

Lower Elementary

Elijah and the Ravens

Checklist

- ☐ bread
- ☐ black paper or crayons
- ☐ orange paper rolled into cones and stapled together to make bird beaks

Introduction:

Have the children practice being messengers.

Have them come to you one at a time.

Whisper a command to them and tell them who to deliver the message to.

They go to that person, deliver the message in their ear and return to their seat.

The person who received the message then carries out the command. Continue doing this until all children have had a chance to be a messenger.

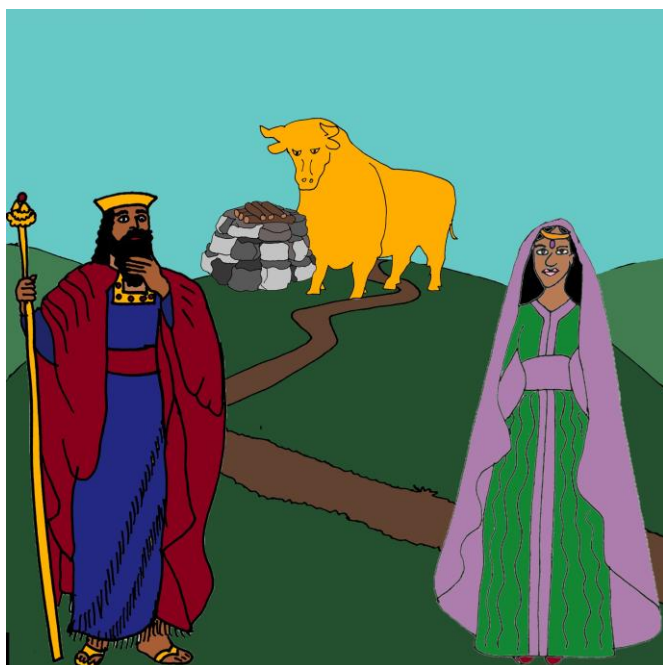
Optional Messages:

- Turn the lights off and on two times.
- Do a jumping jack.
- Jump up and down three times.
- Clap your hands ten times.
- Wiggle one ear and touch your nose.
- Stand up, turn around then sit back down.
- Touch your right ear with your left hand.
- Reach for your toes.
- Hop on one foot four times.
- Touch your right hand to your left foot, then your left hand to your right foot.
- Twist your waist.
- Jog in place.
- Stomp your feet.
- Rub your stomach and pat your head.
- Turn around in a circle.
- Plank on a chair.
- Untie your shoes and tie them again.
- Sing Happy Birthday.
- Make a rooster or monkey sound.

The twelve tribes of Israel had divided into two countries. The Southern Kingdom, called Judah, had its capital in Jerusalem. The Northern Kingdom, called Israel, had its capital in Samaria.

The Northern Kingdom began to be ruled by King Ahab. Ahab had married a princess named Jezebel, from a neighboring kingdom. In her land the people bowed to statues and Ahab followed what his wife did.

But even worse, he built places of worship for these statues and wanted everyone in Israel to worship them with him. He was the worst king Israel had had up until this time.



There was a prophet from Gilead named Elijah. One day, God sent Elijah to Ahab to try and get his attention.

“Because of what you have done,” Elijah told Ahab, “God will not allow any rain to fall on the land until I say so. It will be so dry, that when you go out in the morning, there won’t even be any dew on the ground.”



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When the creek dried up and there was no more water to drink from it, God told Elijah to visit a widow in the town of Zarephath. “She will give you food,” the Lord said. When Elijah arrived at her house, he asked for a cup of water and a piece of bread. “Water and bread!” she exclaimed. “Don’t you know what a terrible drought we’re having? My son and I have enough flour and oil for one last loaf of bread. After that, there will be nothing for us.”



But Elijah asked again for her to make him some bread, promising that God would provide for them.

“Your flour and oil will not run out until the drought is over,” he assured her.

So, the woman went and made bread for Elijah, and her son. Even though there had only been a small amount left, there was still more after she poured it out. She continued making bread for her son, Elijah, and herself every day. And every day, there was still flour and oil left in her jars.

Even though times were difficult, God was providing for their needs.



Later on, the woman's son became sick and died. She cried out to Elijah, "What was the point of saving us from hunger if my son was not going to live through the drought anyway?" She was overcome with sadness. But Elijah simply went to the boy and prayed over him. "Let this child's life come into him again!" he cried out to God.



The Lord answered Elijah's prayer and the boy opened his eyes. His mother ran and hugged him, overjoyed at how much God was showing her His power.



Closing Discussion:



Did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel worship God? (no)

Who was God's prophet? (Elijah)

Elijah told Ahab it would not rain because of the bad things he made Israel do. Can we get away with doing bad things and never having problems because of it? What are some problems that can happen to you for disobeying?

God kept Elijah safe by making him disappear from Ahab, sending him food from ravens and keeping the woman's jars from running out of oil and flour. What are some ways God keeps you safe?

When the woman's son died, did it seem like God was taking care of her? (no) Was this true? (no)

How did God show the woman He is really in charge and is watching over people? (He used Elijah to bring the boy back to life) Is there any problem too big for God? (no)

Can you think of a time when you had a problem that didn't have a solution, and God helped you? (teacher, share a story if you like)

God wants us to be at peace when bad things are happening. When we know He is in charge, we don't have to stress, we can just trust in Him.

Craft:

Paper ravens

Closing Activity:

Take a piece of bread and tear it into pieces. Let children take turns being Elijah. Have children bring bread pieces in their bird beaks, one at a time. Talk about how God can take care of any impossible situation. Elijah could feel peace even when he didn't know where his food would come from.

Elijah and the Ravens

Name: _____



You will drink from the rock, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there. ~ 1 Kings 17:4

- ❖ Have children color the template black
- OR
- ❖ Place the template over black paper to cut out the raven shape and copy the lines for making the folds and slits.



