

VIDEO STATION

STATION FOCUS

Elijah, a prophet of God, trusted God even when all things seemed impossible things seemed impossible. We can trust God too, and have hope.

SCRIPTURES

1 Kings 17:1-16; 19:8-13
Psalm 46:10; Proverbs 3:5-6 (GNT)

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will

- * hear the story of the prophet Elijah;
- * learn a definition of the term *prophet* and be able to locate stories about the prophet Elijah in the books of 1 and 2 Kings;
- * hear examples of how Elijah trusted God and discover ways they can trust God in their lives;
- * learn about some of the unlikely ways God cared for and provided for Elijah and recognize and be able to discuss ways God cares for and provides for them;
- * discover ways that Elijah heard and talked to God and talk about ways they can listen for God and talk to God in their lives.

STATION SET UP

Make a paper banner large enough for each group to add their own thoughts throughout the unit. Write “Prophets Speak the Truth About God” across the top of the banner paper. Under the heading write “I’m a servant of the living Lord, the God of Israel. (1 Kings 17:1, CEV).” Then, write “Elijah, the Prophet” to indicate that these are Elijah’s words.

Use tape or adhesive putty to hang the banner on the wall where children can easily reach it.

Important Note

Always preview any video you will use with the children. Make sure it is age appropriate and that the theology does not conflict with the theology of your church. **You will need a public performance license to show copyrighted videos.**

Resources

pages 3–8

Supplies

large piece of banner paper
markers
masking tape or adhesive putty

As children enter each week, invite the children to add their own truths about God to the wall hanging.

Photocopy the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible References, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, and Shepherd Tips for each leader and shepherd (pages 3–8).

Resources

Bible
Bible concordance
book of quotations or
www.brainyquote.com

Note

Counters vary, so the times listed for each clip are approximate. Preview every video you will show, and have it cued to the portion you will show first. Practice moving quickly from scene to scene.

Resources

The Children's Bible in 365 Stories by Mary Batchelor

WANT TO DO MORE?

Use a Bible and Bible concordance to find statements from other prophets, such as Isaiah or Jeremiah. Add some of these verses to the banner. Include the name of each prophet.

Search a book of quotations or www.brainyquote.com for quotes about God from more contemporary prophets such as Mother Theresa or Martin Luther King, Jr. Add these proclamations to the banner.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Shepherds should know the whereabouts of every child in the shepherd's group, and they should know where to reach parents in case of an emergency.
- Teach the children how to safely use any video equipment they may handle.
- Be sure all equipment is working safely and any exposed cords are placed where children will not trip over them.
- Create a safe environment in which children feel able to share or not share during discussions.

BIBLE STORY

(5–10 minutes)

Read “The Long Drought” (story 160 on page 184 of *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* by Mary Batchelor) and “The Food That Never Ran Out” (story 161 on page 185). If this Bible storybook is unavailable, read from another children's Bible or tell the story in your own words.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way. (Proverbs 3:5-6, GNT)

Ask: What did Elijah tell Ahab? Why did Elijah have to hide? How did God care for Elijah in the wilderness? Why did God send Elijah to Zarephath?

Say: The next story about Elijah comes many years later, when Elijah was once again in the wilderness hiding from Ahab.

Read “The Still, Small Voice” (story 166 on page 191).

Ask: How did Elijah feel at the beginning of the story? How did God speak to Elijah on Mt. Sinai? What did God say to Elijah? How do you think Elijah felt after talking to God?

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Choose from the suggested activities as your time and the children’s interests allow.

For Younger Children

Elijah

The video is 30 minutes long and includes the story of Elijah’s confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, 1 Kings 18. To view the portion of the movie relating to the stories in this unit, watch the movie from the beginning. Stop at 14 minutes 35 seconds, where the widow kneels at Elijah’s feet after she has just discovered the overflowing barrel of flour and jar of oil.

Ask: What did Elijah want to do after he met with Ahab?

Why did Elijah go to the Cherith Creek to hide?

Why did Elijah go to find the widow in Sidon?

How was the widow helped by Elijah’s arrival?

At first the widow was afraid to help Elijah. Why do you think she changed her mind?

What does Elijah’s story teach us about what can happen when we follow God’s lead?

Note

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.

Resources

Elijah: The Animated Stories From the Bible (available from www.nestfamily.com)

Supplies

TV and video player

Resources

Bibles

Supplies

Bible-times costumes
posterboard or large
sheets of paper
markers
video camera

Talk Tip

How did it feel to tell the story without using words? What did you discover about the Bible story?

For All Ages

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16 to the children, or tell the story in your own words.

Read another story about Elijah from 1 Kings 19:9-13.

Say: Elijah met God in the silence. You are going to use silence to tell this story about Elijah by making your own silent movie.

To Make Silent Movies

Divide the children into groups of three. Ask group members to decide who on their team will play the roles of Elijah, the widow, and the son. Then they can dress in Bible-times costumes.

The story of Elijah and the widow can be divided into three scenes:

1. Elijah meets the widow.
2. The widow makes bread for Elijah.
3. The widow discovers the miracle of the refilled flour and oil.

Option 1: Have each group make a silent movie of the entire story.

Option 2: Assign one of the three scenes to each group.

Distribute sheets of paper or posterboard and Bibles to each group. Have the groups review their segment of the story. Then they will create a storyboard outlining their movie.

