each evening. When Elijah was thirsty, he drank water from a nearby stream. God took care of Elijah and kept him safe. King Ahab did not find Elijah.

What did you notice about the real story? The ravens flew to Elijah twice a day with food. There are people in our community who don't have enough food to eat. Like Elijah, they are depending on God to meet their needs. We can be like the ravens – we can let God use us to meet other people's needs. Maybe you have a garden this summer. You could share some of the vegetables you have grown by putting them on a folding table on the curb in front of your house for people to take what they need. Or maybe you could make plastic bags of snack mix and put them out on a table near your home for people who are walking by to take. Can you think of other ways you could help people who are in need?

Take a look at your Bible library poster. We have talked about the names of the books in the Prophet section but we haven't really spent any time reading them. This month all of our Bible stories are about two of the prophets. Elijah and Elisha. Most of the stories about Elijah are in First Kings and most of the stories about Elisha are in Second Kings.

As we learned earlier, prophets and kings usually appear together. This is because prophets don't really tell the future, they tell people what God thinks about the way they are living. They almost always speak to people with power.

Let's finish our lesson with a prayer. Thank you God for reminding us that you will always take care of us. Help us to remember to help others who may be in need and to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Keep us safe as we begin the challenges of returning to activities we have not done for some time. Amen.