



The Story of Elijah

Objective: To help the children understand that God had a special plan for Elijah, and his obedience affected not only his family but the entire nation of Israel.

Main Idea: Elijah was a prophet who stood up to the evil ruler Ahab. And even though Elijah had times of trouble, God protected him and used him to lead the nation of Israel away from idol worship.

Scripture Passages: ***1 Kings 16:29-30, 18:4, 17:1-5, 18:16-19, 18:25-29, 21:21-23***

Introduction (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer: “God, give us boldness to choose obedience instead of sin. Help us follow Elijah’s example of obedience even though he was surrounded by evil. Thank you for giving us the wisdom and strength we need to share the truth of your Word with others. Amen.”

Introduction

Elijah was an important prophet to the Hebrew people and spoke to them on God's behalf. God used Elijah to remind the people of how powerful HE is and how important it is to follow Him.

Elijah lived during a time when it was extremely unpopular to worship and obey God. However, Elijah didn’t allow peer pressure to keep him from delivering God’s message of truth and he experienced God’s protection and blessings because of his obedience and trust. Furthermore, the impact of Elijah’s obedience and trust were experienced beyond his family and

Practicing Faithfully throughout the entire nation of Israel.

responses is important if we truly want to be able to honor God through our interactions with others.

Lesson

Today we are going to talk about the prophet Elijah and how he helped God’s people turn away from evil. Prophets were

messengers who warned God's people of judgment and encouraged them to turn back to God. Elijah lived during the reign of the evil king Ahab and his wife Jezebel. (**1 Kings 16:29-30 & 18:4**). Since Ahab and Jezebel were so evil, how do you think they responded to Elijah (they didn't like him, they didn't want him around, they mocked him, etc)? How is this like the responses we can receive from unbelievers (they say mean things, call us names, etc)?" While Elijah simply wanted the people of Israel to do what was right, God told him to hide from Ahab and Jezebel. (**1 Kings 17:1-5**) . Elijah's obedient actions opened the door for others to turn back to God. The same is true for us when we lovingly serve our families and communities.

When Elijah came out of hiding, he confronted Ahab. What did Ahab call Elijah ('troubler of Israel')? What was Elijah's message (that Ahab's family had abandoned God and they needed to meet him at Mount Carmel)? The irony of Ahab's disobedience caused him to think of Elijah as a troublemaker! Baal was the king god of the Canaanites and Asherah was the "mother" of their gods, so Elijah wanted to settle once and for all that the **Lord** was the one true God.

- What happened when Elijah called on the Lord (fire came down and burned up the sacrifice and everything around it)?
- Then what happened to the prophets of Baal (they were killed)?

We learn from this situation that we shouldn't neglect obedience or trust in God simply because it is unpopular. Elijah's actions ended up giving the nation of Israel another chance!" Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah when she heard what had happened, so he ran into the wilderness to hide (**1 Kings 19:1-9**). However, Jezebel and Ahab eventually came to their death. Ahab's descendants were wiped out and Jezebel was eaten by dogs.

Elijah was a prophet who delivered a difficult message, but God blessed him through protection and ultimate destruction of those who persecuted him. Even better, Elijah was carried into heaven by a 'chariot of fire' (**2 Kings 2:11**)! God certainly had a special

plan for Elijah, and he also has a special plan for each of us, our families, and our nation.” **“All About Elijah” Word Scramble** (10 minutes) **(download and complete)** Let’s see who will finish first. **Recap:** Elijah didn’t give in to peer pressure and sin. He obeyed and trusted God even when it was hard, and all of Israel was given another chance to turn back to God because Elijah trusted that God would do what He promised. **Closing Prayer:** “Lord, help us obey you even when it is unpopular. Give us the words we need to say so others may turn to you. Amen.”