

LESSON 1

ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

BEFORE YOU TEACH

God uses many people to help Him do His work. Two of His most memorable workers were Elijah and Elisha. They were humble and faithful prophets. By studying their lives, we can see the power and mercy of God. Elijah and Elisha performed some of the greatest miracles recorded in the Bible, which turned the hearts of many to the Lord. They also taught God's word so that people could lead lives pleasing to God.

By examining their lives, we can see the constant protection that God provided for them. In times of need, God provided and cared for them, demonstrating the unfailing love He had for everyone.

The Prophet Elijah

Elijah was one of the first of a long line of prophets God sent to Israel and Judah. The kingdom of Israel did not have even one faithful king throughout its history. In fact, each king led the people to worship idols. While Israel's kings still appointed priests, they were often corrupt and ineffective. As a result, the people did not hear God's word and their faith weakened. To rescue them, God sent prophets to deliver His word and to lead them back to the correct moral and spiritual path. For the next 300 years, these prophets played important roles in leading the people back to God. An important prophet, Elijah had a special relationship with God. He was sent to confront an evil king, and his messages were often rejected. Despite this, he was still determined to serve the Lord. Through him, many miracles were performed, and while he felt alone and afraid at times, he never failed to rely on God. His personal relationship with God was highlighted in the New Testament transfiguration scene when he appeared with Moses and Jesus.

Ahab

Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel twenty-two years as one of its strongest kings. Despite his political success, Ahab proved to be disastrous in the religious affairs of his nation. One of his biggest mistakes was marrying Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. She led the entire nation into idol worship. The Canaanites honored a group of gods and El was the most famous of them all. Baal, meaning "master" or "lord," was the most well known offspring of El. Some references say that the name Ethbaal meant "Baal is alive." Baal was known as the storm god who provided rain for the land. While the worship of this Canaanite god was evident long before Ahab's time, Ahab was the one who, on the advice of his evil wife, built a temple and altar for Baal in the capital city of Samaria, provoking anger in the Lord. When Elijah came to confront him, he refused to acknowledge his own disobedience to God. Instead, he chose to listen to the false prophets who always delivered "good" news; constantly following the words of the false prophets eventually led to his death.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Kings 16:29-17:7

BIBLE TRUTH

God always provides for us and shows us the best way.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To reinforce the importance of obeying God in all circumstances.
2. To assure the students that every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need and bless us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

(Acts 16:31)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, heavenly Father, for Your love and protection throughout this past week. We are so joyful to be here again to worship and learn about You. You are a loving, merciful God who came down to earth to die for our sins. Today, let us learn from Elijah so that God's grace and power can shine through us in our lives. Like Elijah, if we remain faithful and obedient to God, we will be protected and guided. Then, we can truly be called the victorious soldiers of Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

At this age, your students are highly impressionable. They tend to follow the crowd and already feel peer pressure. While Ahab was not under pressure, he certainly listened to the majority, even though they often made wrong decisions. Many times, your students will engage in something without knowing that it is inappropriate. Sometimes, they might realize that what they are seeing or doing is not right, but they feel powerless to change the situation. Let them know that God is always there and while it may seem like no one understands them, God does. If they trust in Him and pray to Him, everything will turn out all right. The compulsion to follow the crowd is hard to overcome, even for adults. Your students may feel out of place or “weird” because they have chosen to follow God. Ensure that your students realize that God

knows everything and is always there to protect them, no matter what the situation. They need to be confident that God is someone they can rely on. In the end, their decision to follow God will be the best decision.

Some students might encounter idol worship because of their unbelieving parents and/or grandparents. It is important to teach them to be aware that food or drinks offered to idols on the altar cannot be eaten. Explain to them that after knowing Jesus, we should only worship God and no one else. If they already have God with them, they cannot worship another god. Advise them that even if their parents or grandparents insist that they eat or drink the offered goods, they should still politely decline, being mindful to remain respectful to them.

