

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY  
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON**

**LESSON #2**

**DATE:** April 5, 2020

**SUBJECT: PROPHETS AND KINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: Elijah (2 of 4)—Challenging Baal's Prophets to Prove Who is the Real God**

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 18:1-46; James 5:16b-18

**AIM:** To show the children that God will answer the prayers of those who stand firmly on His side.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** James 5:16b (...The petition of a righteous man avails much in its working.); 1 Kings 18:21m (...If Jehovah is God, follow Him...); 1 Peter 3:12a (For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears *incline* to their petition;...); 1 Corinthians 16:13 (Watch, stand firm in the faith, be full-grown men, be strong.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 20 (All Things are Possible When We Believe); 2501 (Faith is the Victory—3rd stanza only, Elijah); 3104 (He is the King); 173 (To the Foe my Word is Always No); 1613 *BSS Matthew Vol. 2* (Confess Me Before Men); 9313 *BSS Daniel* (Our God is Living); 107 (He is Lord)

**APPROACH:** If all your classmates lie, will you be bold to stand up to tell the truth? Are you bold to give thanks to the Lord at lunchtime in school?

**BACKGROUND:** In last week's lesson, we heard about Elijah, a faithful prophet of God. Do you remember what is a **prophet**? It is someone who knows God's heart and speaks for God. God used Elijah to deal with a very evil king named Ahab, and his wife Jezebel. Elijah warned Ahab that there would be no rain. Yet Ahab did not turn from his evil ways. During this time, God took care of Elijah and provided water from a brook and food brought from ravens. When the brook dried up, God continued to care for His servant by sending him to a widow to be fed. Do you know how long the lack of food and water lasted? A long time...3½ years. In the third year of the famine, God sent Elijah to speak to Ahab again.

**CONTENT:** *Please pray and consider how much detail to give. For younger children, we can skip some details.*

**God Sending Elijah to Ahab (vv. 1-2).** In the third year of the severe famine, Jehovah told Elijah, "Go, present yourself to Ahab; and I will send rain upon the face of the earth." Obeying God's instructions, Elijah went to present himself to King Ahab. Recall that Elijah had been hiding from Ahab. Ahab and Jezebel both worshipped idols and tried to kill Jehovah's prophets. So this was not an easy thing for Elijah to come to Ahab.

**Ahab Meeting Elijah through Obadiah (vv. 3-16).** A man named Obadiah was in charge of King Ahab's house. Obadiah worked for Ahab, but Obadiah was not like the evil king at all. Instead, Obadiah feared Jehovah greatly. He had even protected 100 of the Lord's prophets from the evil Jezebel and cared for them by hiding them in a cave and feeding them bread and water, probably at a great risk to his own life. The famine at this point was very severe. The ground must have been very hard, and no seed could grow, and the green grass dried up. Ahab told Obadiah to go through the land, to all the springs of water and to all the brooks, so that they could perhaps find grass to keep the horses and mules alive. They divided the land between them to search: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way.

While Obadiah was on the way, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized Elijah. Elijah told Obadiah to go and tell King Ahab that Elijah was here. But Obadiah was afraid! Ahab had sent men into many nations and kingdoms to search for Elijah when Elijah was hiding. What if Obadiah told Ahab that Elijah was here, but then the Spirit of God carried Elijah somewhere else? If the king couldn't find Elijah, Ahab might kill Obadiah for saying he found Elijah! But Elijah assured Obadiah that Elijah would indeed come before Ahab.

**The Test on Mount Carmel to Prove Who the Real God Is (vv. 17-40).** When Ahab met Elijah, Ahab accused him and called him a name, "Is that you, the troubler of Israel?" Elijah was bold and courageous and responded to Ahab, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of Jehovah and have gone after the Baals." Elijah then challenged Ahab to a test to prove who

was the real God. Elijah told Ahab to gather all the children of Israel to Mount Carmel, as well as the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who ate at Jezebel's table.

When the people came to Mt. Carmel, Elijah spoke to them, "How long will you go hopping between two opinions? If Jehovah is God, follow Him; but if Baal is, follow him." Then Elijah proposed a test. He proposed that they take two bulls for offerings, one for the prophets of Baal and one for Elijah. They would each take a bull, cut it in pieces and place it on wood, but put no fire under it. Then the prophets of Baal would call on the name of Baal and Elijah would call on the name of Jehovah, and the God who answered by fire would be the true God. The people thought this was a good idea.

