



Bible Discovery Zone Lesson Plans

“Elijah”

Memory Verse: “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”
(Nahum 1:7)

Learning Centers Overview:

Holy Word Cinema: View the Nest DVD “Elijah” and answer the onscreen review questions.

Computer Bible Lab: Experience the story of Elijah with a computer generated comic book and games

Creation Station: Make puppet Ravens to help retell the story of Elijah being fed by God in puppet story

Praise Him Playhouse: Students retell the story of Elijah in skit “Elijah and the Big Showdown”

Bible Background

Lesson Overview

This story introduces us to three miracles that happen in the life of Elijah, miracles that show us the power and providence of God. The Life Application Study Bible has an assertion that aptly sums up this story: “The real miracle in Elijah’s life was his very personal relationship with God.” It is this connection with God that steels Elijah through trials, allows him to act courageously, and takes him to unforeseen situations.

Lesson Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Find the story of Elijah in the Old Testament of the Bible.
- Know that Elijah was a prophet of God; that prophets were God's chosen messengers.
- Learn that when we are obedient, God provides.
- Understand that Elijah's time away hiding was a time to strengthen his trust in God, bigger challenges were coming in Elijah's life.
- Contrast Elijah and the woman's view of God at different points in the story. How did Elijah help the widow come to know God? Compare this to our own experiences in helping people to come to know God.

BIBLE BACKGROUND NOTES

The prophet Elijah first appears in 1 Kings chapter 17 bursting onto the scene confronting the King, Ahab, with a pronouncement about the weather. Who is this prophet? What does his statement mean? Why should it not rain over the next few years? This story brings many questions to mind.

We aren't told much about Elijah, except that he is "from Tishbe in Gilead." Let's focus first on King Ahab. There have been seven kings since the separation into a northern and a southern kingdom. Our story takes place in the northern kingdom of Israel. All of these kings have been evil, continuing the sins of idolatry that their fathers had committed (1 Kings 15:26). With Ahab as king, things sink to an all-time low. Ahab has married Jezebel, a "foreigner," and Ahab allows Jezebel to introduce to the people the worship of Baal.

Baal worship was a form of idolatry. Baal was the god of weather, supposedly appointing the time of rain. Baal was also the god of nature and fertility. Now Baal had been worshipped by Israelites in the past. "David rid the land of this dirge, but now it was resurrected on a new scale, larger than ever, and this was done by the government, the king" (Keathley). Why was it tempting to follow Baal? Because so much of the peoples lives depended upon rain. They had forgotten to place their confidence in God.

Into this situation comes Elijah, the prophet God had chosen to bring the people back to him. Elijah makes this pronouncement to Ahab that there won't be any more rain until Elijah says. God is preparing the Israelites to pay attention to the power of their own God. Since Baal was the god of rain, Elijah's statement is setting up a direct confrontation between God and Baal. Looking ahead we can see that this confrontation gets settled in the following chapter in the account of Elijah and the prophets on Mount Carmel. But that's another story.

Why did Elijah say this to Ahab? "There will be no dew or rain during the next few years unless I give the word!" (17:1). He had been called by God to do something to get the people back to worshipping God. Scholars agree that a passage in Deuteronomy probably had an effect on his decision. "But do not let your heart turn away from the LORD to worship other gods. If you do, the LORD'S anger will burn against you. He will shut up the sky and hold back the rain, and your harvests will fail" (Deuteronomy 11:16-17a). This edict is often cited as Elijah's prayer for no rain. Elijah is mentioned 29 times in the New Testament. One of them is in James 5:17-18a. "Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for the next three and a half years! Then he prayed for rain, and down it poured." Elijah was confident in his prayer to God. His faith and belief is evident in his words to Ahab: "As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives -- the God whom I worship and serve ..."

Then what happens? Verses 2 and 3 tell us: "Then the LORD said to Elijah, Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook..." Hide! Why would a prophet be told to hide? Prophets are God's messengers. Wouldn't a prophet need to be in front of the people? First off it would have been important to hide for a time, so that people could begin to feel the effects of drought and to recognize that it came from God. Secondly, Elijah needed to hide from Ahab. We aren't told of Ahab's response to Elijah's proclamation but we can assume it meant trouble for Elijah; Ahab likely would have been out to kill Elijah. Finally, God wanted Elijah to spend time alone with him – to sojourn in God's protection. By obeying God and going to hide, Elijah was being built up in his faith, strengthening his trust in God. Jesus spent time alone with God (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). How often are we willing to take time to listen to what God has to tell us?

