



OLD TESTAMENT: ELIJAH

lesson 29

BIG IDEA

God used the Prophet Elijah to warn the Israelites about the punishment they would receive if they continued to rebel and worship idols. He had to hide for his life from angry Queen Jezebel. Eventually he proved God's power in a very mighty way.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and /or I Kings 18:3

KEY VERSES

I Kings 17-19

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Cast: TL wearing baseball cap. Bear wearing bear ears.
- *EM will provide baseball cap and bear ears.*

GAME - WINK YOU'RE OUT

- none needed for this game

CRAFT - RAIN GAUGE

- water bottles
- masking tape
- permanent markers
- rulers
- optional - bring empty, pre-cut water bottles if possible
- optional - rocks in the bottom to keep it from tipping over

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

lesson 29

CAST

TL wearing a baseball cap. Bear wearing bear ears.

SCRIPT

Bear & TL (Play a quick and silly two-person game of hide and seek in the Kids Club area. Take turns hiding where the kids can see. Take turns seeking in silly places before really finding the other. Play a couple rounds then return to stage.)

Bear Whew! That was fun! Hide and seek is the best game ever!

TL I agree, Hide and Seek is a lot of fun when it's a game. Can I tell you a story that starts with a hide and seek and ends with a dramatic fire?

Bear Hide and seek in the bible? This I gotta hear!

TL One of God's prophets named Elijah was given a message from God. God was going to punish the Israelites because they continued to do evil, he was going to stop any rain from falling for a couple years! The lack of rain caused a severe famine. This made King Ahab and Queen Jezebel very angry. Queen Jezebel was so angry that she started killing all of the prophets. For a while Elijah hid in a ravine, then he hid with a widow and her family, he hid for 3 years! Then one day God said to Elijah, "Go to Ahab and I will send rain on the land."

Bear That must have been scary! Wasn't the king still angry?

TL He was angry and the first thing he said when he saw Elijah was, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" He still thought the famine was Elijah's fault.

Elijah replied, "I haven't troubled Israel, you and your family have. You disobeyed God's commands and worshiped the false god Baal." God had given Elijah the wisdom to settle the problem of idol worship. "Meet me at Mount Carmel and bring 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. Bring the Israelites too."

A little while later the prophets of the false gods and the Israelites met Elijah on the mountain. Elijah said, "We are going to have a contest to prove who the true God is. Prophets of Baal, prepare an alter and sacrifice to your god and I will prepare an alter and sacrifice to the Lord. You call on your god and I will call on my God and whoever is answered with fire is the true God."

Bear Answer with fire? What does that mean?

TL In the Old Testament sacrifices were often burned with fire. Elijah had faith that the



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 2)

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Lord God had the power to send fire down on his sacrifice. Each side prepared their altar and sacrifice. The prophets of Baal started calling, "Oh Baal hear us!" They called all morning but there was no answer. They started leaping and dancing. But there was no answer. Elijah suggested, "Cry louder, maybe your god is busy or on a trip. Maybe he's asleep!"

The false prophets cried louder and even cut themselves with knives to prove their loyalty to Baal. They continued all day and into the evening.

Elijah prepared a simple altar of 12 stones to remind the Israelites of the 12 tribes of Israel. He dug a trench around the altar and filled it with seed. He prepared a sacrifice on top of the altar and poured water on top of everything.

Bear Water? That's not very smart if you're wanting everything to catch on fire!

TL You're right. Wet things do not burn very well. But Elijah knew God was powerful and water could not stop him. When the sacrifice was ready Elijah spoke calmly. He didn't yell, dance, cry or cut himself. He simply said, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me, so that these people will know that You are the Lord God. Turn their hearts back to you again."

Immediately fire fell from heaven and burned the sacrifice. It was so powerful that it also burned up the wood, the stones and dried up all the water. When the people saw God's power they knelt with their faces on the ground, "The Lord, He is God!" They shouted, "The Lord, He is God!" They turned their hearts away from the false god Baal and back to the One True God.

When the people returned to their homes and Elijah was alone on the mountain he started to wonder why God still hadn't sent rain as he had promised. He prayed, "Please, O God, send rain to your people. The people now realize you are the One, True God." Elijah then sent his servant to look for clouds in the sky. The servant came back and said the sky was clear, no clouds. So Elijah prayed again and again sent his servant to look for clouds. The sky remained clear. This happened several times until the 7th time the servant came back, "I see a tiny cloud. It's the size of a hand and it's over the sea. "Go tell King Ahab that rain is coming!"

