

ELIJAH

PROPHET OF THE LIVING GOD

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Text published by:

European CEF®
Kilchzimmer
4438 Langenbruck
Switzerland
www.cefeurope.com



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Introduction

The name “Elijah” means “Jehovah is God”. He was a Tishbite. Tishbe is in the same area of Gilead as the brook Cherith on the east side of Jordan, north of the river Jabbok. (You may want to use a map with the children.) His ministry lasted about 28 years (from 924 to 896 BC) during the reigns of Ahab and Ahaziah in Israel (and Jehoshaphat in Judah). He witnessed especially to the people of Israel about the true and living God.

The central truth of each lesson

As you teach these lessons make sure that you do not get so engrossed in the narrative that you do not teach Bible truths. Make it your aim to teach thoroughly the central truth in each lesson. It is a good idea to write out the central truth on a piece of card or paper and place it on the flannelboard. This helps the children to remember it. Very brief lesson outlines are provided at the beginning of each lesson. These indicate where the central truth (CT) is taught in the lesson and where it is applied. “U” means application for the unsaved child; “S” means application for the saved.

Visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals and changing the scenes before teaching the lesson to children. The backgrounds for each scene are a real help, but are not essential. This series can be taught on an open Bible background or on a plain background.

Making yourself available

Children may have questions or spiritual concerns as a result of what they learn during these lessons. At some point during the programme let them know, briefly and clearly, that you are available to help them and where they will find you at the end of the meeting. This is included in three of the lessons in this series.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Elijah's startling news 1 Kings 17:1-16	God can do great things	Unsaved: Trust Him to do the great work of salvation in your life Saved: When things are difficult, depend on Him to do great things for you	"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all" 1 Chronicles 29:11
Elijah's struggle against the false god 1 Kings 18:1-2,17-46	The Lord is the only, true God	Unsaved: Follow Him Saved: Obey Him at all times	Review 1 Chronicles 29:11 Or "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God" Isaiah 44:6b
Elijah runs from Queen Jezebel 1 Kings 19:1-21	God is patient	Unsaved: Turn to God now, He is waiting for you Saved: Thank Him for His patience and ask Him to help you to be patient with others	"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy" Psalm 145:8
Elijah and Naboth's vineyard 1 Kings 21:1-26	God is just	Unsaved: God will punish you for your sin if you do not trust Christ as Lord and Saviour Saved: When you are wronged, leave the matter with God	Review Psalm 145:8 Or "A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" Deuteronomy 32:4b
Elijah goes to Heaven 2 Kings 2:1-15	God is with His children all the time	Unsaved: Become God's child and this privilege will be yours too Saved: Remember that you are never alone	"I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5b
Elijah talks with the Lord Jesus Luke 9:28-36 (Matthew 17:1-8 and Mark 9:2-8 also recount the transfiguration)	Jesus Christ is the Son of God	Unsaved: Trust Him for salvation Saved: Listen to Him and obey Him	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16

Lesson 1

Elijah's startling news

Scripture for teachers

1 Kings 17:1-16

Central truth

God can do great things

Application

Unsaved: Trust Him to do the great work of salvation in your life

Saved: When things are difficult, depend on Him to do great things for you

Memory verse

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all” 1 Chronicles 29:11

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: EJ-1, EJ-2, EJ-3, EJ-4, EJ-5, EJ-6, EJ-7 and EJ-8
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Indoor palace scene, outdoor scene, brook overlay and oriental house overlay

Lesson outline

Introduction

Meet the most wicked king Israel ever had

Progression of events

- 1 Elijah brings God's message **CT**
- 2 God sends Elijah to brook Cherith
- 3 Elijah drinks water at the brook
- 4 Elijah is fed by ravens **CTU**
- 5 God tells Elijah, “Go to Zarephath”
- 6 Elijah obeys **CTS**
- 7 Elijah meets widow

Climax

God works a miracle with oil and flour **CTS**

Conclusion

King Ahab continues to hunt Elijah **CTU**

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Indoor palace scene.

Meet the most wicked king Israel ever had. His name is King Ahab.

Place Ahab (EJ-1) and Jezebel (EJ-2).

He was married to a woman called Jezebel, who came from a country where they did not worship the Lord, but worshipped a god made of stone, called Baal. Ahab did not teach Jezebel about the one true God. He even allowed her to bring the worship of Baal into Israel. Many Israelites were turning away from the Lord God and were worshipping this god of stone.

Would God allow His people to turn away from Him to a god of stone? No! Would He say, "It is such a pity but I cannot do anything about it"? No! At that moment the man who spoke for God was striding up the marble steps of the palace.

Place Elijah (EJ-3).

He walked right into the presence of the king and sternly announced, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, Whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years until I say it shall come!"

Who was this man? His name was Elijah. He came from a little village up in the hills. He was not the sort of man you would expect to see in a palace! But he was God's messenger. The Bible calls him a prophet.

When he had told the king what would happen, he left the palace. God's message was, "It will not rain, until Elijah says it will." It was not Elijah who was stopping the rain, it was God. This was something only God could do. Has your family ever planned to go on a picnic, but it rained and you could not go? You wished you could stop the rain, but that was impossible. It is not impossible for God. He can do great things which no-one else can do. He made the rain, so He can command when there should be rain and when it should stop. Now He was stopping the rain in order to punish these people who had turned to another god, who was not God at all! From that moment there was no more rain. Of course that meant that crops would die, and soon there would not be much food left.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah. What do you think was going to happen to Elijah now?

Leave time for answers.

Yes, God protected Elijah and told him where to go in order to hide: "Leave here and hide yourself near brook Cherith."

But there was another problem - what would Elijah eat and drink? God was going to use some special messengers to feed him. Who

Flashcard 1-1

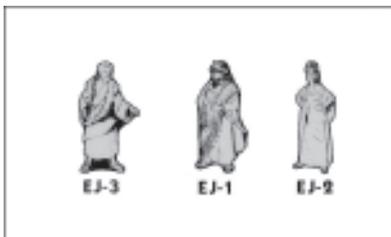
King Ahab was building on the wicked example set by his father, Omri, but he exceeded Omri in his wickedness before the Lord.

The queen was a pagan princess who brought her ungodly beliefs to Israel, including her allegiance to Asherah, the goddess of sex and war.

Baal was one of the chief male deities of the Canaanites, thought to be responsible for productivity of crops and animals. He was also believed to be the god of storm and rain.

Flashcard 1-2

Elijah's prayer (referred to in James 5:17) may have been based on God's warning to His people in Deuteronomy 11:16-17.



CT

Flashcard 1-3

were they? Birds! Birds? Yes, God said, “I have ordered the ravens to feed you and you can drink from the brook.”

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with brook overlay.

At once Elijah did what the Lord had commanded him.

Place Elijah (EJ-4).

He was able to hide at the brook and he drank the water from the little stream. But soon he became very hungry. Flap, flap, flap - yes, it was the sound of birds' wings.

Place birds (EJ-5).

There were large black birds, called ravens, flying towards him. In their beaks they carried meat and bread which they brought to Elijah. Normally ravens would eat any meat they could get. It was amazing that they brought it to him. It happened just as God had said. God had done another great thing which no-one else could have done! He made the ravens and He could tell them what to do. He can do these things because He has more strength and power than anyone else. In the Bible it says, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all” (1 Chronicles 29:11). God has power over everyone and everything; He made them all, even the ravens. The Bible tells us many, many great things that He has done.

If your children have Bible knowledge, ask them to tell you some of these things.

The greatest work He has done, is to save sinners. You see, you and I, all people in the world have disobeyed God. Think about yourself. Have you shouted mean, hurtful words at someone? Perhaps your brother would not allow you to play with his electric train. You were very angry and shouted at him. You even said, “I hate you.” That displeases God; it is sin. Perhaps your parents have told you never to ride your bicycle on the main road. They don't know, but you have done it, and that is sin too. God commands, “Honour your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12a). That means by not listening to your parents you have sinned against God. Yes, your life is full of sin. The sin we have done cuts us off from God and means that we can never be where He is. This is a **big** problem. You may try to solve it by being good, saying prayers, going to church. But these things do not solve the problem - you still have sin in your life that keeps you away from God. Clever people, religious people or famous people cannot solve this great problem. But God can do things which others cannot do, no problem is too big for Him - not even this problem of sin! He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and to be punished for sin. Jesus Christ was punished by God for the sin of the



Make bird sounds.

Flashcard 1-4

Ravens were an unlikely source of help. As birds of prey known for neglecting their own young, their care of Elijah was further proof of God's miraculous provision.

If time allows, you may want to provide crackers and water for the children as you talk about God's provision for Elijah. This activity will help children relate to Elijah's experience.

CTU

world. God raised Him from the dead and that showed that Christ's death really did solve the great problem of sin. Now, if you depend on the Lord Jesus to take away your sin, He does that for you and you are made right with God. The Bible says, "Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9b). Only God can save - and He can do this great work in your life. How wonderful He is - Elijah was discovering that too. Every morning and every evening the ravens came with food - sent by their Creator, God. Every day Elijah drank from the little stream. Every day God kept him safe! What lesson do you think Elijah was learning?

Allow the children to answer - for example, that God is all-powerful, or faithful, or that He provides.

Time passed. There was less and less water in the brook. Soon it would be dry. Would Elijah die of thirst? No, God was caring for him. Elijah's God could do great things to make sure His servant did not die. God told Elijah to go to the town of Zarephath, which did not belong to Israel. "I have commanded a widow there to feed you," God told Elijah. Elijah set out for Zarephath, he knew that God would care for him!

CTS

Christian boy and girl, remember God can do great things for His children. You can trust Him to care for you, even when difficult things happen. I know of a girl who trusted the Lord Jesus and of course her life was quite different. *(This is a true incident.)* Her mother wanted her to go to a disco, but she was not happy about it. She felt that this disco was not a place where the Lord Jesus wanted her to be. But her mother insisted, "You must go." So she obeyed her mother. Guess what happened! As her mother drove her there the car got not just one puncture but two! They never got to the disco - God did a great thing for that Christian girl. Remember when you have a problem, or a difficulty, it is not too hard for God. Trust Him to solve it - He can do great things for you, as He did for Elijah.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with oriental house overlay in rear.

