

Bible Story 21: ELIJAH, THE PROPHET OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: 1 KINGS 16:29-33; 17:1-24; 18:1,17-39,45

MEMORY VERSE: "BUT THE LORD IS THE TRUE GOD; HE IS THE LIVING GOD, THE ETERNAL KING."
JEREMIAH 10:10A NIV

BIBLE STORY:

During a long period of time there was no rain in Israel, because the King Ahab did things against God. During this time, Elijah was living and he was a prophet of God.

All the land was dry, because there was no rain. Elijah drank water from a small stream. Ravens brought food to him every morning and evening. Finally the stream dried up and God told him to leave.

God told him to go to meet a widow. She was very poor. Elijah asked her to bake bread for him, herself and her son. She only had a little flour and a little oil left in her jar. Yet she willingly made bread for him. He then told her that during this time when there was no rain, she would never be without flour or oil. A miracle happened! God never let the flour and oil run out so that the widow, her son and Elijah would have food when it was not raining. One day, her son was very sick and stopped breathing. Elijah healed him.

Much time passed - one, two, three years passed without rain.

The king and people in Israel worshiped an idol of Baal. Elijah had a contest to show that God was all powerful. Two altars were made with a sacrifice, a young bull, on top of each one. The prophets of Baal prayed and shouted all day, from morning until evening, calling on Baal to burn their sacrifice. Nothing happened.

Then Elijah fixed his altar, put twelve stones and dug a ditch around his altar. After he put the young bull on top of the wood, he had one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve - yes, twelve large jars of water poured onto the sacrifice and wood. Everything was very wet! Then he prayed to God. Immediately God burned the sacrifice, the wood and dried the water. Why? This showed that God is all powerful! The people shouted: "*O Heavenly God. You are the Eternal God!*" The people saw that God was all powerful! The Israelites destroyed the altar to Baal and returned to worshipping only God. Afterwards, God sent rain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.