VOCABULARY

brook: small stream or river

raven: a large, shiny black bird

Baal: master or lord; also worshipped as the storm god

Ethbaal: “Baal is alive”

REVIEW

Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 1: God's Chosen Servants

Lesson 1: Hannah Prays for a Son

Lesson 2: The Boy Samuel

Lesson 3: Eli's Wicked Sons

Lesson 4: Israel Wants a King

Lesson 5: The Lord Rejects Saul

Lesson 6: Samuel Anoints David

Lesson 7: David Kills Goliath

Lesson 8: Saul Is Jealous of David

Lesson 9: Jonathan and David, Best Friends

Lesson 10: David Refuses to Kill Saul

Lesson 11: Abigail Makes Peace

Lesson 12: David Becomes King

Lesson 13: Review

Themes from this book: Choosing to listen to and obey God; following God's directions; being loyal to God; growing in God's wisdom

Key characters: Samuel; Saul; David

BIBLE STORY

Ahab and Jezebel

After King Solomon died, the land of Israel was divided into two nations because the tribes fought against each other. One nation kept the name Israel, while the other was called Judah. There were many evil kings who ruled over the kingdom of Israel. One of the most wicked was King Ahab. He did many things that displeased God, including marrying an evil woman called Jezebel. They worshipped idols together and led the Israelites away from God. The king and queen even built temples and altars for Baal so that the entire land of Israel could worship Baal.

God's Message for Elijah

When God saw all this wickedness, He became very angry. He decided to send someone to tell Ahab to stop or else He would destroy him. Elijah was a man of God who loved God very much and worked for Him. He was a prophet of God. A prophet is a messenger of God who tells other people the news he receives from God. God told Elijah to give Ahab an important message. He was going to punish the king and the people by not letting rain fall for a long time until Elijah said it could rain again. A period of time without rain is called a drought. When there's a drought, plants and food can't grow, which results in a famine that causes people and animals to go hungry. Elijah wasted no time in going to see King Ahab.

Elijah Delivers the Message

Elijah arrived at the king's palace and relayed God's message to him.

"King Ahab," said Elijah, "God has sent me here to warn you. God says that there will be no rain in this land until I say so."

Elijah hoped that Ahab would change his ways after hearing this warning. He wanted Ahab to realize that it was wrong to worship idols because it angered God. The absence of rain meant that there would be no water to drink and that all the plants and crops would die. The people were going to starve! Do you think Elijah was brave for telling the king that he had done something wrong? (Yes, he was, but he was able to do it with God's help. We should learn to follow God's words, even when we are afraid because other people are not doing the right thing.)

God Provides Food

After Elijah delivered the message to King Ahab, God knew Elijah was in danger, so He helped Elijah by telling him where to go and hide. He told the prophet to go to a brook far away. That way, King Ahab would not be able to find him. God also comforted Elijah by telling him not to worry about food or water. There would be lots of water to drink from the brook, and God had commanded ravens to feed him. Elijah did not question God. He obeyed and

immediately set out for the brook. When we are scared, we need to remember that God is always with us and will protect us.

When Elijah reached the brook, he saw that it was a wonderful place. There were huge rocks all around and plenty of fresh water to drink.

That night, Elijah began to feel a little hungry, but there was no food to eat at the brook. He then remembered that God had told him not to worry. Elijah was confident that God would somehow provide. Suddenly, he saw several black birds flying towards him. Do birds normally bring food for people to eat? (No. This is a miracle! Only God could have done it.) They were ravens. They flew down to Elijah, and he saw that they were carrying bread and meat. God had sent the birds to provide Elijah with dinner.

The next morning, the ravens came again to Elijah and brought him bread and meat for breakfast. Every day, the birds came with food so that Elijah would not go hungry. Elijah was well fed and safe from Ahab because God protected and provided for him. Today, if we obediently listen to God's instructions, just like how Elijah listened to God and immediately went to hide at the brook, He will look after us.