It was a long, difficult journey of about 160 kilometres to Zarephath.

Place Elijah (EJ-3).

Elijah had to walk; he had to travel secretly for the king was still hunting for him. But God kept him safe. When the prophet arrived at the gate of the city, he saw a woman gathering sticks to make a fire.

Place widow (EJ-6) and her son (EJ-7).

He called to her, "Would you please bring me a drink?" The woman turned to go and fetch it. As she went he added, "And bring me a piece of bread, please."

A Phoenician coastal city located between Tyre and Sidon, Zarephath was Jezebel's hometown and the heart of Baal country. The word Zarephath means a smelting furnace or refining fire. This was truly Elijah's experience as his trust in God's provision was tested further. Let children locate it on a map.

Flashcard 1-5

Preschoolers can pretend to gather sticks and get

The woman replied, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread in the house. I have just a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. Right now, I have come out here to gather a few sticks to make a fire, so I can bake bread for my son and myself. After that is eaten, we shall have nothing more, then we will die."

Elijah answered, "Do not be afraid, this is what the Lord God of Israel says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of olive oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain.'"

Remove all figures.

The widow baked bread. She gave some to Elijah and some to her son and herself.

Place Elijah with the widow and her son (EJ-8).

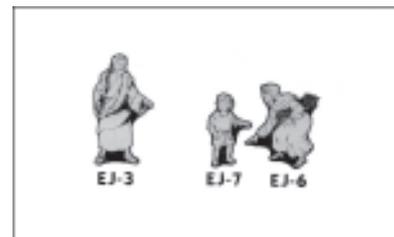
Soon the bread was finished and she needed to bake more. Would there be any flour or olive oil left? Can you imagine her going to the jug and tipping it over slowly? Yes, it did not seem empty! She poured out some oil. She looked into the jar and there was enough flour to make more bread. What a miracle! When she went back, again there was still olive oil and flour! Why did this happen? This was something only God could do and He did it to care for Elijah, the widow and her son. God still does great things to care for His children. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, remember God is the same today. He may not do exactly the same things for you as He did for Elijah, but He can do great things for you too. Do you have a problem that is too big for you? Tell God about it. When you are in danger, trust God to keep you safe. Perhaps you are the only Christian in your family and you wish your mum and dad and brothers would come to know the Lord too. Ask God to do great things. He may not do exactly what you ask. He may not do it immediately. But He is still the Almighty God, who can do things no-one else can do. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). That is why Elijah was safe, and so well looked after.

But what about King Ahab? If he had had his way, things would have been different. Even yet he did not admit that it was the Lord God who sent the rain and stopped the rain. The king, the queen and the people still went on in their own sinful way, in spite of the great things God had done. Today you have heard of some of these things. Do you remember what is the greatest work God has done?

Allow children to answer.

"Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9b). Saving a boy or a girl from sin is something only God can do. Has God saved you from your sin? If you have never trusted the Lord Jesus to make you right with God, please don't think this is something you can do for yourself. You cannot. You must trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Do that today. In your heart tell Him that you are sorry you have been bad, thank the

water, then turn to say, "No bread".



Flashcard 1-6

Children can dramatise the making of bread.



CTS

CTU

Lord Jesus for being punished for your sin, ask Him to save you from sin. If you do that now, this moment, God will make you right before Him. How wonderful that is! Only God can do it and He can do it for you, for God can do great things.

Review game

Question and prize bags

Place a large question mark on one small paper bag and a large smiley face on another. Copy and cut apart the review questions and place them in the bag with the question mark. Place small prizes in the "smiley face bag".

To play, let a child pull a question from the "question bag". If he answers correctly, he may pull a prize out of the "smiley bag". Repeat until all questions have been answered.

Variation: Divide into teams and use smiley faces drawn on slips of paper instead of prizes. The team earning the most smiley faces wins.

Review questions

- 1 What were the names of the wicked King and Queen whom God warned through Elijah? (Ahab and Jezebel.)
- 2 Why did God withhold the rain for 3 years? (Because the Israelites were turning away from the true God to worship Baal.)
- 3 How did God make it possible first of all for Elijah to have food and drink? (God told him to go to the brook Cherith and ordered the ravens to feed him there.)
- 4 What is the greatest work that God does? (He saves sinners.)
- 5 Who had God prepared to look after Elijah when the brook dried up? (A widow in Zarephath.)
- 6 What should we do as Christians when we find ourselves in a very difficult situation, like the girl who was asked to go to the disco? (Trust and obey God.)
- 7 What was the woman doing when Elijah arrived at the gate of the city and God told him to speak to her? (She was gathering sticks for a fire, to make their last meal.)
- 8 What did the woman have left to eat? (A handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug.)
- 9 What was God's promise to the woman, if she would feed Elijah? (The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain.)
- 10 What is the memory verse we learned which helps us remember how great our God is? (Say by heart 1 Chronicles 29:11 - "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all".)

Lesson 2

Elijah's struggle against the false god

Scripture for teachers

1 Kings 18:1-2,17-46

Central truth

The Lord is the only, true God

Application

Unsaved: Follow Him

Saved: Obey Him at all times

Memory verse

Review 1 Chronicles 29:11

Or

If using this as an individual lesson, we suggest:

“I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God” Isaiah 44:6b

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

Or

◆ Figures: EJ-1, EJ-3, EJ-8, EJ-9, EJ-10, EJ-11, EJ-11a, EJ-11b, EJ-12 and EJ-13

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene, oriental home overlay and mountain scene

◆ Small felt cloud

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Where could he be?”

CT

Progression of events

1 Elijah leaves Zarephath at God's command

CTS

2 Elijah and Ahab meet

3 Elijah summons king, “priests” and people to Carmel

4 Elijah declares, “If the Lord be God, follow Him”

CTU

5 Elijah continues to speak and gives instructions

CTS

6 Priests of Baal call on their god

7 There is no answer

CT

8 Elijah prepares the altar and prays

9 Suddenly fire falls

Climax

10 The people cry, “The Lord, He is God!”

CTU

11 Elijah kills the priests of Baal

12 Elijah prays for rain

Conclusion

Dark cloud appears

It rains

CTS, CTU

Show a map and let children locate Zarephath. Children who were present for the previous lesson can help review the events that brought Elijah to Zarephath.

Flashcard 1-6



CT

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with an oriental home overlay.

“Where could he be?”

Time went on, but the people, who had been sent by King Ahab, were not able to find Elijah. The king had sent them to every possible hiding place, but Elijah was nowhere to be found. Where was he? Do you remember? Yes, he was in Zarephath, staying with the widow and her son.

Place Elijah with the widow and her son (EJ-8).

Three years had passed and day by day they had eaten bread made from the flour and oil that never ran out. All the time God made sure that Elijah was not discovered.

The ground became parched and dry. There was no more green grass. The streams were all dried up and there was no water for the cattle. They were dying. Even the people were thirsty, and hungry. And the wicked, foolish king thought that if only he could find Elijah and kill him, everything would be all right! But Ahab was wrong - it was the Lord God who had stopped the rain. The Bible tells us He is the One who made the rain and He is in control of it. He made the sun, the moon, the flowers, the trees, the seas, the wind - everything and He is in control of them all. Long ago some people believed that there was a god in charge of the seas, another in charge of the crops, another in charge of families. Even today people believe that there are different gods. But the Bible tells us that there is only one God - the God about whom we read in the Bible. He says, “I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6b). King Ahab should have known that, but like so many others in Israel, he believed in the false god Baal. He hated the man who spoke for the one, true God. He was searching for him to kill him.

In the quietness of the home in Zarephath the Lord spoke. “Go, show yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the earth.”

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

So Elijah went down to the land of Israel. Was it not very dangerous? Yes! But Elijah knew that the Lord was the only God, that He is God over everything. Elijah knew that God had every right to tell him what to do. Elijah knew that because the Lord is the only God, the Almighty God, he must obey. Of course he knew too, that his God, the only God, would look after him!

Christian boy and girl, you and I need to remember that too. God is the only God, He is Lord over everything. He is very great, we are very little. We must obey Him when He tells us to do something. We must not make excuses. God tells us to help those in need; so if there is someone in your class at school who is very shy, you could be his friend and help him to enjoy playing with the others. God commands you to obey your parents - so don't pretend you don't hear your mother when she tells you to turn off the TV. The Lord, the only God, tells you, "You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:17) - so when you feel jealous of someone else's toys, tell God about those jealous thoughts, ask for His forgiveness and for help not to think those jealous thoughts. You must obey Him as Elijah did.

He went to meet King Ahab.

Place Elijah (EJ-3) and Ahab (EJ-1).

As soon as Ahab saw Elijah, he asked, "Are you the one who is troubling Israel?"

Elijah was not afraid of the king. He answered sternly, "I have not troubled Israel. You have done that, you and your father's family. You have turned away from God's commands and have followed Baal. Now get together all the people of Israel at Mount Carmel. Bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah." (She was supposed to be a female god.)

The wicked king did just as Elijah told him. The king did not try to kill Elijah. Instead he was obeying the prophet's orders. Why? Because God is Lord over all. He is the only God there is. He can even use wicked people to carry out His plans!

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Mountain scene.

Up, up, up the mountain lonely Elijah climbed.

Place Elijah (EJ-3).

Up the mountain climbed the people of Israel - thousands of them.

Place Israelites (EJ-10).

Up the mountain climbed the prophets of the false gods - hundreds of them.

And up the hill climbed King Ahab.

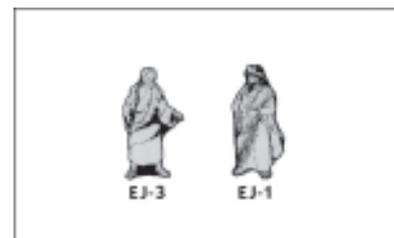
Place Ahab (EJ-1).

What was going to happen on Mount Carmel that day? There was going to be a contest to find out who really was the true God - Baal or Elijah's God.

CTS

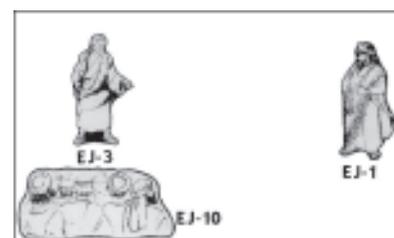
Flashcard 2-1

Preschoolers can role-play the meeting of the king and Elijah.