Ahab came outside and saw the sky become black with clouds. Soon there was wind and heavy rain. It became so stormy that King Ahab got back in his chariot to get home as quickly as possible. God gave Elijah power at the same time and caused Elijah to run very fast and he beat King Ahab home.

God showed his power to the Israelites over and over again because he loved them. He showed he could stop the rain; he could protect his prophet; he could send fire



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from heaven; he could cause the rain to begin again; he could cause a man to run faster than a horse and chariot.

Bear Wow! That is an amazing story. I would have liked to see the fire come from heaven and burn up the sacrifice and alter.

TL Me too, Bear. But more than that, I want to always keep my heart turned to God. I hope my heart is never far from him or against him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why was the king angry at Elijah?
- What was Elijah's special job for God? (Prophet)
- What does a prophet do?
- Why did Elijah hide?
- How did Elijah demonstrate his faith in God?
- How did God demonstrate his strength and power?

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: RAIN GAUGE

Kids will make a rain gauge to measure local rainfall.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

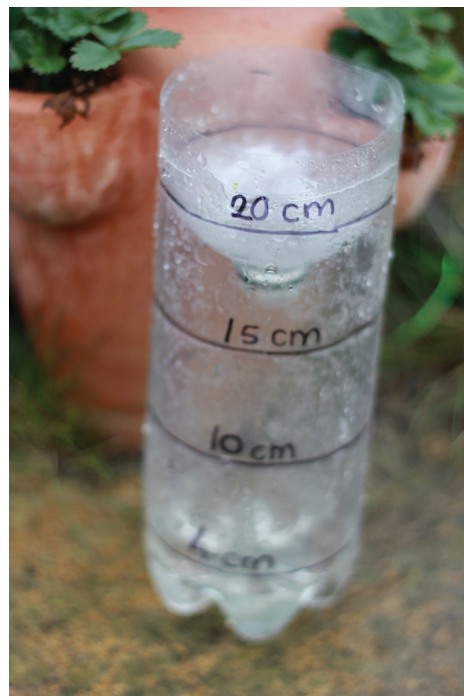
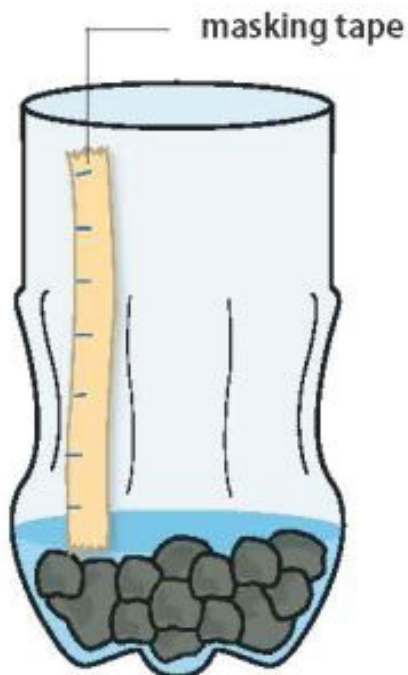
DIRECTIONS

- cut top off of water bottle so you have a short funnel and a tall cup
- invert the funnel and place it inside the cup
- secure funnel to cup with a few pieces of tape
- run a piece of masking tape from the top of the cup to the bottom
- using a ruler make marks every centimeter with zero being at the bottom
- place rain gauge outside to measure rainfall

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- water bottles (one per kid)
- masking tape
- permanent markers
- rulers
- optional - bring empty, pre-cut water bottles if possible
- optional - rocks in the bottom to keep it from tipping over

EXAMPLE





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GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: WINK YOU'RE OUT

Kids mix and mingle with an assassin in their midst. Be careful, if someone winks at you, you're out!

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- none needed for this game

DIRECTIONS

- Kids sit in a circle with their eyes closed.
- Team leader taps one person to be the "assassin"
- Kids get up and start milling around. If the assassin winks at them they are out (sit down or move to the side of the play area)
- Kids may make an accusation if they think they know who the winking assassin is. If they are wrong they are out. If they are right the game is over and a new winking assassin is chosen.

Variation: 1) play entire game sitting down in a circle.
2) chose 2 or 3 winking assassins.





**God answers
Elijah's prayer.**
1 Kings 18:16-39