

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

LESSON #3

DATE: April 12, 2020

SUBJECT: PROPHETS AND KINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: Elijah (3 of 4)—Threatened by Jezebel and Commissioned by Jehovah

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19:1-21

AIM: To help the children realize that we can believe and trust in the Lord in every situation, and that when we feel discouraged, the Lord is able to encourage us.

SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 56:9 (Then my enemies will turn back / When I call; / This I know, / That God is for me.); Psalm 56:11 (In God do I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?); Joshua 1:9b (...Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 24 (He's Able); 1302 (Be Strong and of Good Courage); 4611 (My God is so Great); 2822 (God's Promise); 2818 (God Takes Good Care of Me); 2204 *BSS Matthew Vol. 2, Song 5* (Every Little Hair); 31 (Surely He Will Care for You); 174 (When Ugly Satan Knocks at My Heart's Door); 33 (When Your Fears Grow Mountain High); 7611 (When I am Afraid); 96 (No Never Alone)

BACKGROUND: Last week we learned more about the prophet, Elijah. God once again sent Elijah to the evil king of Israel, Ahab, even though Elijah had to hide to preserve his life. But Elijah obeyed God and was bold, challenging Ahab to have a test on Mount Carmel to prove who the real God was—Baal of the heathens or Jehovah of Israel. He dramatically proved to the people who the real God was. Elijah earnestly prayed for the people that they would know God and come back to Him. When the fire came down to consume Elijah's sacrifice the people bowed down and worshipped God. Elijah then destroyed all the evil prophets of Baal. God answered Elijah's prayer for rain with a downpour. King Ahab then mounted his chariot and went to Jezreel, where he had his palace.

CONTENT: Threatened by Ahab's evil wife Jezebel. At Jezreel, Ahab told his evil wife Jezebel all that Elijah had done and all about how he had killed all the prophets of Baal with the sword. Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, swearing by her false gods that she would kill him by tomorrow. Elijah was afraid, and escaped for his life first to Beer-sheba, in Judah, and then to the wilderness. He sat down under a broom shrub (a woody plant smaller than a tree) and requested to die, telling Jehovah to take his life. Then he lay down and slept under the broom shrub. Suddenly an angel touched him and told him to rise up and eat. Elijah looked and nearby there was a cake, baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of Jehovah came a second time and told him to rise up and eat because the journey he would need to take would be too great for him. So Elijah got up again and ate and drank. In the strength of this food he travelled forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. And there he went into a cave to hide.

Jehovah's commission to Elijah while he was discouraged. While Elijah was in the cave, the Lord spoke to him and asked him what he was doing there. Elijah answered that he was jealous for Jehovah the God of hosts and that the children of Israel had gone against His commandments, thrown down Jehovah's altars, and killed His prophets. He said that only he was left and that people were seeking to kill him.

Elijah was very discouraged. But Jehovah was not disappointed in Elijah for being discouraged. Instead, the Lord told Elijah there was still a commission (special job) for him to carry out. He charged Elijah to go out and stand upon the mountain before Him. Elijah waited to hear God's word. There was a great, strong wind, but the Lord's voice was not in the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but Jehovah was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire. Jehovah was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Then a gentle, quiet voice came. In that gentle, quiet voice God charged Elijah to anoint three people. First, God commissioned him to anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Second, Elijah was to anoint Jehu as king over Israel. Third, he was to anoint Elisha as his successor.

In addition to the special job for Elijah, God encouraged Elijah. Elijah had thought he was the only one left who stood for God, and he was so discouraged that he asked to die. But God told Elijah that He still had for Himself 7,000 faithful ones in Israel who had not bowed down their knees to Baal and had not kissed him with their mouth (v. 18). Do you think Elijah was encouraged to hear this?

Finding Elisha to replace Elijah. So Elijah left the mountain and found Elisha, who was plowing the field. When Elijah put his mantle upon Elisha, he left the oxen, ran after Elijah and asked to kiss his parents goodbye first and then follow Elijah. When Elisha returned, he prepared the oxen for the people to eat. Then he followed Elijah and ministered unto him.

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 need to learn to trust the Lord in every situation.** In last week's story (1 Kings 18), we saw that the prophet Elijah was bold and courageous and had a great victory when he challenged King Ahab to test who was the real God. But in this week's story he was fearful and ran away for his life. He had good reason to be afraid of the threatening Jezebel since she had already killed other prophets, but he seemed to have forgotten how God had taken care of him not too long before. It doesn't matter if we were strong to follow the Lord yesterday; today, without the Lord, we could all be scared when a situation comes up. We need to trust the Lord in every present situation.
- **When we are feeling discouraged, we should not let that feeling stay within us.** Fear and discouragement always seem to go hand in hand. We can talk to our parents, our siblings or saints and they can pray for us and speak encouraging words to us. If we give way to fear, discouragement soon will follow. Fear and discouragement are Satan's big weapons but we have bigger ones—faith and trust in the Lord. If we remember how the Lord has helped us in the past, our faith will be strengthened. We should not allow fear and discouragement to stay within us, but fight those feelings by letting the Lord and others who love the Lord encourage us. He is able!
- **We should be encouraged to love the Lord and stand firm in the Lord with others.** In school, we may feel that we are the only ones who love the Lord, somewhat like Elijah felt. But the Lord always has some that love Him. We can be thankful that we are part of these few, together with all the children and families in the church. Every time we feel discouraged and alone, we can thank the Lord for all the children all over the world that love Him.
- **We should encourage others.** When others feel down or discouraged, we can lend a listening ear. We should not make fun of them or make them feel even worse, but rather speaking an encouraging word: "I hope you feel better soon." Just as God encouraged Elijah by providing for his needs and speaking just the right words to help Elijah, we should also encourage others by being kind to them and offering whatever help we can.
- **We need to obey our conscience.** In the Bible, God's voice could be thunderous, like it was on Mount Sinai when the Ten Commandments were given. But we see in this lesson that God at times speaks in a still small voice. To hear Him, we need to pay attention to His speaking in our heart—especially in our conscience. Sometimes we may want to do something when no one is looking, perhaps watch something on T.V. that we are not allowed to watch, read a book or magazine that is not so good, or use the computer when our parents are not looking, but the still, small voice in our conscience tells us not to. We need to listen and obey this still, small voice.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 3/23/80; 8/6/89; 4/28/96; 4/25/04; 4/25/2010; 4/19/2015