Let children locate Mount Carmel on a map.

Flashcard 2-2



Children call out Elijah's question, "How long ...?"

CTU

Elijah stood up boldly in front of the people. His voice rang out, "How long are you going to be undecided? If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal, follow him!" Nobody said a word. Probably because they knew that they had turned from the Lord God to follow Baal and they had no excuse for doing that. God says to everyone here today, "If the Lord is God, follow Him." He is the only real living God. God is Lord over all. He should be first in your life. Do you live for yourself and not for God? You don't really like to share your chocolate with your friend. You sulk when your mother does not allow you to do what you want. You quarrel about going to bed - you want to stay up late. You are a "me first" person. That is disobeying God, it is sin, because His command is that He should be first in your life. You are being very foolish. The Lord is God - follow Him. What does it mean to follow God? First of all it means that you are made right before Him - all your sin is taken away. Jesus Christ can make you right before God, because He died "to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26b). Following God means that you turn from the things you know don't please God and depend on Jesus Christ to make you right before God. Then with God's help you try each day to live in a way that pleases Him. From then on God will be first in your life. God is saying, "If the Lord is God, follow Him." Are you like those people? You too cannot say a thing. You haven't followed God, you are ashamed as they were.

Elijah continued to speak, "I am the only prophet of God. There are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal." It didn't look like a fair contest, did it? What made the difference?

Allow the children to respond.

Yes, God was with Elijah. That was better than having a thousand people!

CTS

Christian boy and girl, remember that the next time you seem to be the only one in your family or in your class who obeys God. The one, true God is with you and that is best of all. Can you think of times when this would help you?

Allow the children to respond.

The following are examples you may use:

- ◆ There is bad language in a play your class is acting. You don't want to say those words. No-one else cares. You go to tell the teacher you would rather not say them.
- ◆ Your brothers want you to join them in playing a nasty prank on the old lady next door. You are the youngest in the family and it is hard to say that you will not join in.

If you are a Christian, the one, true living God will be with you, just as He was with Elijah.

The prophet of God was now giving instructions. "Get a bull and cut it in pieces. Put it on top of the wood but do not set fire to it," he told the followers of Baal. "I will get the other bull ready," he continued. "I will put it on the wood and will not set fire to it."

Place prophets (EJ-9).

"Let the prophets of Baal call to their gods, I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who sends fire on the sacrifice - He is God!" The people replied, "Yes, that is right! Let us do that!"

The prophets of Baal took a bullock and made it ready. There was great excitement. They started to ask Baal to send fire. "Oh Baal, hear us! Oh Baal, hear us!" they cried. Nothing happened. They ran round and round the altar, they jumped on the altar, they cut themselves with knives. They shouted and screamed, "Oh Baal, hear us! Oh Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer - no fire! This went on all morning. Elijah began to make fun of them. "Cry louder! Perhaps he is talking, or on a journey. Perhaps he's asleep and you must waken him." The prophets of Baal cried all the more, cutting themselves. By evening there was still no answer. Why not? Baal was just a god made of stone. He was not a living god. He could not hear. It is good to remember that the God about whom we read in the Bible is the only true God. You may hear about other gods in school, you may read about them. But remember God says, "besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6b). That is why there was no fire.

In the evening Elijah said, "Come near to me." All the people came as near as they could.

Move Israelites (EJ-10) towards centre. Place Elijah's altar (EJ-11 - cut dotted lines, so trench and fire can be placed later).

With twelve stones he built the altar of the Lord which had been broken down and he made a trench around the altar.

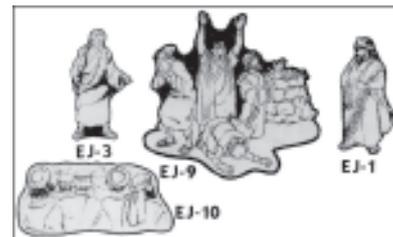
Next he put the wood in order, cut the sacrifice in pieces and laid it on the wood. "Fill your big jars with water and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood," he told the people. When they had done this, he said, "Do it the second time." After that he said, "Do it the third time." The water ran about the altar, soaking everything and filling the trench.

Place trench (from EJ-11a) at bottom of altar.

Elijah stepped forward and prayed, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again" (1 Kings 18:36b-37).

Suddenly, the fire of God fell on the altar.

Place fire (EJ-11b).



Flashcard 2-3

Since Baal was thought to be the god who controlled nature, sending fire was something the people believed he could do.

The prophets of Baal believed that Mount Carmel was a sacred dwelling place of their gods, so they were confident that they would win this contest.

Children will enjoy dramatising the action in this story. Give clear direction on what you want them to do and say.

CT

Flashcard 2-4



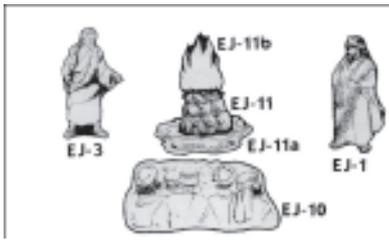
Active preschoolers can pretend to build Elijah's altar.

Some commentators believe that Elijah's use of 12 stones and 12 jars of water was a subtle object lesson of how God desired the 12 tribes of Israel to be united in obedience to Him.

Flashcard 2-5

God may have sent lightning, or He may have caused the altar to spontaneously combust. Whatever the case, it was a miracle, confirming the

power of the living God and the authority of His prophet.



CTU

It burned up the bullock, the wood, the stones. The fire was so hot that the water in the trench boiled dry!

The people fell on their faces and cried out, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" They couldn't say anything else! God had won the great contest. He had shown that He alone is God. He is the one, true, living God. Have you ever started to follow Him? Do you remember how you begin to follow?

Allow children to review what you taught earlier.

You must trust Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who died for sin, to make you right before God. Then, you start to live in a way that pleases God. God helps you to do that. He helps you to obey. God wants you to begin to follow Him today. If you are unsure how to trust Christ and begin to follow Him, you can come to talk to me after the meeting (*designate a place where the children should go*). I will be happy to show you from the Bible how you can be made right with God and begin to follow Him. It is very important that you do follow Him - just as it was for these people.

Elijah said to the people, "Take the prophets of Baal, do not let one escape!"

The people took them all and Elijah killed them.

Elijah then turned to King Ahab and said, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of heavy rain."

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: Mountain scene.

The prophet of God climbed up Mount Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

Place Elijah (EJ-12).

He was praying. Then he said to his servant, "Go up and look towards the sea." The servant went up and looked.

Place servant (EJ-13).

"There is nothing there," he said.

Six more times Elijah said, "Go back."

The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising up out of the sea."

A small felt cloud may be added.

Elijah commanded him, "Go, tell Ahab: Get your chariot ready and hurry home before the rain stops you."

Even before the servant could return the sky became black, a wind blew, and heavy rain began to fall. Who had sent it? God! The one, true God who is God over everything. Nothing is outside His control.

Flashcard 2-6

Preschoolers can pretend to be the servant looking for a rain cloud.



CTS

There is no other real, living God. Christian boy and girl, remember that. He alone is God, so you must obey Him. When no-one else does, remember He is with you and that is better than having all your class supporting you.

Do you know you're not a Christian? Elijah said to the people, "How long will you wait before making up your mind?" God does not want you to wait. He wants you to follow Him from now on. Are you willing to turn from the wrong things which displease Him? Will you depend on the Lord Jesus to make you right before God? You could say to Him, in your heart, just now where you are sitting, "Lord Jesus, I am bad and sinful. I am sorry. Thank You for being punished for the wrong things I have done. Please take away my sin and make me right before God. I want to follow Him from now on."

Review questions

- 1 To which town did God send Elijah to hide from Ahab and Jezebel? (Zarephath.)
- 2 Name the false God which many of the Israelites were worshipping. (Baal.)
- 3 Why should we trust and obey the God of whom the Bible speaks? (Because He is the only, true God.)
- 4 On which mountain did Elijah face the false prophets and offer his sacrifice? (Mount Carmel.)
- 5 What did Elijah tell the people to do, if they realised that the Lord is the only true God? (He told them to follow Him.)
- 6 How many false prophets altogether did Elijah have to face alone on Mount Carmel? (450.)
- 7 Who is with us to help us when we do what the Bible says is right? (God.)
- 8 What must we do to begin following God? (Turn from sin and trust Christ.)
- 9 How did God show on Mount Carmel that He was the true and living God? (He burned up the sacrifice and even the altar of Elijah.)
- 10 How many times did the servant have to go and look towards the sea, before he saw God's answer to Elijah's prayer for rain? (7 times.)

CTU

Review game

Stone concentration

Make 12 stones from construction paper. On the back of each pair of stones write one of the following words: "Elijah", "Ahab", "Jezebel", "fire", "worship" and "rain".

Randomly arrange the stones with the words face down on a wordstrip board or floor.

When a child answers a question correctly, he can chose two stones to turn over. If the words on the stones match, he gets to keep them. Otherwise they are turned back over.

Play continues until all questions have been answered.

Lesson 3

Elijah runs from Queen Jezebel

Scripture for teachers

1 Kings 19:1-21

Central truth

God is patient

Application

Unsaved: Turn to God now, He is waiting for you

Saved: Thank Him for His patience and ask Him to help you to be patient with others

Memory verse

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy” Psalm 145:8

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6

Or

◆ Figures: EJ-2, EJ-3, EJ-4, EJ-14, EJ-15, EJ-16, EJ-17, EJ-18, EJ-19, EJ-20 and EJ-21

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Indoor palace scene, outdoor scene, juniper tree overlay and cave overlay

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Do you as a Christian ever feel like giving up?”

Progression of events

- 1 Elijah runs away
- 2 He lies under a tree and asks to die **CT**
- 3 An angel comes, “Rise and eat”
- 4 Elijah eats, sleeps and eats again **CTS**
- 5 Elijah travels on to Mount Horeb
- 6 God asks, “What are you doing here?”
- 7 Elijah replies, “I am the only prophet left”
- 8 God says, “Go out onto the mountain” **CTS**
- 9 Wind, earthquake, fire

Climax

- 10 A still, small voice - God speaks to Elijah **CTU**
- 11 God instructs Elijah, “Go back, you are not the only prophet” **CTS**

Conclusion

Elijah obeys God’s instructions **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Indoor palace scene.