So Elijah goes off to hide. God has promised him provision from ravens! To the Israelites ravens are considered unclean (Leviticus 11:13-15). Nevertheless these birds feed Elijah, twice daily. "Elijah was learning experientially that Yahweh was the only source of food, fertility, and

blessing” (Constable). God provides when we are obedient to his word. Picture Elijah living by an obscure brook, waiting patiently for food from birds. His experience demonstrated the certainty of God and prepared Elijah for the bigger challenges that were coming in his life.

Sure enough, the brook runs dry. There is, after all, a drought in progress. But God is still providing for Elijah for now God sends Elijah to the care of a widow. “Then the LORD said to Elijah, ‘Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. There is a widow there who will feed you. I have given her my instructions’” (17:8-9).

Zarephath is an ironic place to be sent for it is near the home city of Jezebel and Zarephath was considered the heart of Baal territory. “It was often believed that the gods were territorial ... If this were true then Elijah is taking a huge risk by moving to Zarephath” (Deffinbaugh). But Elijah went – he was obedient to God. Surely Elijah wondered how a widow could provide for him, let alone a Gentile woman as this was outside the territory of God’s people. Widows were seen as the ones who were disadvantaged and this widow was definitely in need. When Elijah met her, she was gathering sticks to cook her last meal.

Elijah requests of the widow, a “bite of bread.” Hospitality is required for strangers, yet did Elijah know he was asking for her last victuals? The widow is honest with Elijah and tells him of her situation. She must recognize Elijah as a prophet for she starts her response in verse 12 with “I swear by the LORD your God ...” Notice that she does not say “my God” as the LORD is not yet her God; perhaps she worships Baal? Soon, she would see the power of Elijah’s God.

“But Elijah said to her, don’t be afraid! Go ahead and cook that ‘last meal,’ but bake me a little loaf of bread first. Afterward there will still be enough food for you and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be plenty of flour and oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!” (17:13-14). The woman is required to place faith in Elijah’s God. Elijah is asking to be fed first. When she goes ahead and follows Elijah’s words, she is blessed with the miraculous provision of daily supplies: “For no matter how much they used, there was always enough left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah” (17:16).

Things are going along well, though each day requires new faith in God’s providence, but then, disaster strikes – the woman’s son takes ill and dies. The widow is distraught; she blames Elijah. “O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to punish my sins by killing my son?” (17:18). Think about what her perception of God is, at this point. Elijah was living in this widow’s house; surely he spoke to her about his God. She has seen God as a provider of food. But is this a God of vengeance? Is God only a “little” God, who can provide flour and oil, but not keep her son from dying? She hasn’t yet developed a real relationship with God. She does not yet have faith to commit to God, to trust him for life. How many of us could do so?

Elijah takes the son and prays over him. At first his prayer is one of disbelief over the incident: “O LORD my God, why have you brought tragedy on this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?” (17:20). Then he admonishes God, “O LORD my God please let this child’s life return to him” (17:21).

Compare the woman’s feelings toward God, with Elijah’s. The use of the words “my God” shows his close personal tie with God. He trusts God with the outcome of his prayer, and what an extraordinary prayer of faith it is! There is no precedent for Elijah’s request – no one had ever been raised from the dead before. “The LORD heard Elijah’s prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he came back to life!” (17:22). Elijah’s actions serve as a witness to help the

widow come to more fully know God. “Then the woman told Elijah, Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the LORD truly speaks through you” (17:24).

We can think of this part of the story in terms of our own experiences in helping people to come to know God. How does our relationship with God appear to others? Is God our source of supplies, or the source of our deeper faith? In this instance not only the women came to trust God. Elijah learned from this experience too, to fully trust God and trust in his own relationship with God.

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Holy Word Cinema

Memory Verse: “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”
(Nahum 1:7)

Station Summary

The students will watch and discuss the Nest DVD “Elijah”.

Preparation

1. Review Bible Background notes.
2. Pray for the children and for your teaching of the lesson.

Materials List:

- DVD Player
- Projector
- DVD: *Elijah*
- Popcorn

Introduce the DVD by telling the class you’ll be watching the story of one of God’s most famous prophets, Elijah.

