

GOD THE GOOD SHEPHERD

UNIT TWO: God's Messengers

Lesson 2: How God Fed Elijah

CONTENT:

1. There were many other prophets whom God used to give his message to the people: Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Joel etc. Elijah was a very famous one.
2. In those days the king, Ahab, was unfaithful to God. God sent Elijah to tell the king that there would be no rain till he said so. Then God told Elijah to hide at the Wadi Cherith. He promised to send ravens to feed him. Elijah obeyed. God kept his promise: ravens brought him bread and meat.
3. Soon after a miracle of multiplying bread Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever." At the Last Supper he gave them bread to eat and said, "This is my body, which is given for you."
4. Saint John Bosco obeyed God's call and began to look after poor boys and teach them about God. Once while he was celebrating Mass, he found the ciborium almost empty. He prayed and God worked a miracle. More than 650 boys received communion as the hosts kept multiplying.
5. *At Mass we can eat this living bread, which is Jesus. Just as bread gives our bodies life, Holy Communion gives our spirits life. If we receive the sacred host with faith and love we will come closer to Jesus. He will help us to love and to stop sinning. [CCC1391-1394]*



ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Learn the Bible verses.

REFERENCES: 1 Kings 17:1-7. Luke 22:19. John 6:51.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- Last time we heard about 2 people whom God chose to be his messengers. One was a boy and one was a woman. Who were they? [*Samuel and Mary Magdalene.*]
- What do we call people who hear God's message and give it to others? [*Prophets.*]
- Let's see how many prophets' names you found in the Bible.
[Ask the students who have made a list to stand. Ask them to read out one name at a time in turn. As a name is read, they strike it out on their lists. When a student has no more names on his list he sits. A prize could be given to the student who is the last to sit.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Today we are going to learn about a very famous prophet called Elijah. His name means 'THE LORD IS MY GOD.' In those days the king who ruled Israel was King Ahab. He married Jezebel, a wicked queen. Ahab was not faithful to God. He went after other gods and killed the prophets of the true God.

One day, God told Elijah to do a scary thing. He said, "Go and tell the king, "There will be no rain until I say so!" Of course Elijah must have been afraid to go in front of the king. But he obeyed God. He gave the message to the king. Then God told him, "Go quickly and hide in the Wadi Cherith. I will command the ravens to feed you there." ('Wadi' means a dry river bed. It only has water in the rainy season. Ravens are like crows, but they are bigger and blacker.)

Elijah wondered, 'Will there be water in the wadi? Will ravens really come and give me food? Will the king's soldiers find my hiding place and kill me?' But then he remembered that God was a good shepherd and would take care of him. He went to the place that God had told him. There was still some water in the wadi. Elijah was able to wash and drink.

Then in the evening, just when he was feeling hungry, a raven flew down with a piece of bread in its beak. It dropped it in front of Elijah and flew away. Before it had gone, another raven flew down

and dropped another piece of bread. Then another brought a piece of meat. Elijah collected all the food and had a good dinner. The next morning the ravens returned once again with food in their beaks. This happened every day. Elijah thought, "It's a good thing I listened to God! He knows how to take care of those who listen to him."

[Give out handouts. Students do the Prophet Puzzle and fill in the blanks in the top section: AHAB, RAIN, CHERITH, RAVENS, BREAD, MEAT.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard about the prophet Elijah. What message did he give the king? [*"There will not be any rain until I say so!"*]
- Where did God tell Elijah to hide? [*At the Wadi Cherith.*]
- How did God feed Elijah? [*He sent ravens with bread and meat, morning and evening.*]

Today we'll hear two more stories about bread. One day Jesus' friends and the rest of the people too were very excited, because just the day before Jesus had fed thousands of people with just five little loaves of bread. Everyone was talking about bread.

Then Jesus said to them, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever." The people were confused. They thought, "He is a man, not a piece of bread! How can we eat him?"

But much later they understood. It was Jesus' last meal, because he was about to die. Again Jesus told them that they have to eat him. Do you remember what he said and did?

[He picked up the bread from the table and said, "This is my Body which is given for you!" Then he said, "Do this in remembrance of me."]

Jesus was thinking of how he would suffer and die on the cross. He wanted everyone to be saved and be close to him. This was the way to make everyone alive again.

- Can you eat this living bread? What is it? When can you eat it? [*At Mass we can eat this very special bread, which has become into Jesus' body. Though it looks like bread, or a thin wafer, it really is Jesus. It can make us strong inside and help us not to sin.*]

John Bosco was a boy who loved God very much and loved to receive him in Holy Communion. When John was just 9 years old Jesus met him in a dream. He told him that he wanted him to help boys to come close to God. When John grew up he became a priest. Then he started looking after poor boys. Soon the boys who used to fight and rob in the streets began to love God and live good lives. More and more boys came to live in Don Bosco's home.

One feast day, all the boys had come to church for the feast mass. Fr John Bosco was saying mass. At Communion time, the boys began to line up. But when Don Bosco opened the ciborium, (a special cup for the sacred hosts), he found it almost empty! He looked up with surprise. The sacristan (the man who helps in the church) almost fainted, because he realised that he had forgotten to fill the ciborium with hosts.

But Don Bosco trusted God. He just looked up to heaven and prayed. Then he picked up the cup and went forward. He started giving out Holy Communion. As he gave one host, another one seemed to appear in the cup. The boys kept coming and going, but the hosts didn't get less. In the end more than 600 boys received Communion from the almost empty cup.

The people there realised that something wonderful had happened. After Mass they asked, "What happened? Where did all the hosts come from? Was it a miracle?"

"Yes" Don Bosco answered. "God is good. He made sure that the boys were taken care of."

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- God wants all of us to eat this very special holy bread, which is Jesus himself. If we believe and receive him lovingly, he will bring us close to him. We will be able to love and to stop sinning.

[Students read the rest of the handout and then try to memorise the words of Jesus. They write a short prayer thanking God for the living bread and asking God to help them believe.]

Home assignment: × Read handout at home. × Learn the Bible verses.