Do you as a Christian ever feel like giving up? Perhaps you have even said to God, “Lord, I can’t go on. That other person makes life so difficult for me, because I’m a Christian. It isn’t worth it, trying to witness for you.” All great men and women of God have had times of discouragement.

Elijah too was very discouraged at one time when Queen Jezebel sent her servant to him with the dreadful message, “By this time tomorrow you will be dead!”

Place Jezebel (EJ-2) and servant (EJ-14).

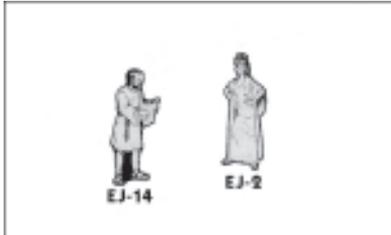
King Ahab had told her everything that happened on Mount Carmel. She was very, very angry and determined to kill Elijah. Jezebel did not know that she could never harm Elijah unless the Lord God allowed it. Elijah seems to have forgotten that too, for when he received the message, he was afraid and ran for his life.

Remove all figures. Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place Elijah (EJ-15).

He left the city in a great hurry and travelled south to the land of Judah. But, still afraid of being captured, he hurried on into the wilderness. There he stopped; he just could not go any further. He was so tired - the contest on Mount Carmel had taken a lot of his strength and so had this long journey. He was very, very discouraged. He had hoped that the people would turn back to the Lord God - but was that possible while Queen Jezebel ruled? Everything he had done seemed useless. Poor Elijah sat down under a juniper tree. He felt so alone, so discouraged and so tired, that life seemed no longer worth living. “O Lord, let me die,” he asked.

What would God do with Elijah? Would He say, “Elijah, you are no longer my servant because you ran away from Jezebel”? No! God understood how tired and discouraged Elijah was. He was patient with Elijah. What does the word “patient” mean? It means that even though God could have been angry with Elijah, He was not. Instead He kept on being kind to him. Perhaps there is a boy in your class who is not good at maths. You help him, but he keeps coming back and asking you again. If you are patient with him, what will you do? Yes, you will still help him. If you are not patient, what will you do? You would say, “Go away, I’m not giving you any more help.” Remember, God is patient - the Bible tells us that He is the “God of patience” (Romans 15:5). That is why He did not turn away from His servant Elijah, even when he gave up and ran away.

Remove Elijah (EJ-15).



Flashcard 3-1

Let children who were present tell the events of the previous lesson as a brief review.

Flashcard 3-2

If you have space, children could do some running on the spot.



Flashcard 3-3

Elijah's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual exhaustion apparently clouded his thinking, causing him to lose perspective and ultimately lose hope.

CT

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with juniper tree overlay. (The juniper tree was hardly more than a shrub in the desert Bible country).

As Elijah lay under the juniper tree, he fell fast asleep.

Place Elijah (EJ-16).

But God was caring tenderly for him and sent an angel.

Place angel (EJ-18).

The angel touched the sleeping prophet. "Get up and eat," he said.

Replace Elijah (EJ-16) with figure EJ-17.

Elijah wakened and looked around. There was a cake baked on the coals and a jug of water.

Place meal (EJ-19).

Elijah enjoyed the meal for he was hungry and thirsty after his long journey. When he had eaten the meal he lay down and fell fast asleep again!

Some time later the angel of the Lord wakened him a second time and told him to eat more. How loving and caring God was towards His servant. He did not say, "Elijah, how foolish you are to run away from Jezebel - I am not pleased with you." He could have said that, but He didn't. Instead He lovingly gave Elijah just what he needed - rest and food. God is just like that with each of His children. If you are a Christian, remember God does not turn away from you, when you are "down in the dumps". When you displease Him, perhaps by losing your temper with your little brother, He does not say, "I'm finished with you." He is working in your life to make you more like the Lord Jesus. It may take a long time, but He will not give up. He would not give up on Elijah either!

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with cave overlay.

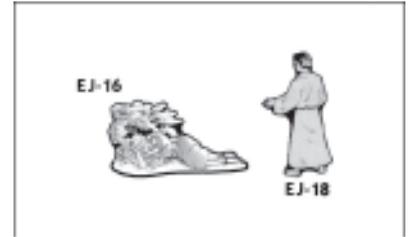
Place Elijah (EJ-3).

The prophet felt much better after sleeping and eating. He should have asked God what he should do next - but he didn't. He travelled towards the south for 40 days and nights.

Replace Elijah (EJ-3) with figure EJ-4.

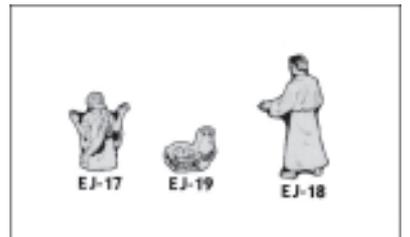
He was going to Mount Horeb where one day God had spoken to Moses and had given him the 10 commandments and the plan of the Tabernacle. Elijah needed God to speak to him.

At last he came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. He went into a cave and spent the night. There God spoke to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"



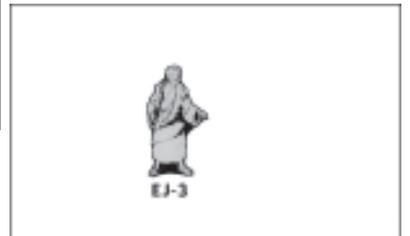
Flashcard 3-4

Preschoolers could pretend to sleep like Elijah.



Even though it was not God's will for Elijah to run to the desert or to go on to Mount Horeb, God provided sustenance for the journey to allow Elijah to find his way back to God.

CTS



It was a much shorter route to go directly to Mount Horeb from the desert where Elijah was, but God caused him to wander for 40 days, perhaps to continue ministering to him. Let children locate Mount Horeb on a map.



Flashcard 3-5

“I have worked hard for the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have turned away from God and have killed His prophets. I am the only one left,” Elijah replied.

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

CTS

Once again, God was patient with Elijah. He did not even say how wrong Elijah had been. He was going to show Elijah something of Himself. That was what the prophet needed, he was thinking too much of his own problems. I am so glad that God is loving, understanding and patient. He does not stop His work in His children. He is not impatient. Christian boy and girl, don't forget to thank Him for being like that. Perhaps you have to come and tell Him how sorry you are for some sin. You seem to come to Him with this sin again and again. He doesn't say, “This is the last time I'll forgive.” The Bible says He is “slow to anger and great in mercy” (Psalm 145:8). Won't you thank Him for being so patient? This was the God who spoke to Elijah.

A great, strong wind blew. It even broke great pieces of rock from the mountain. But the Lord was not in the wind.

After the wind had died down, there came a dreadful earthquake. The whole mountain shook and trembled. But the Lord was not in the earthquake.

Then there was a fire, but God was not in the fire either. How would God show Himself to Elijah?

After the wind, the earthquake and fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice. He covered his face with his cloak and stood on the mountain. Elijah knew at once that it was God speaking to him - gently and kindly. God asked, “What are you doing here?”

Replace Elijah (EJ-4) with figure EJ-20.

Elijah had gone there without asking God if he should go. He had run away from Jezebel, yet God was kind and tender with him. How patient He is! The Bible says, “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9). God is patient with everyone, not only with His children. If you are not a Christian, God is patient with you too. Have you told a lie this week? On Tuesday morning you said, “Mum, I have a sore head.” Your mum thought it best that you didn't go to school. You didn't have a headache at all. You just pretended and told a lie. That is sin, for God commands, “You shall not bear false witness” (Exodus 20:16). This means that we should not tell lies. Yet, God did not punish you immediately. Why not? Because He is patient. Many, many times you disobey Him and He does not punish you at once. This does not mean that He will never punish you. He waits, so that you will turn from your sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you. If you do not, then He will punish you for



CTU

ever. But until now He has been very patient with you. Yes, He is patient with all people and He was patient with Elijah when He asked him, "Why are you here?" Elijah gave the same answer as the first time, explaining how the Israelites had killed God's prophets and he was the only one left.

The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came." God told Elijah some very important things to do when he went back - one was to choose someone else to be king of Israel, instead of Ahab; another was to call a young man to take Elijah's place as the prophet of God. Then the Lord told Elijah something wonderful: He told him that in Israel there were seven thousand people who were faithful to God and had not worshipped Baal. What wonderful news for Elijah! He had thought he was alone, now God was encouraging him. God really cheered him up.

Christian boy and girl, when you are "down in the dumps", don't think that God is against you. Tell Him why you feel sad. Don't think He will leave you, He will not, for He is very patient with His children. Because He is so patient with you, you should be patient with others.

Perhaps your family is having a picnic and your dad says that you and your younger brother may climb the nearby hill. Off you go, but your brother is 2 years younger than you, he is smaller and he cannot climb as quickly. What will you do if you are patient with him?

Allow children to respond.

Maybe your class is divided for a game of rounders (*or another game with which the children are familiar*). One girl hardly ever hits the ball for she has bad eyesight. When she is in your team, how can you show that you are patient with her?

Allow children to answer.

It would be very difficult, even impossible for us if God was not patient with His children. If you are a Christian, ask God to help you be patient with others as He is patient with you. I am sure Elijah was glad that God treated him so kindly.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Wisely Elijah did what God told him to do and set off the way he had come.

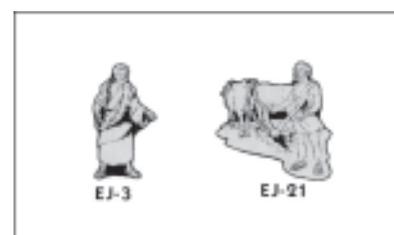
Place Elijah (EJ-3).

He found the man who would one day take his place. He saw him ploughing with oxen. His name was Elisha.

Place Elisha (EJ-21).

CTS

Flashcard 3-6



The prophet's robe symbolised God's power and the prophet's authority as God's servant. Place a robe on a child pretending to be Elisha.