The prophets of Baal went first. They prepared the bull, and called on the name of their god. They called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. They leaped around the altar that had been made. Then at noon, Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry out with a loud voice, for he is a god; for he is meditating or has wandered off or is on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and will awake." The prophets then cried out with a loud voice and cut themselves, according to their custom, with swords and spears until blood gushed out all over them. And when noon had past, they prophesied until the evening, but still there was no voice and no answer.

Then Elijah went next. He told all the people to come near to him. He repaired the altar of Jehovah which was broken down. And he took twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of the sons of Jacob; and with the stones he built an altar in the name of Jehovah, and he made a trench around the altar. He then arranged the wood and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour the water on the burnt offering and on the wood." They filled jars with water and poured water three times until the water went around the altar, and also filled the trench.

Then Elijah stepped forward and prayed, "O Jehovah, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things by Your word. Answer me, O Jehovah; answer me, that this people may know that You, O Jehovah, are God and *that* You have turned their heart back again." At this moment, the Lord answered His servant's prayer: the fire of Jehovah fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said, "Jehovah—He is God! Jehovah—He is God!" And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape!" And they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

**The Great Downpour of Rain (vv. 41-46).** Then Elijah told Ahab to go and eat because rain would come. He went up to the top of Mt. Carmel and prayed for rain. He sent his servant to look seven times. The seventh time, the servant saw a cloud the size of a man's hand coming up from the sea. That meant that the rain was coming! He told Ahab to ride home in a hurry and then he outran Ahab's chariot to Jezreel. God had released the rain after a famine of over three years.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Note to serving ones: It is not intended that we cover all the suggested applications, but based on prayer and fellowship, and the children's response, allow the Lord to lead us regarding which applications to cover.*

- **We should follow the Lord just as Elijah did.** Elijah lived in a very dark and dangerous time when the king and queen worshipped idols, and tried to find and kill those who were faithful to God. But Elijah stood for the Lord and obeyed God to speak to Ahab more than once. We belong to God, and we should not follow when others do things that are not pleasing to God.
- **We are not alone when we stand for the Lord.** Elijah seemed alone as a prophet standing for God, while the false god Baal had 450 prophets and Asherah had 400 prophets. But still, God prepared Obadiah. And in another part of the Bible, it tells us that God reserved 7000 people that had not bowed down to Baal (I Kings 19:18). Sometimes we may feel alone when we stand on God's side. As Elijah stepped forward and prayed, "O Jehovah, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel..." (1 Kings 18:36a) surely he was standing on the faith of the forefathers. Perhaps other students are causing trouble for the substitute teacher, but we are listening and obeying. Perhaps those around us are teasing another child, or stealing something when they think no one is

watching. When we refuse to join in, people may make us feel bad, or we may feel alone, but we can be assured that the Lord has other people like us who are standing for Him. We can be encouraged by the fact that we are not alone.

- **If you do something which offends the Lord, you should confess.** Elijah warned Ahab more than once, but Ahab was not sorry for the extremely evil things he and his wife Jezebel did. They even tried to kill God's prophets. God withheld the rain for three and a half years, and yet Ahab still was not remorseful. We should not be like that. When we sin, our conscience should bother us, we should feel sorry and tell the Lord we are sorry for whatever wrongdoing we committed, and we should apologize to the person whom we offended. We should confess before we pray. Otherwise, our sins cause a separation between God and us (Isaiah 59:2).
- [*For older children:*] **We should pray fervently for our friends and family.** Some of our family and friends do not believe in the Lord Jesus. We should pray that one day they would turn to the real and living God.
- **We have to be right with God.** Elijah was a righteous man. He never could have prayed, "...let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant..." if he had not conducted himself with proper humanity as the Lord's servant, serving God alone and obeying His commands. We must not think He will answer our every prayer if every day we do whatever we please, disobeying God and not honoring Him by our actions. By obeying the Lord's voice in the small things every day we can come to Him with a pure heart. This should make our prayer to Him more real, meaningful and effective.
- **Stand firm for the Lord.** While others around us may not believe in God or be Christians, we should stand firm in the Lord and maintain our testimony at school, at home, and wherever we are.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 3/16/80; 7/30/89; 04/21/96; 4/18/04; 4/18/2010; 4/12/2015