

Lesson 2: Elijah's Challenges

AIM:

General: 1) To give a brief background to Elijah's ministry: Ahab's weakness, Jezebel's evil influence, widespread worship of Baal.
2) To introduce Elijah- his name, appearance, behaviour.
3) To focus on the story of the challenge at Mount Carmel- His prediction of drought, meeting with Ahab. Plea to the people, challenge to Baal's prophets, victory, rain.

Personal: To encourage the children to hear the challenge of God to serve Him alone and to put aside all that takes His place- 'false Gods'.

TEXT: Luke 16: 13; 1 Kings 17 : I, 18 : I; 17 - 46

STARTER: Detective Games [10 mins]

- ⇒ If you were a detective and had to find out some facts about a person, what would you do? [Search for clues, do some research etc.]
- ⇒ Today we are going to be detectives and find out some facts about the prophet Elijah. They say he was a person who was constantly 'appearing' and 'disappearing' - more than once the king and all his men searched for him but could not find him. Even when he finally left this earth, they searched for his body for 3 days, but could not find it.

Divide the children into groups of about 3. Each one is a detective agency'. Write the following on the black board-

- Elijah wore this- _____ and _____.
- He was fed by- _____, _____ and _____.
- He finally disappeared in a _____ and _____.
- _____ is believed to be the Elijah of the New Testament.

Mention that a reward has been offered for the agency who discovers the facts first. Give each group small cards [1" x 2"] with the 'clues' i.e. the following bible references-

Luke 1 : 17	2 Kings 1:8	1 Kings 17 : 6, 8, 19	2 Kinjs 2:11
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They search for the answers and write them down. Whichever 'agency' finishes first, is given the 'reward'- a few sweets will do.

Input: [18 mins]

Last week we heard how the kingdom divided into two- The Northern kingdom of (what?) [Israel] and Southern kingdom of (what?) [Judah]

Lets go to the north and see what is happening there. After Jeroboam, there were 5 kings one after the other who kept overthrowing the previous king. The fifth of these was Omri's son. Ahab. What does the author say about him?

Read 1 Kings 16:29 - 33

- ⇒ Why do you think Ahab left the true God and began to go after these false gods ? [He was more warned about making friends with his rich and powerful neighbours- the King of Sidon. He was a weak man.]
- ⇒ What do you think happened to the common people as a result? [Many of them began to worship Baal out of fear and in order to please the king and queen.]
- + Onto this picture steps Elijah whose name means 'Yah is El' that is 'Yahweh is God'. Elijah had to tell the people this very message. Let's read about one incident in Elijah's life-
Read 1 Kings 17: 1, 18 : 1, 2a, 18 : 16-19
- + Queen Jezebel was a very wicked woman and had hunted all the prophets of Yahweh [that is the same used by the Jews for God)
Read 18: 20 -24
- ⇒ What was Elijah's challenge to the people of Israel? [Worship the true God...make up your minds ...nowadays we say- No sitting on the fence 'Jump down on one side or the other!']
Read 18: 25 - 35
- ⇒ Who do you think had torn down the altar which Elijah rebuilt?
Read 18: 36 - 39
- ⇒ This 'fire' which came down may have been lightning which was common at the end of a drought. But still, it was a great miracle, for it struck at that particular time and place, when Elijah prayed. When people turn to God, nature too responds- Read verse 41 – 45

PRAYER: [7mins] (Encourage an atmosphere of prayer)

Read Luke 16: 13

Jesus, like Elijah, tells us to choose. We must stop tooling ourselves and thinking that we can follow God and the Gods of this world.

Give up to Jesus the thing that you are holding onto, the thing or habit you love more than Him. Tell Him that you want Him to be the centre of your life

Sing: He is Lord (you're my Lord...)