Elijah went to Elisha and threw his own cloak on him. Elisha knew at once what this meant. He knew that God was calling him to work for Him. When he had said "Goodbye" to his father and mother he went with Elijah. For a time he was a servant to the man of God. He was not going to take over from Elijah just yet, for God had still some important things for Elijah to do. Even though Elijah had run away, God brought him back and was still going to allow Elijah to work for Him. How patient God is!

CTS

Christian boy and girl, slowly but surely God will make you like the Lord Jesus. He won't give up on you - even when you are foolish, even when you sin, even when you are "down in the dumps". In your heart won't you say, "Thank you, God for being so patient with me."

CTU

You who have never trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour - God has been patient with you. You know you have sinned. He did not punish you at once. He has spoken to you. There have been times when you really felt you must trust the Lord Jesus, but you didn't do it. Right now, God is speaking again and you can trust the Lord Jesus now. His patience with you will not last forever if you go on in your own sinful way. Turn to God now, just where you are sitting, tell Him quietly in your heart, "Lord, thank You for being patient with me when I disobeyed You so much. I am sorry that I have been so disobedient. Thank You for speaking to me again. I am glad the Lord Jesus died for me and now I trust Him to take away my sins."

Review game

Prize size

Label one small paper bag "you win" and another one "good try". In the "you win bag" put treats such as chocolates or large marshmallows. (Use all one kind of treat in the bag.) In the "good try bag" put miniatures of the same treat, such as chocolate chips or miniature marshmallows.

If a child answers a question correctly, he gets to take a treat from the "you win bag". If he is incorrect, he takes a treat from the "good try bag".

Review questions

- 1 Who was the wicked Queen who threatened Elijah's life? (Queen Jezebel.)
- 2 What did God do for Elijah when he ran away and was so discouraged in the desert? (God cared for him and sent an angel to give him food and water and allowed him to rest.)
- 3 Where in the Bible do we find the words, "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy"? (Psalm 145:8.)
- 4 How many days did Elijah take to get to Mount Horeb after resting under the juniper tree? (40 days.)
- 5 How did God show to Elijah at the entrance to the cave that He was all-powerful and in control of the universe? (Through the violent wind, the earthquake and the fire.)
- 6 What did God say through the still, small voice to Elijah? ("What are you doing here? Go back the way you came.")
- 7 Give two things that God asked Elijah to do when he went back. (To choose someone else to be king instead of Ahab and a young man to take his place as prophet.)

- 8 Elijah thought he was alone in following the true and living God; how did God encourage him? (By telling him that there were 7,000 people still faithful to God.)
- 9 What should you remember when you are discouraged, as a Christian? (That God is patient with each one of us.)
- 10 If God is patient with us, what should our attitude be to others who have problems? (We should be patient with them.)

Lesson 4

Elijah and Naboth's vineyard

Scripture for teachers

1 Kings 21:1-26

Central truth

God is just

Application

Unsaved: God will punish you for your sin if you do not trust Christ as Lord and Saviour

Saved: When you are wronged, leave the matter with God

Memory verse

Review Psalm 145:8

Or

If using this as an individual lesson, we suggest the following verse:

“A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” Deuteronomy 32:4b

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

Or

◆ Figures: EJ-1, EJ-2, EJ-3, EJ-10, EJ-14, EJ-22, EJ-23, EJ-24 and EJ-25

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Vineyard scene, indoor palace scene and outdoor scene

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Is anybody fair?”

CT

Progression of events

- 1 King Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard **CT**
- 2 He asks Naboth for it
- 3 Naboth refuses sale or exchange
- 4 King Ahab sulks
- 5 Jezebel intervenes **CTU**
- 6 Naboth is “tried”
- 7 Naboth is murdered **CTS**
- 8 King Ahab goes to take vineyard
- 9 King Ahab meets Elijah

Climax

“Where Naboth died, you will die” - Elijah

CTU

Conclusion

King Ahab dies in battle

Queen Jezebel dies

CTU, CTS

Lesson

“Is anybody fair?” muttered Alan as he kicked a stone along the road on Friday afternoon. He had been kept in after school all week, because some of the boys in his class had been caught throwing pebbles at cars. He had been there, but had not thrown one pebble. In fact, he was just waiting for a friend who had gone into a shop. “And you expect me to believe that story?” the teacher asked. When he explained - she didn’t. Little wonder Alan muttered, “Is anybody fair?” Teachers do make mistakes like that, so do mums and dads. There is only one, who never does - that is God. The Bible tells us that God is just. He is fair in everything He does. He never makes a mistake. He is never mean. When He punishes sin, He gives the punishment that is right. The Bible says, “righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

CT

Scene 1

Optional background: Vineyard scene.

Wicked King Ahab did not truly understand this or he would never have allowed the terrible things to happen that we hear about in today’s Bible lesson.

Place Ahab (EJ-1).

It all started with something the king wanted very, very much! The king had a beautiful palace in Samaria. Close to the palace there lived a man whose name was Naboth. Naboth had a vineyard where large, juicy, purple grapes grew. Naboth loved his vineyard. Probably, as a boy, he had helped his father take care of the vines, for it belonged to him. It had even belonged to his grandfather.

When King Ahab looked at the vineyard, so close to his palace, he wanted it for himself! The king was rich. He had everything he needed and much more. But he wanted that vineyard. When you really want something belonging to someone else, that is called “coveting”. God’s command is, “You shall not covet” (Exodus 20:17a). Have you broken that command?

Perhaps the boy next door rides past you on a gleaming new bicycle. You think, “I wish I had one - why can’t I have one?” You think about it so much. You covet his bicycle.

Or is there a girl in your class who wears such pretty, modern clothes? You are really jealous of her - you want clothes like that. You keep telling your mum how much you want them. You are coveting her clothes.

Does it matter? It does, you have broken God’s command. What does God, the fair Judge, say about the punishment for breaking His Law? “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4b). That means all sin, including coveting, must be punished by death. “Death” means to be cut off from God and to be punished for ever and ever. That is

Flashcard 4-1



Give each child a grape. Involving their sense of taste will help to impress the story on the minds of the children.

CT

the punishment you and I deserve, for we have disobeyed God's commands again and again. We cannot argue that it isn't fair, for it is just what we deserve and God is a fair Judge.

But Ahab wasn't thinking about God at all. He was thinking about the vineyard. He decided to talk to Naboth.

Place Naboth (EJ-22).

"Give me the vineyard," he said. "I will give you a better vineyard, or money if you prefer that."

But Naboth answered, "The Lord forbids me to sell you the land which has been in my family for such a long time."

God had said that a family should keep their land. Naboth chose to obey God.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Indoor palace scene.

The king was angry and disappointed. He went to his palace and into his bedroom. There he lay down, turned away his face and refused to eat.

Place Ahab (EJ-23).

The king sulked! Queen Jezebel came into the room.

Place Jezebel (EJ-2).

"Why are you so sad and not eating?" she asked.

"I asked Naboth to sell his vineyard and he refused to give it to me," Ahab explained sulkily.

"Who is king?" exclaimed the queen. "Get up and enjoy yourself! I will get you Naboth's vineyard!"

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Indoor palace scene.

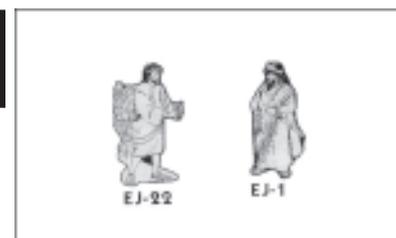
The wicked queen set to work.

Place Jezebel (EJ-2).

She wrote letters which she then signed with Ahab's name; she sealed them with Ahab's seal. Her messenger brought them to the leaders (elders) of the city.

Place servant (EJ-14).

She instructed the leaders to have a trial and tell Naboth to be there. They were to get two men to say, "Naboth curses God and the king!" After that they were to find Naboth guilty and stone him to death. Jezebel did not know or care about God's Law. She went ahead with



Flashcard 4-2

Children would enjoy role-playing this encounter between Naboth and Ahab.

According to Mosaic law, the land owned by each tribe or family was to remain in that family (Numbers 36:7, Leviticus 25:23). Ahab wanted permanent ownership of the vineyard which would have caused Naboth to violate God's law.

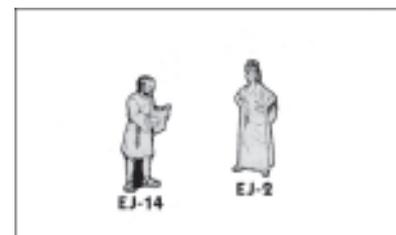
Flashcard 4-3

Even though he had ignored God and was a wicked king, Ahab knew he was helpless to fight God's law regarding Naboth's vineyard.

Flashcard 4-4



As a daughter of a pagan king, Jezebel had no respect for God's laws. She believed the king was a law to himself - an absolute monarch.

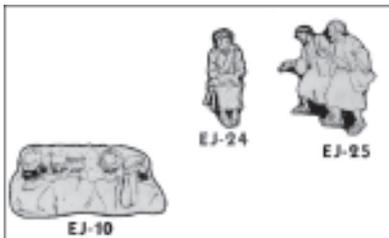


Children would enjoy role-playing these scenes. Have the words of Jezebel's letter from verses 9-10 printed on paper and rolled up to

form a scroll. Children can portray Jezebel giving the scroll to the messenger and the messenger delivering it to the city leaders. Have the leaders open the scroll and read it aloud.

CTU

Flashcard 4-5



Blasphemy was a crime punishable by death by stoning, according to Old Testament law. See Leviticus 24:16.

CTS

her wicked plot and it seemed to work out in her favour. But we must remember that God does not always punish immediately. This does not mean that the person gets off free. Sometimes in school pupils get away with doing wrong - perhaps the teacher doesn't really know what happened, or he is in a good mood and doesn't bother to punish. But it is never like that with God. He knows all the facts. He does not have good moods and bad moods, God is always the same. He may not punish immediately, but He will punish. Won't you think seriously about this? It is foolish not to, for one day you must meet God as your Judge. Jezebel did not know about this, so she didn't think about it at all. She just went on with her wicked plot to get that vineyard for Ahab.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

The leaders of the city did what she asked them to do. They put Naboth on trial.

Place Naboth (EJ-24).

The people of the city gathered around to see what was happening.

Place people (EJ-10 and EJ-25).