Learning from Elijah

Elijah was very obedient to God. The only instructions God gave him were to go hide by a brook and wait for His providence. Elijah didn't know whether that would really happen when he arrived at the brook, but Elijah believed in God even before he reached the brook. We can always believe in the words of God, because whenever God says He will do something, He always keeps His promises. (For example, if God tells us to be good children so that we may go to heaven, we must be good children. We must believe that there is a very nice and happy place called heaven, and that if we are good, one day we can go there and be with God!)

There are times when we might be afraid, just like how Elijah was afraid because Ahab was after him. But what should we do when we feel afraid? We should remember God. When Mom and Dad are not there with you, you must remember that God is everywhere and will look after you. You can always kneel down to pray and ask Him to help you.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. King _____ (Ahab) married an idol worshipper whose name was Jezebel.
2. God became _____ (angry) when He saw the evil things the king and queen had done.
3. God punished King Ahab and the people by not allowing _____ (rain) to fall until Elijah said so.
4. God sent doves to bring food for Elijah. False; God sent ravens.
5. Elijah hid by a brook so that Ahab wouldn't find him. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need.

Students, do you know what it feels like to go through the wilderness alone? [Let students answer.] It is probably dry, dark at night, and lonely. It must be scary, too! Why, then, did God send Elijah to the desert? Every great worker of God, such as Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist, and Paul, has gone through a period of alone time, either in the wilderness or a secluded location, to spend quiet time with God. That period is a time of preparation required to be a man of God. Prophet Elijah was sent to the wilderness, all alone, for a period of time. But in fact, he was not alone at all. The Lord was with him. Sometimes, we may feel like we are in the wilderness all alone. However, we need to remember that the Lord is always with us. God provides every need when we trust and obey Him.

In this lesson, God calls Elijah to the wilderness so that he learns to trust and obey God. What did Elijah learn? He learned that God provides every need.

Do you have faith that God supplies every need? If we go through life on our own, it will be full of difficulties. But if we trust and obey God's instructions, He will take care of our needs. Even though there was a drought in the land, God took care of Elijah! He had water from the brook to drink, and bread and meat from the ravens to eat, both in the morning and in the evening. God provides our every need. Isn't that wonderful? In Matthew 6:31-34, we read,

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Can you think of a time when God provided the needs of your families? [Teachers, perhaps you could take a few moments to give the students a chance to share a time when God provided for them.] It is pretty amazing to see how God has taken care of each one of us. There is no need too great or too difficult for God to supply. God has all power, all wisdom, and He loves us! He is well able to supply all our needs. When we have a need, we only need to talk to God about it in prayer, and trust that He will give us what is best.

Let's read the following testimony written by a student..

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify about how God helped my family.

A few years ago, my dad, along with many other people in his company, got laid off from his job. At about the same time, Irvine church was starting to build the second phase building and there were a lot of things to take care of.

My father was one of the members that helped oversee the construction work. Without a full-time job, my father was able to go help the church whenever there was a need.

While my dad didn't have a full time job, my mom had one. She teaches preschool, and during that difficult period of time, God blessed her with a lot of children to teach. We thank God that we didn't have to worry about money. My mom was glad that my dad could come see us at school when he came to do volunteer hours.

When the Irvine church second phase construction was completed, my dad found a part-time job. We were so happy! We didn't need to worry again. The church was glad for the permit because we received it just in time for us to host the World Delegate Conference.

God helped our church and family at the same time. I thank God for supplying our needs and guiding our family. May all the glory and honor be unto His holy name. Amen.

Testimony for Summer SSC 2013 by Rebecah Huang

2. God is there to protect and look after us, His children, if we completely trust in Him.

Ask the class, "Can you think of a hymn that talks about how God protects us?" Refer to the hymn, "My Father Watches Over Me."

Sing this hymn together as a class.