After the movie is over, make sure you utilize the onscreen review questions for the story that are located in the Special Features section. This is the heart of the lesson. Use the most difficult level unless your class is preschool/K level.

Review this month’s memory verse

Close in Prayer.

Computer Bible Lab

Memory Verse: “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”
(Nahum 1:7)

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

(Minimum 20 minutes to view, study and play)

We have a free student handout for the Elijah and Widow story at www.sundaysoftware.com/tips

This very interesting story features a startling new idea for Israel: The widow was a foreigner beyond the tribal boundaries of the Chosen People. Elijah reaches out to her and heals her son as a sign of God's goodness and care to all. On a metaphorical level, the Widow represents Israel, and her son = the future.

Page 1: Introducing the story

Page 2: Elijah flees to be fed by ravens. (stop and play the feeding game)

Page 3: Elijah goes to Zarephath “a town just outside the Promised Land” and finds/tests the Widow’s faith. Study notes you’ll encounter will help describe the Widow as one who represents Israel, and her son –the future of Israel.

Page 4: When the son dies, the widow asks if she is being punished for her sins. But Elijah immediately attempts to revive the son.

Page 5: Elijah questions God in his prayer wondering if God had taken the widow’s son, and asks for his life back, which God grants. The widow replies, “Now I know you are a man of God and the word of the Lord in your mouth is to be trusted.” We don’t get a direct answer as to whether God caused this situation, or used it to his advantage to teach Israel and Elijah an important lesson. It’s important to remember that Elijah also was learning what God had in store for his people.

Options at the End of Page 5:

- a) Listen to story again (listen to it as a story about Israel, not the widow).
- b) Zaresphlatt game. Answer questions in between levels to continue playing.
- c) Rewrite the story using images from world.
- d) “Questions to Ponder” ...for deeper study.

SOFTWARE OVERVIEW:

The CD presents nearly the entire story of Elijah, Ahab and Jezebel, the Contest with the Prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, Elijah escaping to Mt Sinai, and Earthquake, Wind and Fire, and the Still Small Voice, ...all in a kid-friendly way. (See the complete [outline and info about what else is on the CD.](#))

Importantly, you will be spending MOST of your class time IN the software. The software fully presents the story, has pop-up notes, quizzes, and activities, and has reflection content and a game. Ages 8 to adult will enjoy it.



Below is a screenshot of the final interactive page in the Elijah story showing its collection of follow-up discussion questions and activities to select from. The [printable student worksheet](#) shows more detail of what's in some of these post-story interactives.

ELIJAH
THE PROPHETS OF BAAL AND THE STILL SMALL VOICE

MAP OF FINAL PAGE

Baal Invaders Game
Help Elijah bring down fire on Baal Statues.

Hazael/Jehu/Elisha --how God answers prayers
Students are asked to consider someone God could send them to help.

Elijah by his Cave
Interactive question about "how did God answer Elijah?"
How and where do YOU listen to God?
What does God's voice sound like to you?

Complaining Elijah
Have you ever prayed for a sign? Where do you feel close to God?

Elijah in the Fire... 'Why did God bring Elijah out to see earthquake, wind and fire?
What things can drown out God's voice?

Note about "The 7000" read I Kings 19:18.
God didn't just give Elijah 3 people for help.

EXIT

LESSON STEPS:

1. Welcome and Introductions (Approx 10 minutes)

After welcoming your students, see what they already know about this story.

2. Dive into the Software! (Approx 20 minutes)

Split into groups of 2 or 3 with a teaching assistant at each computer and start at the beginning of the Elijah~Prophets~Small Voice story on the CD.

To guide students through the Elijah story, you may want to download the [free Student Worksheet](#) from Sunday Software's Elijah webpage.

◆◆◆ Depending on your number of helpers, you may feel that your kids "got" the story and its meaning, have discussed it, and are ready to **play the Baal Invaders game found on the CD**. You might also choose to break away from the computer to compare notes with your kids before going into the game.

3. Reflect (5 minutes, as they will have already done some of this in the story).

The following items are found on the student worksheet and are printed in this lesson plan for reference. You may choose to discuss them as a group after using the software. The empty boxes on the worksheet are there to be PRE-CHECKED by the teacher to denote which questions you want the kids to be prepared to answer. The page number refers to the page in the interactive story.