To create a storyboard, the children will need to write each step of their movie sequence on a separate sheet of paper. One way to do this is to write the related verses on each sheet of paper. This will help them understand how to act out the scene. They will need to use gestures, facial expressions, and perhaps storyboard titles to convey what they are doing.

Remember: Younger children will need adult help.

Let the children practice their scenes before doing the video.

When the videos are finished, watch the silent movies together.

For All Ages

Miracle-Food Commercials

Divide children into pairs or small groups.

Have each group of children create a commercial advertising “Miracle Food: A never-ending supply of oil and flour.” Encourage the children to create commercials that

- describe the food;
- explain the miracle behind the food;
- tell the audience why they should want some of the miracle food for themselves.

Give each group two small pottery jars to use as props. Let them rehearse their commercials before filming.

Watch the commercials.

Say: Many people in the world look at the food we have and see it as a never-ending supply. Most of us have enough food in our homes to feed every person in this group at least one meal. Most people in the world do not even have enough food in their homes to feed one person more than a small snack. The widow and her son in our Bible story faced a similar situation.

If we give to others out of our abundance, we can help fight hunger around the world. We might not have a never-ending supply of food, but we do have the resources to make sure that everyone around the world has enough to eat.

Note: If your group is participating in the CROP WALK mission project, highlight the mission and the preparations the children are making now.

Supplies

small pottery jars
video camera
TV and video player

Resources

Ravens (a PBS episode from the Nature Video Library. It can be ordered by calling 1-800-336-1917.)

Supplies

TV
video player

Talk Tip

Encourage children to talk about their experiences with birds.

For All Ages

Ravens

Prepare

Set your counter to 00:00:00 when the raven appears on the mountaintop. Then cue the video to about 7:30. The scene is of flying ravens and the narrator says, “Fitting descendants of the original trickster, wild ravens display the same curiosity and cunning.”

Depending on the time available, watch the video until one of the following points:

1. Stop at about 23:35. Two ravens are flying and the narrator says, “When they do mate, they mate for life, and ravens can live for more than 40 years.” This clip is just over 16 minutes.
2. Stop at about 33:15. Two young ravens have just finished playing in the water and the narrator says, “It’s just the beginning of what promises to be an interesting life.” This clip is just under 27 minutes.

Ask: Why do you think God chose ravens to take food to Elijah? What type of relationship do you think Elijah and the ravens had? What can we learn about God the Creator when we study creatures such as the raven? Does learning about the ravens change your understanding of the Bible story? If so, how?

Option: Do the “For the Birds: Honoring the Ravens” activity from the Science Station as a response to the video. Be sure to coordinate with the leader of the Science Station before using this activity.

For All Ages

Field of Dreams

Prepare

Elijah heard the voice of God and followed God's direction. This clip from *Field of Dreams* will help children imagine what it would be like to hear God speak.

Set your counter at 00:00:00 when the title "Field of Dreams" appears. Fast forward to about 3:05, just before Ray says, "I'm 36 years old. I love my family. I love baseball. And I'm about to become a farmer. But until I heard the voice, I'd never done a crazy thing in my whole life."

With the Children

Ask: What do you think you would do if you heard God's voice telling you what to do?

Watch the video clip. Stop at about 13:07. In the scene, Ray and his wife, Annie, are talking in bed. Ray asks Annie if she thinks he is crazy. Stop just after Annie answers, "Yes... . But I also think, if you really feel you should do this, you should do it."

Say: In the movie, Ray built the baseball field. Shoeless Joe Jackson did come and play baseball on the field. Ray continued to hear and follow the voice. Along the way, Ray helped complete strangers find peace. Ray even made peace with his own father.

Ask: How did Ray react to hearing the voice? How did the people in town react to Ray's hearing a voice? What did the voice want Ray to do? Did this make sense to Ray?

It may not have been God's voice that Ray heard, but Elijah did hear God's voice. How do you think Elijah reacted the first time he heard God's voice? How did other people react to Elijah's ability to call upon and hear God? Why do you think Elijah chose to do the things God called him to do?

How would you react if you heard a voice like Ray or Elijah did?
How do you think other people would react?

Read Proverbs 3:5–6 (GNT) to the children.

Ask: How does this verse relate to what we have been discussing?

Resources

Field of Dreams

Supplies

TV
video player

Talk Tip

God speaks to people in profound ways. Encourage children to be open to hearing God in their own lives through prayer, Scripture, Bible study, and fellowship. Do not discourage the possibility that God might still speak in still, small audible ways as well. God works in mysterious ways.

For All Ages

Select Your Own Video

Many appropriate videos are available through judicatory libraries or local Christian resource centers and stores. Your pastor or Christian education coordinator can tell you how to contact them. Videos may also be found through public libraries or video rental stores.

Be sure the video reflects the themes of this unit on the prophet Elijah and is appropriate for the age level viewing it.

Preview the video. Then, prepare at least three questions based on the video that will help children recognize the significance of the theme you are presenting.

Resources

* *Elijah* MP3

Supplies

MP3 player

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Play "Be Still." on a personal music player.

Ask the children to be silent and listen to the song.

Close With Prayer: Loving God, help us to meet you when we are still and quiet. Remind us of the lessons we have learned from the stories about Elijah and the ravens, Elijah and the widow who shared with Elijah, and the day Elijah met you in the quiet whisper on the mountain. Amen.