*I trust in God wherever I may be.
Upon the land or on the rolling sea.
For some what may, from day to day.
My heavenly Father watches over me.*

*I trust in God, I know He cares for me,
On mountain bleak or on the stormy sea,
Tho' billows roll,
He keeps my soul,
My heavenly Father watches over me*

[Explain the lyrics of the hymn and remind the students to trust and rely on God, just as they trust and rely on Mom and Dad. Also, share with the students some testimonies or your own experiences of when God kept His promise because complete trust had been placed in Him.]

The following scenario is a great example of how God keeps His promise to supply our needs when we place our trust in Him.

I Trust in You!

Caroline is very anxious about her violin performance next week. Last time, she shook so much during her performance that she had to stop playing and did not finish. She is so worried that this will happen again. Caroline prays every day about her performance next week. In her prayers, she says to God,

"Dear heavenly Father, my violin performance is next week. I'm so worried that I'll embarrass myself in front of my friends and disappoint my violin teacher and my parents. I don't have any confidence in myself! God, I know that everything is possible with You. I have heard so many stories about Your power and love. I really believe that You can help me! Prophet Elijah placed his trust in You, so in turn You kept Your promise to help and protect him even though everything seemed so impossible. I trust You just as Elijah does... I don't think I can perform in front of so many people next week without shaking, but I trust that You can help me. God, please give me Your strength for this performance; help me do better than last time and look after me so that I won't be laughed at. Thank You, Lord! Amen."

As the days go by, Caroline begins to feel more and more confident about her performance. She really feels the power of prayer and that God is listening to her request! At last, Caroline goes to her performance with little fear but great confidence in God. Before the performance, she reminds herself of God's promise. Even though she plays a few wrong notes, Caroline isn't as nervous as last time. She only shakes a little bit at the beginning of her performance, and as she continues playing, she can feel that God is with her, which helps her finish her performance beautifully.

3. Obey God in all circumstances.

Students, remember how the Lord instructed Elijah when there was drought in the land? The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan." Sometimes, we do not always see the big picture of what God is doing in our lives. God might give us just a little bit of information. We must be obedient with that direction in order to receive more direction.

Elijah had a choice—to obey or disobey God. But he chose to obey God, even though he had no idea how long he would be there. Elijah willingly obeyed God's guidance and allowed Him to take control of his life.

1. Ask the class, "What are some ways that can you obey God?"

2. Have the students write the following statements on a piece of paper (or alternatively on the whiteboard):

- I obey God by praying to Him every day.
- I obey God's teachings by reading the Bible.
- I obey God by thanking Him before eating meals.
- I obey God by going to church.
- I obey God by being good and submissive to my parents.

Are you willing to ask God to work in your heart and teach you? He wants our hearts to be in the right place before serving Him. Let's read this testimony to see how a child at your age learned to obey her parents even though she really wanted to have fun with her friends after church.

Last week, Amy invited me to her housewarming party on Saturday. I really, really wanted to go because all of my friends are going. But I knew that Saturday is always the Sabbath day, so I made up my mind not to go. We had a very edifying RE class about obeying God. Thank God that I didn't miss it! Sabbath is truly a blessed day.

Still, I really hoped to stay at church for a little longer to play with my friends. When we finished class, the teacher brought a new board game for the class and I wanted to play it with them. However, my parents needed to go because of a family dinner. I reasoned with them that I had already lost my chance to play with my friends at Amy's housewarming party, but my parents said we must go. I almost wanted to cry, but I thought about what we learned from RE class that day—blessed are those who obey God! God wants us to submit to our parents. God would be so disappointed to see that I cried to make my parents let me stay longer to play with my friends. So I said to my parents, "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad. You're right. We shouldn't be late to our family dinner. Let's go!" That night, my parents told me that they were very proud of me for obeying God in keeping the Sabbath and for being good and submissive to them. Their encouragement means a lot to me. Thank God for such wonderful parents!

Students, we have a choice to make every day—to obey God or not to obey God. When we obey God, God will surely bless us and guide us.

ACTIVITIES

1

"Put Your Trust in the Lord"

Objective: To create a bookmark that will remind the students to always put their trust in God, no matter the circumstance.