Page 9: The Angel helps Elijah

- o When you feel alone or defeated, who comes to help you?
What do they say that helps?

Page 10: Earthquake, Wind and Fire.

- o Where do you "run off to" to feel safe or look for answers to your problems?
- o What is God's response to Elijah's problems? (Get help! but where can you go to find YOUR "Elisha"?)

Page 11: End Page with Study Elements and Game

- o Why did God bring Elijah out to see earthquake, wind and fire?
- o What is your #1 complaint to God about?
- o Name three people in your life who are ready to help you with your problems:
- o How is The Church like the 7000?

Additional software teaching tips for this story can be found in Sunday Software's [Teacher's Outline](#) to the Elijah CD.

Creation Station

Memory Verse: “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”
(Nahum 1:7)

Objective(s) for rotation

Participants will be able to:

Find the story of Elijah in the Old Testament of the Bible.

Know that Elijah was a prophet of God; that prophets were God's chosen messengers.

Learn that when we are obedient, God provides.

Understand that Elijah's time away hiding was a time to strengthen his trust in God, bigger challenges were coming in Elijah's life.

Contrast Elijah and the woman's view of God at different points in the story. How did Elijah help the widow come to know God? Compare this to our own experiences in helping people come to know God.

Objectives for Puppetry Workshop

The children will consider how when we have faith and are obedient, God will provide as they make flapping wing raven puppets and act out the story of Elijah and the ravens.

The children will know that Elijah trusted God to provide for his needs.

PREPARATION

Read the Bible Background.

Materials List

- Bibles
- Bird puppet pattern: (See instructions printed below)

- Paper plates or Fun foam sheets, black
- Paper plates for patterns
- Craft feathers, black
- Craft sticks or paint stirrer sticks
- Material for eyes – Googly eyes, gel pens, chalk, white crayons, or sticker dots
- Puppet to be Elijah (or the children can take turns being Elijah and interacting with the puppets)
- Puppet stage (a table covered with a tablecloth that the children can hide behind will be adequate)
- Rubber cement
- Scissors

Advance Preparation Requirements

Make a sample puppet following the instructions for “Bird Puppet Craft” by Carolyn Warvel at <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/birdcrafts.html>. Make the puppets from black construction paper and insert a few black feathers between the two head sides to give them a bit more texture such as a tuft of feathers on top of the head. Use googly eyes, gel pens, chalk, white crayons, or sticker dots for the eyes.

PRESENTATION

Open – Introduction

Open with prayer. Ask for a volunteer to pray; if no one volunteers, pray for the group to be enlightened about God’s will and provision as the story of Elijah is studied.

Explain that today the students will look at a story of how God provided for one of God’s servants who had faith that God would provide and how God used an unusual means to provide. Puppets will be made and then used to tell the story.

Introduction:

Say: In order to understand our lesson there are some words we need to understand.

Ask: What is an **idol**? (something that is greatly admired)

What are some examples of idols? (name of someone in sports or entertainment)

When is it bad to have idols? (allow all answers)

Say: It is bad to have idols when we worship them, especially when we give the idols a higher ranking than God. Our story takes place at a time when the Israelites, the people of Israel, had fallen into worshipping idols. They had been encouraged to worship idols by their king, King Ahab and his wife, Queen Jezebel. The type of idol they were worshipping was called **baal** (pronounced BAY-uhl). Baal was considered the god of weather, supposedly determining when it would rain.

Say: There is one more word I want us to understand.

Ask: What is a **prophet**? (a messenger of God)

Say: Now that we understand some of those words we are ready to read our Bible story.

Ask: Where in the Bible would we find a story that Jesus learned as a child? (OT)

Say: As we tell the story, listen for the different ways God provided for Elijah.

Show the children where to find the story in the book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament. Ask for volunteers or read the scripture to the children: **1 Kings 17:1-9**. Tell them to think about the different ways God provided for Elijah as you are reading.

Have the children keep a Bible nearby and open in case they want to consult it during the discussion/review questions.

Dig - Main Content

Say to the children, “Let’s discuss what we just read while we make our puppets.”

Pass out materials and make the puppets as described in Advance Preparation.

Review and discuss the story while the children are making their puppets and the glue is setting:

Who was king of Israel at the time this story takes place?

What did the prophet Elijah tell King Ahab?

I wonder why Elijah told Ahab there would be no rain?