Then came two rough, evil men. They said that Naboth had spoken wickedly of the king and also of God. Naboth did not have a chance to say anything. They found him "guilty", carried him out of the city and stoned him to death. It wasn't a fair trial. Naboth, a follower of God, was unfairly treated by these people. Sometimes God's children are unfairly treated by others and it is hard to understand why God allows it. It does not mean that He has stopped being fair and just. He has His reasons for allowing us to suffer unfairly, good reasons which only He knows and understands. But those who treat God's children in a bad way will be punished. God's children who have suffered unfairly will be rewarded. God will see to it, that in the end, everything is fair. If you are a Christian, what should you do when others treat you badly? Supposing some boys in your class grab your school bag, empty the books into a puddle and shout:

"So you're a Christian, we'll show you what we do with Christians!" Which of these would be the right way to react?

- ◆ Get your big brother and his friends to beat them up.
- ◆ Try to get your own back on them in school without being seen.
- ◆ Ask God to sort out the problem and try to keep away from them on the way home.

Allow children to discuss what is best. It would be good to say to the Christian children, that if they are facing a problem like this you would be happy to talk and pray with them about it. Tell the children where they will find you after the meeting.

God does not want us to pay back wrong for wrong. He says we should leave that to Him. “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Romans 12:19b). He was going to repay Jezebel and Ahab for their wickedness.

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: Vineyard scene.

They were so happy that Naboth was dead.

Jezebel told Ahab, “Go and take Naboth’s vineyard.”

As soon as the king heard that Naboth was dead, he went down to the vineyard to take it for his own.

Place Ahab (EJ-1).

There he met the man he least wanted to see in all the world! Can you guess who it was? Yes, Elijah.

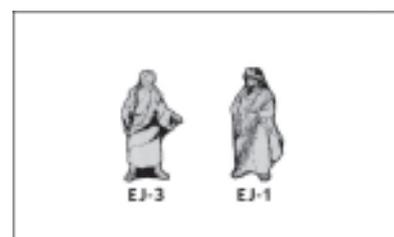
Place Elijah (EJ-3).

God knew all that had happened and sent Elijah with His message for the king. The prophet strode into the vineyard. When Ahab saw him he gasped in dismay, “Have you found me, O my enemy?”

Elijah sternly replied, “I have found you because you have sold yourself to do wickedness. God will punish you for this evil. You will die and your sons will die.” Elijah also said that the dogs would eat the dead body of Jezebel. What a frightening message! But it was what Ahab and Jezebel deserved. God was being fair. He is always like that. He must punish all sin. How then can anyone go to Heaven if God has to punish all sin? He found a wonderful answer to that problem. He sent His only Son into the world. His Son, Jesus Christ, never sinned so He deserved no punishment. Yet God did punish Him. God punished Him for the sin which other people, like you and I, have done. That means if you trust Jesus Christ to save you from sin, you know that all your sin has been punished and God will not punish you again. So God is just and fair - even when He forgives sin. Perhaps you have been thinking about what you deserve from God. This is good news for you - come to the Lord Jesus, ask Him to forgive you, to be your Saviour. Then you will know that all your sin has been punished and you do not have to be afraid of meeting God. The Bible says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1a). That means there is no punishment for those who belong to the Lord Jesus. It is true because God said it. All that He says is true. He says if you do not trust Christ, you will be punished for ever and that is true, just like the dreadful message Elijah brought.

Not long after this the king was wounded in a battle and died. Several years later Jezebel was looking out of a high window and some men

Flashcard 4-6



CTU

CTS**CTU**

threw her out and the dogs did eat her dead body. Yes, God, the just God, punished the wicked king and queen. As you leave today, please do not forget what God is like. He is just and fair. If you love the Lord Jesus don't try to get even with people who are mean to you. Leave it with God to work it out. If you know today that all you deserve from God is punishment for your sin, will you turn away from sin and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, knowing that He took your punishment? If you go on in your disobedient way, God will punish you forever. If you trust the Lord Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Saviour, you will never be punished. We are just going to have a few moments of quietness now. If you really mean it, speak to the Lord Jesus quietly - not out loud - ask Him to be your Saviour, to save you from the punishment you deserve.

Have just a short time of quietness and then close with prayer.

Review game

Give and take

Label one small paper bag "points" and another "give and take". Place 12 pieces of paper with different point values on them in the "points bag". Place 12 pieces of paper in the "give and take bag", four labelled "give" and eight labelled "take".

Divide the class into teams. When a child answers a question correctly, he draws out of the "points bag". He then draws out of the "give and take bag". If he draws out a "take", the points go to his team. If he draws a "give", the points go to the other team.

Play alternates between teams.

The team with the most points after all questions have been answered wins.

Review questions

- 1 What does it mean that God is just? (It means that He is fair and He always gives the right punishment and rewards to those who deserve them.)
- 2 Who was the man that owned the vineyard King Ahab wanted? (Naboth.)
- 3 Which command of God was Ahab breaking by wanting what was not his by right? ("You shall not covet" Exodus 20:17a.)
- 4 What should happen to us because we disobey God? (We deserve to be punished and cut off from God for ever.)
- 5 What did Ahab do when he didn't get what he wanted? (He went to his bedroom, lay down and sulked.)
- 6 What did Jezebel do so that she could get Naboth's vineyard? (She got people to tell lies about him and to have him killed.)
- 7 Why do you think the wicked king would not want to see Elijah? (Because he knew he had sinned and God punishes sin.)
- 8 What message did Elijah bring from God to Ahab? (That he and Jezebel would be punished and how they would die.)
- 9 How could God be just and yet forgive our sin? (He punished His Son on the cross for our sin.)
- 10 Whose sins are forgiven? (Those who are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.)

Lesson 5

Elijah goes to Heaven

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 2:1-15

Central truth

God is with His children all the time

Application

Unsaved: Become God's child and this privilege will be yours too

Saved: Remember that you are never alone

Memory verse

"I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5b

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

◆ Figures: EJ-3, EJ-26, EJ-27, EJ-29, EJ-30, EJ-31 and EJ-32

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and river overlay

And

◆ Wordstrips with clues for "Who am I?" game

Lesson outline

Introduction

"Who am I?"

Progression of events

- 1 Elijah nears the end of his time on earth **CT**
- 2 Elijah and Elisha go to Bethel and Jericho **CTS**
- 3 They cross the Jordan
- 4 The sons of the prophets watch **CTS**
- 5 Elijah asks Elisha if he has a request
- 6 Elisha asks for a double portion of his spirit **CTS**
- 7 The two travel on together
- 8 The chariot of fire appears and Elijah goes **CTU**
- 9 Elisha takes Elijah's cloak

Climax

- 10 Elisha strikes the water and asks, "Where is the God of Elijah?"
- 11 The water is divided **CTS**

Conclusion

The sons of the prophets meet Elisha

They bow before him **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

I am going to ask you a “Who am I?” question. Let’s see how many clues you need!

You may wish to put these clues on wordstrips.

- 1 I was a farmer.
- 2 I could plough a field with oxen.
- 3 I said “Goodbye” to my father and mother.
- 4 I was Elijah’s servant and friend.
- 5 My name sounds rather like Elijah.

Remove wordstrips.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with river overlay.

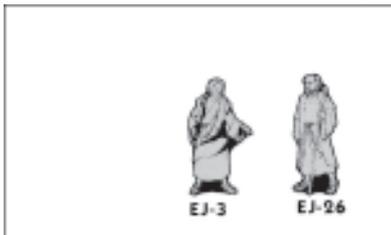
God had chosen Elisha to carry on the work that Elijah was doing. Many years had gone by since that day. After Elijah had told Elisha to come with him, Elisha had spent the time helping Elijah and also learning from him.

Place Elijah (EJ-3) and Elisha (EJ-26).

Elijah’s time on earth was almost finished. What an adventurous life it had been! God had used him to tell a wicked king and queen messages they did not want to hear. In return they hated him and wanted to kill him. Only God’s presence and care had saved his life. Can you remember some of the times when God showed He was with him and cared for him in a wonderful way?

Allow children to review briefly.

Flashcard 5-2



CT

God had been with Elijah all the time. God is with all of His children all the time. He is such a great God that He is everywhere. But He is especially close to His children. The wonderful thing is that though there are thousands and thousands of people who really are His children, in different parts of the world, He is close to each one all the time. He says in the Bible, “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” (Jeremiah 23:24b). He is so great that He can be with all His children - and He was with Elijah too.

Now came the time when God was going to take Elijah to Heaven, because his work was over. Elijah and Elisha both knew that. The two servants of God were travelling together from a town named Gilgal when Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel.”

Elisha did not want to let Elijah out of his sight. He knew he would miss him very much, so he replied, “As the Lord lives, I will not leave you.”

Years before this Samuel had started schools to help young men learn more about God. These were called the “schools of the prophets”.

Elijah’s instruction for Elisha to stay behind may have been a test of Elisha’s commitment to his calling.

Preschoolers will enjoy pretending to travel from city to city.

Flashcard 5-1

The training of the men known as the sons of the

The young men who studied there were called the “sons of the prophets”. When Elijah and Elisha arrived in Bethel, they met these young men and they too seemed to know that Elijah would soon go to Heaven.

Place the sons of the prophets (EJ-27).

They took Elisha aside and asked, “Do you know that God is going to take your master away today?”

“Yes,” answered Elisha, “I know. You don’t have to tell me.”

Again Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But Elisha stayed with his master.

At Jericho there was another school of the prophets. They too said to Elisha, “Do you know that God will take away your master today?”

Again Elisha answered, “You do not need to tell me.”

The prophets knew something would take place. They wanted to see what would happen to Elijah, so they went to a big place and watched from there as the two prophets walked along.

Elijah said to Elisha, “God has sent me to Jordan, stay here.”

But Elisha replied, “As the Lord lives, I will not leave you.”

Elisha wanted to spend every possible minute with Elijah for soon he would no longer be there. That is the difference between a human friend and God. A human friend, your very best friend, even your mum and dad, cannot be with you every minute of every day and every night. But it is different with God. Long, long ago God promised one of His servants, “I will not leave you” (Genesis 28:15). If you are God’s child, He is close to you always, wherever you are, whatever the time. No human friend can be like that. Even Elijah was not like that. Soon he would leave Elisha.