Materials

- Assorted tissue paper
- Pressed and dried flowers/leaves (if possible)
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Glue
- Clear adhesive plastic

Instructions

1. Press the flowers or leaves by placing them between sheets of newspaper and slipping them inside a large phone book or heavy textbook for about a week. If this is not possible, then the students can create them out of other materials.
2. Cut out two 2" by 6" pieces of clear adhesive plastic. Set aside.

3. Cut a 2" by 6" rectangle from construction paper. Using this rectangle, cut a 3/8" border to use as the frame for the bookmark.
4. Print "Put Your Trust in the Lord" around this frame, adding other decorations as desired.
5. Cut out small pieces of colored tissue paper. Set aside.
6. Remove backing from a piece of adhesive plastic and stick the frame onto it (with the printed words down on the plastic).
7. Now add the pieces of tissue paper and/or the dried flowers and leaves onto the clear plastic that is showing.
8. Cover the frame with the other piece of clear adhesive plastic. Let the bookmark remind you to trust that God will take care of you!

2

Raven Mobile

Objective: To create a hanging mobile that depicts Elijah being fed by ravens, which will remind the students to always trust in God.

Materials

- Plain paper
- Clear elastic thread/string
- Cardboard
- Stapler (alternatively, use glue or Blu-Tack)
- Colored pencils/markers
- Single-hole punch

Instructions

1. Have the students draw on two pieces of pre-cut paper (which are of good size to create a mobile). On one page, draw Elijah by the brook; on the other, draw several black ravens.
2. After drawing their pictures, have the students glue the pieces of paper onto pre-cut cardboard pieces, preferably of the same size.
3. Using a hole puncher, punch four or five on the bottom of the picture with the ravens.
4. Using a hole puncher, punch four or five holes on the top of the picture with Elijah by the brook.
5. Connect the two pictures by threading some clear elastic thread/string through the holes. The end result should be four to five vertical strings connecting the two pictures (with the raven picture above and Elijah's picture hanging below).
6. With the remaining paper or cardboard, draw some pieces of bread and meat (about the size of small coins) and cut them out.
7. Randomly staple these onto the elastic thread/string (alternatively, use glue or Blu-Tack, but this may require an extra piece of paper to be attached to the back of the meat or bread to stick properly).
8. Punch one hole at the very top of the mobile, and attach a long piece of string to allow the students to hang the mobile up.
9. If time permits: have the students glue plain paper onto the reverse side of the mobile and write on/decorate it with the words "TRUST IN GOD ALWAYS."

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. A
3. False; God was upset that they were worshipping Baal.
4. True
5. rain
6. brook
7. ravens
8. They worshipped idols and built temples and altars for the idol Baal.
9. Noah listened to God and built the ark; Abraham moved out of his hometown to travel to a foreign place—Canaan; Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac for God; Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt by listening to and following God's instructions.
10. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 1—Elijah and the Ravens

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God always provides for us and shows us the best way.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To reinforce the importance of obeying God in all circumstances.
 2. To assure the students that every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need and bless us.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 16:31)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : King Ahab and Queen Jezebel built _____ for the idol Baal.
 - a. An altar
 - b. A temple
 - c. Both an altar and a temple

2. _____ : The ravens brought Elijah _____.
 - a. Bread and meat
 - b. Bread only
 - c. Meat only

True or False

3. God was very happy that the people of Israel were worshipping Baal. _____
4. Elijah was safe from King Ahab because God protected him and made sure that he didn't go hungry or thirsty.

Fill In the Blank

5. Elijah spoke to King Ahab, saying that there would be no _____ until he said so.
6. Elijah ran away from King Ahab and went to hide by a _____.
7. During the famine, God sent _____ to give food to Elijah.

Short Answer

8. How did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel disobey God?

9. Elijah was obedient to God. Can you name some other Bible characters that also obeyed God (e.g., Abraham, Noah, and Moses)? How were they obedient?

10. How can you show your obedience today?