What did the LORD tell Elijah to do after he told Ahab there would be no rain?

I wonder why the LORD told Elijah to go hide?

What did Elijah do? Do you think he hesitated? [No. Reread verse 5 if necessary.]

How do you think you would react if God told you to go live by a mostly dry stream [a wadi is a stream bed that contains water only in the rainy season] and wait for birds to bring you your dinner?

I wonder why Elijah went without complaint or comment?

I wonder what the ravens brought Elijah to eat? Do you think it was yummy?

Do you think the ravens talked to Elijah? Remember, God can do anything; nothing is impossible. [And certainly if God can make a bird deliver food, he might decide to make it talk, also.] If the birds spoke, what do you think they might have said? What might Elijah have said?

At this point, let the children practice using the puppets to flap their wings and fly around the room. Ravens flap and then glide. Have them make raven sounds, such as a croaking sound.

Have the children sit down again. Tell the children, “Let’s have some fun with our story, now. The part about the ravens is only a few verses long. So you will need to use your imaginations and pretend the birds did talk to Elijah. What kind of voices do you think they had?” Have them say “hello” in a croaking sort of raven voice.

Choose someone to be Elijah. Everyone else will be a raven. The teacher is the narrator. **Reread, or summarize, verses 1-6** and then let the children act out what happened by the wadi each mealtime. If they need help, ask some questions to help them shape their drama and note that there are no right or wrong answers. Did one raven at a time bring food, or a flock? Was Elijah surprised the first time? How did he react? Did he become friends with the ravens? What might they have talked about – the weather, the news back in Israel, how good the food is, where the food came from? Have the ravens met God?

What do they think of God? How are they managing during this famine?

Allow the children to act out the scenario several times with different people being Elijah and different assumptions about how the ravens did their job.

Reflect :

I wonder why God took such good care of Elijah? [Talk about obedience – go back and reread verse 5 if necessary.]

I wonder how Elijah responded?

What do you think he did all day while he lived by the wadi? [Talk about prayer and worship if the children do not bring it up.]

Do you think God still sends birds with food to feed people?

How does God take care of us?

Has God ever provided for your needs at a time of trouble? Would you like to tell us about it?

Say, “Let’s see what happens next and how God continued to provide for Elijah. **Read 1 Kings 17:7-24.**

Ask: When the stream dried up, what did God have Elijah do?

Why do you think the widow was reluctant to bake him a loaf of bread as he requested?

What do you think it would have been like to discover that God made the jar of flour and jug of oil not run out? How would you have reacted?

When the widow’s son died, what did Elijah do? What did God do in return? How did the widow react to this even greater miracle? (17:24)

If time permits, review the memory verse.

Suggest to the children that whenever they see a bird this week, they remember the story of Elijah being fed by the ravens, or whenever they open the cupboard to get some food to eat, they remember the story of how God provided food for Elijah, the widow and her son, and take a moment right then to say a brief prayer of thanks to God for all they have been provided with. Remind them that we can pray whenever and wherever we are and that we don’t have to close our eyes to pray.

Close with prayer

Have the children help clean up before dismissal. Make sure they take their raven puppets home with them. Suggest they use the puppets to tell their family members about Elijah’s obedience and trust.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Adaptations - Younger Children

Precut the puppets.

Have an adult be Elijah and ask questions to encourage the ravens (children) to come up with creative answers.

Adaptations - Older Children

Invite a preschool or kindergarten class to see the performance.

Bring in bird books or encyclopedias and let the children find out a bit more about ravens – where they live, what they eat, what they sound like, how they fly – to make their puppets move and act more realistically.

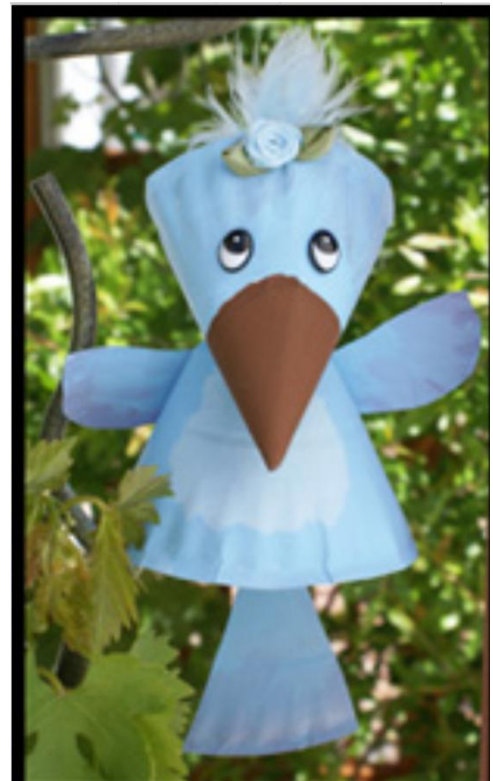
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Warvel, Carolyn. "Bird Puppet Craft." Danielle's Place of Crafts and Activities: 2000. <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/birdcrafts.html>