Scene 2

When Elijah and Elisha reached the Jordan river, Elijah took off his cloak and wrapped it up. Then he struck the water with it. When he did this, the river divided and the two of them walked across on dry land.

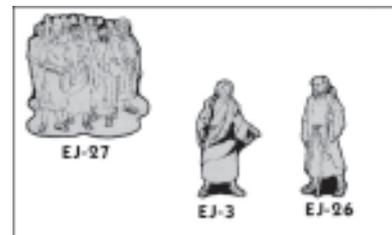
At a distance the sons of the prophets watched.

What did they think?

- ◆ That Elijah was a kind of superman.
- ◆ That God was still with Elijah.
- ◆ That it was just the wind making a path.

Allow children to choose correct answer.

prophets may have been established by Samuel in Ramah (see 1 Samuel 19:20). These prophets were divided into groups of 50 and were established in different



cities. They sought to draw the people of Israel out of idolatry and back to worship of the true and living God.

Children will enjoy finding Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho on a map. It is interesting to note that these cities which were once so rich in the spiritual history of Israel were by this time centres of idolatry. They would later become key places where Elisha would carry out his ministry.

CTS

Flashcard 5-3

If you used a robe in Lesson 3, use it here.

This miracle is reminiscent of Israel’s crossing of the Red Sea and of the Jordan. It is one of many similarities between the ministries of Moses and Elijah.

CTS

The "double portion" referred back to Deuteronomy 21:17 regarding the firstborn's inheritance from his father. Elijah had been a spiritual father to Elisha. Now Elisha wanted to be fully equipped to represent his master as a son would his father. In later years God did twice as many miracles through Elisha as He did through Elijah.

CTS

They would see that God was still with Elijah. He had been with him for years and right now He was still with him. Christian boy and girl, God will be with you every day of your life. Perhaps you are moving to a new school and you are rather frightened. You don't know anyone. You think, "I don't like to go there alone." You do not go alone. God is with you. His promise to you as a Christian is, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b). He will be with you right through your life, just as He was with Elijah.

The old prophet turned to Elisha. "Is there anything you would like me to do for you before I am taken away?" he asked.

Elisha knew what he wanted. "I would like to ask for a double share of your spirit," he said. (In other words Elisha wanted to have the full help that Elijah had to do his work.) Elisha knew that Elijah, his master, had had great strength and power from God and Elisha wanted that too in order to do God's work. But that was something Elijah could not give - only God could give that strength and power.

Christian boy and girl, did you know that when the Lord Jesus went back to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in each one who knows Him as Lord and Saviour? So not only is God with you - He lives in you. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God the Holy Spirit lives in you. He will make you strong and brave to live for Him. Perhaps at home you find it hard not to quarrel. God the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, will help you not to quarrel. It is wonderful, Christian boy and girl, that God is not only with you, but He is also in you to help you live for Him.

Elisha knew just how much he needed God to be with him in power if he could ever do the work of a prophet. So he asked, "I would like a double share of your spirit to come on me."

"You have asked for a very hard thing," replied Elijah, "But if you see me when I am taken away from you, you shall have it."

Remove all figures.

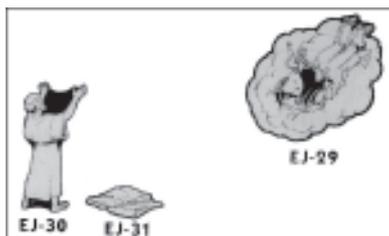
Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with a river overlay.

The two men of God walked on, talking together. Suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared. They came between Elijah and Elisha and Elijah went up to Heaven in a whirlwind, his cloak dropping to the ground.

Place Elijah (EJ-29), cloak (EJ-31) and Elisha (EJ-30).

As Elisha saw him go he cried out, "My father, my father! The chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" (Elijah, through his prayers and preaching, kept Israel safe - better than Ahab's army.) Then Elisha saw his master no more. Elijah had gone directly to Heaven without dying. Why did he go to Heaven? He was ready to meet God, because he was trusting

Flashcard 5-4

God for salvation. What about you - are you ready to meet God? Would you go to Heaven? It is only God's children who will be with Him for ever in Heaven. You become God's child when you depend on the Lord Jesus to save you from sin, knowing that He took your punishment when He died on the cross. Are you depending on the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? If you are, you are God's child. The Bible says, "But as many as received Him [the Lord Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). To "believe in His name" means to depend on Him. If you are not depending on the Lord Jesus to take away your sin, you are not God's child. It is only God's children who know that God is close to them each day. It is only God's children who will live with God for ever and ever. That is where Elijah was - he was with God.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene, with a river overlay.

But what would happen to Elisha? Would God be with him? Would he receive the strength and power Elijah had? Elisha must have asked these questions too.

He stooped to pick up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and walked back towards the river Jordan.

Place Elisha (EJ-32).

Do you remember how Elijah and Elisha had got across the river? When Elisha came to the river he took Elijah's cloak and asked, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" Just when he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left and Elisha crossed over. God was showing him that he really was chosen to take Elijah's place. God was making it clear to Elisha that He was with him, just as He had been with his master. It is so good to know that God is with all of His children. He is not only with the missionaries, the preachers, or adults who are Christians. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus, He is with you. Perhaps a friend in your class is a Christian too. It's easier in school when there are two of you who are Christians. But now that friend is moving house and you think that you cannot live for the Lord Jesus in school on your own. Although your Christian friend is leaving, God is not leaving you and that is more important. Remember, you are not on your own. God wants you to know that today, just as He wanted Elisha to know it long ago.

The sons of the prophets were watching as the river Jordan divided.

Place the sons of the prophets (EJ-27).

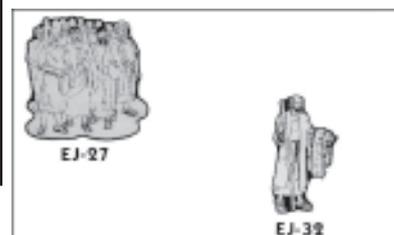
Then they too knew that God was with Elisha in a special way and that he was the one God had chosen to take Elijah's place. So they came to meet Elisha and bowed before him. Now Elisha was going

CTU

Flashcard 5-5



CTS



Flashcard 5-6

Although the prophets did not witness Elijah's translation into Heaven,

they did recognise the Spirit of God on Elisha.

CTS

to begin his work for God. What a difference it made to him knowing that God was with him, just as He had been with Elijah. If you are God's child remember God is always with you. When you feel lonely, God is still there, close to you. Other friends may leave you but God never will. Then at the end of your life God will take you to Heaven where you will always be with Him and He with you. What a wonderful thing it is to be God's child!

CTU

Perhaps you are saying to yourself, "Yes, but I am not God's child." Do you really want to be? If you depend on the Lord Jesus as the One who was punished for your sin - then you will be God's child. The promise is "to those who believe in His [Jesus'] name" (John 1:12b). Will you speak quietly to God now and tell Him, "God, I really want to be your child. I am sorry for all the wrong I have done. I believe that the Lord Jesus died for me and I trust Him to take away my sin." When you become God's child then you will know that God is always with you too.

Review questions

- 1 What was Elisha doing before he was called to take Elijah's place? (He was farming.)
- 2 What did Elisha want to do when he knew that Elijah was soon going to leave him? (He wanted to stay with him.)
- 3 In which three towns did Elijah tell Elisha to stay and not go with him? (Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho.)
- 4 What was the name of the river to which Elijah and Elisha came? (Jordan.)
- 5 What happened when Elijah struck the waters of the Jordan with his cloak? (The river divided and the two walked across on dry land.)
- 6 How can we know that God will never leave us alone, if we belong to Him? (He has promised, "I will never leave you" Hebrews 13:5b.)
- 7 What did Elisha ask from Elijah, before he would leave him? (A double share of his spirit.)
- 8 How was Elijah taken directly to Heaven without dying? (God took him in a whirlwind.)
- 9 What must we do to be sure of going to Heaven one day? (We must receive the Lord Jesus Christ, believe on Him.)
- 10 How did the sons of the prophets know that God was with Elisha, like He was with Elijah? (When the Jordan opened up as he struck it with the cloak.)

Lesson 6

Elijah talks with the Lord Jesus

Scripture for teachers

Luke 9:28-36

(Matthew 17:1-8 and Mark 9:2-8 also recount the transfiguration)

Central truth

Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Application

Unsaved: Trust Him for salvation

Saved: Listen to Him and obey Him

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6

Or

- ◆ Flannelgraph figures: EJ-33, EJ-34, EJ-35, EJ-36, EJ-37, EJ-38, EJ-39, EJ-40 and EJ-41
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Mountain scene
- ◆ Cloud shaded in white and yellow, which will cover figures EJ-37, EJ-38 and EJ-40

And

- ◆ Wordstrips with “tjus”, “rgeat”, “enttpia”, “ymgiaht” and “elov”

Lesson outline

Introduction

Let's see how quickly we can unjumble these words!

Progression of events

- 1 God sent us His Son **CT**
- 2 Lord Jesus, Peter, James and John go up mountain
- 3 Lord Jesus prays
- 4 Lord Jesus is transfigured **CT**
- 5 Peter, James and John sleep
- 6 Elijah and Moses appear and talk with Christ **CTU**
- 7 Disciples awaken
- 8 Peter suggests three “tents”
- 9 The cloud comes down

Climax

- 10 God speaks, “This is my beloved Son, ...” **CTS**
- 11 The disciples are afraid
- 12 Moses and Elijah disappear
- 13 Lord Jesus, “Do not fear”

Conclusion

They all go down the mountain together
CTS, CTU

Lesson

Place wordstrips on board (“jus”, “reat”, “enttia” and “ymgiabl”).

Let’s see how quickly we can unjumble these words!

Allow children to do this - “just”, “great”, “patient” and “almighty”.

Why do I have these words on the board? Yes, they all describe God. We have been learning that God is like this. I have one more jumbled up word: “elov”.

Place final wordstrip (“elov”).

What is the word? (Love.)

The Bible tells us that God is love. He showed His love in a wonderful way. About 900 years after Elijah had gone to Heaven, God sent His Son down to this earth. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ...” (John 3:16a). God’s only Son left Heaven and came to earth. He was born as a little baby. Hardly anybody knew who He really was.