CONTRIBUTOR: Amy Crane

How to make the Bird Puppets

1. Fold a small paper plate in half and cut it in half.
2. To make the head, roll one half of the plate into a cone shape overlapping the sides about 1/3 of the plate. Glue the cut side closed.
3. To make the body, roll the other half of the paper plate into a cone shape overlapping the side only about one inch at the edge. Glue the cone closed on the cut edge. Fold the tip of the cone down about 1/2" and glue the head to the folded tip.
4. Cut the wings and feet from another paper plate and glue them to the body as shown in the picture.
5. Glue on eyes. To finish glue feathers on the top of the heads.



Warvel, Carolyn. "Bird Puppet Craft." Danielle's Place of Crafts and Activities: 2000. <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/birdcrafts.html>

Hint from another Rotation Church: Our puppets were made using Fun Foam sheets (in black of course) and our workshop leader drew her own pattern that was raven-like. The hot glue worked the best to glue on the feathers with this substitute material.

Close the day be reciting this month's memory verse.

Praise Him Playhouse

Memory Verse: "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."
(Nahum 1:7)

Elijah and the Big Showdown
by AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Drama Workshop Grades 4-6

(Script from the Pray and Play Bible 2, Group Publishing (December 1, 2002) ISBN: 0764425145
(Lesson by Alison)

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Bible Basis: 1Kings 18:20-45

Materials: The Pray and Play Bible 2, 1 adult sized cowboy hat, bandana, and holster with a toy gun, 1 child-sized cowboy hat, bandana, and holster with a toy gun, large bucket, a number of large stones and sticks, 2 stuffed animals such as a cow, bull, or goat, a folding table with a black sheet or blanket to make a cave, saltine crackers, two clay looking pots, blue paper to represent water, sticks with red streamers attached (one for each student) to represent fire, two large buckets

Set-up:

Set the table up with the dark sheet covering it in the corner. Place the blue paper just outside the cave to form a river. Set a chair aside in a prominent place to make King Ahab's throne. Leave a place in the middle of the room to build two altars.

Costumes:

Elijah- tunic, coat and belt worn in that time period

King Ahab- A fine robe, crown and scepter

Widow and son- raggedy clothes such as gunnysacks, holds two clay pots or jars

Prophets of Baal- clothes worn in that time period

Objectives:

1. The students will learn the meaning of the word prophet.
2. The students will learn about a prophet named Elijah who gave a message to the wicked king Ahab.
3. The students will learn that there is only one true God and he sometimes shows his power in amazing ways.

Open:

Welcome each of the students to the Drama theme room. Invite the students to sit on the floor in the middle of the room.

Say: I am looking for one student to volunteer to put on this hat, holster and bandana.

Ask: What kind of a person might wear these clothes? (A cowboy or cowgirl)

Say: Well I am going to put on my cowboy outfit and ___(student)_____ and I are going to have a showdown!

Ask: Does anyone know what a showdown is? (A showdown is where two people compete to see who is the best at something. In a cowboy's case, who can draw his/her gun the quickest.)?

Say: Now that we know what it is, let's have a showdown. (Instruct the student to walk 3 steps back and turn around and shoot at the bird on the wall or some other object. You do the same and see who can draw their gun the quickest. Declare a winner.)

Say: Today, our story is about a prophet named Elijah. He had a showdown with some people who worshiped another god.

Ask: Does anyone know what a prophet is? (A prophet is a person sent by God to give the people of Israel an important message.)

Say: Let's read about the prophet "Elijah and the Big Showdown."

Read The Story: 1 Kings 17:1-6, 18:16-39

Say: Now, we get to act out the story! I need some volunteers!

*Find students to be Elijah, King Ahab, a Widow and her son, 1-2 students to be the prophets of Baal, and the remaining students can be the children of Israel. Have students get into their costumes. (See the list on page 1)

(Read aloud the script and prompt the students to act out their part when it appears.)

SCRIPT: Elijah and The Big Showdown

Long ago, a wicked king named Ahab ruled Israel. (The king should sit in a chair like it's his throne.) King Ahab didn't love God-instead, he worshiped gods made of wood and stone. God decided to punish King Ahab. So God sent the prophet Elijah (Elijah approaches the throne) to tell the king, "There will be no rain in your land for many years."

And sure enough, the rain stopped. God led Elijah to a special hiding place where Elijah would be safe from the angry king. (Elijah should go and hide in the cave made from the table and bed sheet.)

Twice a day, God sent ravens with bread and meat for Elijah to eat. (Have two students pretend to be ravens and fly the food (soda crackers) to Elijah) When the brook went dry, God told Elijah to go to the town of Zarephath and stay with a widow and her son. (Elijah walks to the opposite corner to join the widow and her son. The widow is holding two jars.)

When Elijah found the widow, he said, "Please give me a drink of water and a piece of bread."

"We only have a little flour and oil to bake bread," she answered. (The widow points to the jars she is holding) Elijah promised that God would make sure she never ran out of flour and oil. And that's just what happened! Every day the widow made bread, but the flour jar never went empty and the oil jar never went dry.

(King Ahab and Elijah face each other) "Is that you, troublemaker?" King Ahab shouted to Elijah. "You're the one who's made trouble for Israel," Elijah shouted back. "You've disobeyed God and served idols instead. Now let's see whose god is more powerful. We'll both prepare meat to offer on an altar. You can pray to your god to light the fire on the altar. Then I'll pray to the true God. You'll see that God is powerful!" (The students can help to build an altar using the stones and wooden sticks. They can put a stuffed animal on top of the altar.)

The King's prophets shouted and danced from morning 'til night, but their god couldn't light the fire. There wasn't even a tiny spark. Their god was a fake!(The prophets of Baal can circle the altar and pretend to pray.)

Then Elijah built an altar to God. He piled on wood and meat then, dug a ditch around it. (The students can help to build a second altar using the same materials.) Guess what Elijah did next? He poured 12 jugs of water over the altar! (The students can pretend to fill the large bucket and dump water over the altar.) How would it ever burn? Elijah stepped forward and called out to God. "Answer me, O Lord," Elijah prayed, "so these people will know that you are God." WHOOOSH! The altar exploded into flames! Snap! Sizzzzzle! Hiss! (Each student takes a stick with a red streamer on the end. The students will move the streamers to look like flames on top of the altar.) The roaring flames burned up the wood, the meat, and the water. Even the stones melted into a smoky pile of ashes.

The people fell to the ground in fear and wonder. (The students fall to their knees and repeat the following phrases:

"The Lord is God! The Lord is God!" they cried. Hooray! God had won the showdown! The people learned that our powerful God is the only true God. Let's praise our powerful God. Hooray!

Closing Questions:

1. **What is a prophet?** (A prophet is a person sent by God to give a message.)
2. **What message did Elijah give to King Ahab?** (There would be no rain in King Ahab's land for many years because the King worshiped idols instead of the true God.)

3. **When God sent Elijah into the cave, how did he make sure he had food and water?** (God sent ravens to bring Elijah food and made sure he was hiding in a cave near a stream.)
4. **When the stream went dry, who helped Elijah and gave him bread?** (The widow and her son.)
5. **What happened when the king's prophets shouted and danced around their altar?** (Nothing. They shouted and danced from morning till night, but there wasn't even a tiny spark.)
6. **What happened when Elijah built his altar and prayed to God?** (The altar exploded into flames and it burned up the wood, the meat, and the water. Even the stones melted into a smoky pile of ashes.)
7. What are some of the gods people worship? Why do some people worship other gods? What is a "god"? The thing you allow to control your life, give your allegiance, and take your values from. How are those things then "false" gods?
8. How is coming to Sunday School like becoming Elijah? (learning to obey God and learning how to show others that the one true God lives?)

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, we know that you are the only true God. We thank you for showing your power to Elijah and the children of Israel. Lord, help us to always let you reign supreme in our lives and hearts. You are awesome, God! AMEN!