CT

When He grew up He taught the people about His Father in Heaven. He healed many sick people and even brought dead people back to life. He could do these things because He is God the Son. He too is almighty and great.

He called twelve men to be His disciples or followers. These men spent a lot of time with Him and He taught them many things. They became more and more sure that He was different - that He really was God’s only Son.

Remove wordstrips.

Scene 1

Optional background: Mountain scene.

One day, He invited three of His disciples, Peter, James and John to go with Him up a mountain to pray.

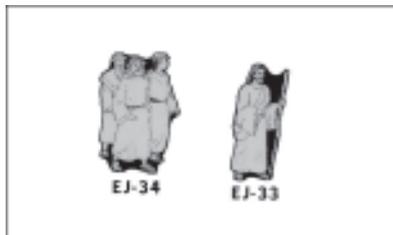
Place Jesus (EJ-33) and disciples (EJ-34).

He allowed these three disciples to see something that no-one on earth had ever seen. Guess who else saw it - Elijah! Isn’t that a surprise! He had gone to Heaven hundreds of years ago and yet he saw it. How could that be? What did they all see? Soon we will know the answer ...

The three disciples must have enjoyed climbing the mountain. The Lord Jesus did. He loved the mountains, the flowers, the birds and all the wonderful things which He Himself had created. Because He is God the Son, His life had no beginning. He was there when the world was made. Indeed the Bible says, “All things were made through Him ...” (John 1:3a). The Lord Jesus, Peter, James and John must have talked of the Heavenly Father as they made their way up the mountain. After some time they stopped for the Lord Jesus wanted

Flashcard 6-2

Preschoolers can count to 12 disciples, noting only 3 went with Jesus.



This could have been Mount Hermon, near Caesarea Philippi. Young children will enjoy “climbing” the mountain.

to spend time talking with His Father. He wanted to pray. He moved a little away from His disciples. God the Son talked with God the Father.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Mountain scene.

As the Lord Jesus prayed a great change took place.

Place Jesus (EJ-35).

His face began to shine as bright as the sun. His clothes became white and glistening, like pure white snow. What was happening? This shining brightness is called glory. Heaven is full of glory. When God's only Son left Heaven He kept His glory hidden. So when people met the Lord Jesus in the street they didn't notice anything different about Him. He looked just like other men. But now His glory was shining out, showing that He really is God the Son. What a strange and holy sight! What were Peter, James and John doing? Were they watching?

Place disciples (EJ-36).

No - they were fast asleep.

Scene 3

As they slept two men came and talked with the Lord Jesus. One of these men was Elijah and the other was Moses.

Replace Jesus (EJ-35) with figure EJ-37. Place Elijah (EJ-39) and Moses (EJ-38).

Maybe you thought we had finished the story of Elijah when you heard last week how he was taken up to Heaven. Well, today is our last lesson on Elijah, because hundreds of years after going to Heaven he came back to the earth to talk to the Lord Jesus. God sent these men from Heaven to come and talk with His Son! Why did God send these two men? The Bible does not tell us, but it may have been because God gave His Law, the Ten Commandments, to Moses and the Lord Jesus was the only One to keep God's Law perfectly. Elijah was a prophet and all the prophets had looked forward to the time when the Promised One would come. He had come - God had sent His only Son. What an exciting thing to happen! The Lord Jesus in His glory talking with Moses and Elijah. What do you think they talked about? What would Elijah talk about? Would he talk about the great contest on Mount Carmel? No! Would Moses talk about the time when God made a path through the Red Sea? No! Did they talk about Heaven where they had just come from? Oh no! They had something far more important to talk about. They talked about the most important event that would ever take place. What was that? The death of the Lord Jesus. They talked about what was going to happen to the Lord Jesus at Jerusalem soon afterwards. When the

Flashcard 6-3

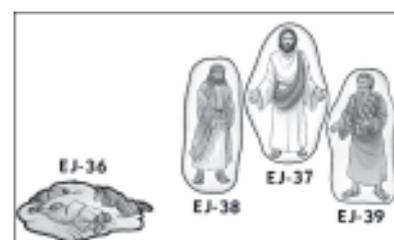
"Transfigured" literally means changed in form. Jesus' divine glory was being revealed.

CT



Flashcard 6-4

Preschoolers will remember baby Moses.



The appearance of Moses and Elijah may have represented the law and prophets - both of which were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Some also feel that they represent categories of people who will be in Jesus' coming kingdom - those who have died (Moses) and those caught up to Heaven without dying (Elijah).

CTU

Help unsaved children see their need of a Saviour and how Jesus paid for their sin.

Lord Jesus died, His death was different from anybody else's. He was nailed to a cross - at that time many people were killed in this way. But the Lord Jesus' death was very different. When He died God punished Him for the sin of people like you and me. That was a dreadful punishment. As God the Son hung on the cross, God the Father left Him. He suffered God's anger against sin. Only God's Son could take the sin of the world and be punished for it. Because He has done that, He is the only Saviour. He can take away your sin. He can save you from the punishment you deserve.

You deserve to be put away from God for ever. The Bible calls that "perishing". Jesus Christ can save you from perishing. He can change your life, but you must trust Him to do that for you. If you really want to trust Him, but you don't know how to, come and talk to me after the meeting. I will be (*designate place where children can go*). I will be glad to show you how from the Bible. Remember, Jesus Christ can save you because He is God's only Son who died for our sin.

It is not surprising that Moses and Elijah talked about His death. But were the disciples going to miss it all? After a time the three sleepy disciples awakened.

Replace disciples (EJ-36) with figure EJ-40.

They had never seen anything like this. They were looking at a heavenly brightness and glory. It was so strange and wonderful that the disciples were afraid. Peter started to talk, not really knowing what he was saying. "Master," he said, "It is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Flashcard 6-5

To these Jewish disciples, the cloud represented God's presence, as it did in the time of Moses.

CTS**Scene 4**

The Lord Jesus did not reply, for just as Peter spoke a bright cloud covered Him, Moses and Elijah.

Place cloud over Jesus (EJ-37), Elijah (EJ-39) and Moses (EJ-38).

Out of the cloud came a voice. It was the voice of God the Father. He said to the disciples, "This is My beloved Son, hear Him." God was announcing that Jesus Christ was His Son. He was teaching the disciples a great lesson there on the mountain. It is a lesson He wants us to learn today too. He wants us to know in our hearts that there is no other person like the Lord Jesus. Moses and Elijah were men who had served God, but they were only men. They had made many mistakes, they had often sinned. But the Lord Jesus was very different. He was a man, but also the Son of God. We know that there are three persons in one God - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. Jesus Christ is One of the three-in-one-God. He is the only Saviour. He is the One to whom God would have us listen and obey.

Perhaps at school you are taught about other religions. The teacher tells you that there are many ways to God and Heaven. As a Christian

you should find out what the Lord Jesus said and believe Him. He said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6b). Listen to Him, believe what He says.

It may be that your friend has asked you to watch a video in her home. She has told you a little about it. You know that it is not the sort of video that the Lord Jesus would approve of. Will you listen to your friend, or to the Lord Jesus, the Son of God and your Saviour? Listen to Him, obey Him. This is what God the Father was saying to the three disciples, when He spoke in the cloud.

The disciples were very frightened. They fell on their faces, not daring to look again.

Remove cloud, Elijah (EJ-39) and Moses (EJ-38). Replace Jesus (EJ-37) with figure EJ-41.

The Lord Jesus came and touched them. "Do not be afraid," He said.

The three disciples looked up. The cloud was gone. Moses and Elijah had disappeared. Only the Lord Jesus remained, but His shining glory was no longer there.

It was time to go back down the mountain again. The three disciples would never forget what they had seen and heard. They knew beyond doubt who Jesus was - the only Son of God!

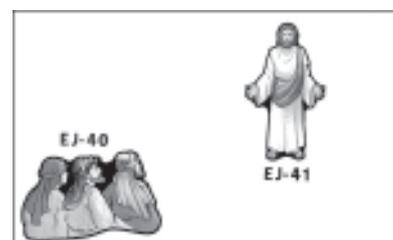
Christian boy and girl, remember who your Saviour is. When you have to choose between listening to Him or someone else, listen to Him. Always obey Him, even when others are coaxing you to go another way.

If you are not a Christian and go on the way you are, your sin will keep you away from God for ever. There is only one Person who can take away your sin and make you a Christian. That is Jesus Christ, God's Son. You need Him very, very much. Listen to what the Lord Jesus said: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). If you trust the Lord Jesus to save you from perishing - He will do it and take away your sin. Tell Him now in your heart that you know you need Him. Thank Him for dying for your sin, ask Him to save you from perishing right now. Then Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will be your Saviour.

Review questions

- 1 Which 3 disciples went with the Lord Jesus up the mountain to pray? (Peter, James and John.)
- 2 What happened to the Lord Jesus as He prayed on the mountain to His Father? (His face began to shine as the sun and His clothes became glistening white.)
- 3 Who appeared on the mountain with the Lord Jesus? (Elijah and Moses.)

Flashcard 6-6



Peter referred to this event when he preached Christ after the resurrection. See 2 Peter 1:16-18.

CTS

CTU

Review game

Climb the mountain

Place a strand of yarn on flannelboard to form the shape of a mountain. Use two pictures of children backed with flannel or paper towel as markers. The markers start at the bottom of the mountain.

Divide the class into two teams and ask questions to the teams alternately. Each time a team answers a question correctly, its marker is moved 1/6 of the way higher up the mountain. The goal is to reach the peak.

- 4 What did Jesus talk with Moses and Elijah about? (His coming death at Jerusalem.)
- 5 What were the disciples doing before they saw the Lord Jesus in His glory? (They were sleeping.)
- 6 What was Peter's reaction? (He said, "Master, it is good for us to be here, let us make 3 tents.")
- 7 What did God the Father say to them about the Lord Jesus? ("This is My beloved Son, hear Him.")
- 8 What did the disciples do when they heard God speaking from Heaven? (They fell to the ground frightened.)
- 9 Who was left when the 3 disciples looked up? (The Lord Jesus only.)
- 10 What words are missing from this verse, "For God so loved the world ____, that whoever believes in Him ____ but have everlasting life"? ("That He gave His only begotten Son" and "should not perish" - see John 3:16.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).