

A Study on the Life of

Elijah

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18. How was Jesus finally brought to heaven? How will He come again? (Acts 1:9-11)

19. Now go back through 1 Kings 18, 19, 21 and 2 Kings 2:1-19 and give a list of the events of Elijah's work for the Lord.

For Discussion:

1. What are some of the most important things you have learned from your study of the Lord's work through Elijah? Do you find hope and comfort in this part of Scripture? Give reasons for your answer.

2. In light of our Bible Study on the life of Elijah, what does it mean to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you"? (Matthew 6:33)

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5. How did Elisha cross over the river Jordan?

6. Read Joshua 3:14-17. What happened in those days when Joshua lead the people over the river Jordan?

7. Can you remember another prophet who was able to part the water?

8. What did Elisha ask of Elijah?

9. What was Elijah's reply?

10. Did Elisha receive his request? How do you know?

11. Turn to 1 Kings 3:1-15. What did Solomon ask for? What was God's reply?

2. What punishment did God bring upon Solomon and Israel?

3. What did God promise to Solomon? Why?

4. What does 2 Samuel 7:14-15 tell us about God's promise to David?

5. What have we learned about the Lord so far?

Now read 1 Kings 16: 29-34 and answer the following questions:

6. Ahab was the son of Omri. What was Omri like as a king? (See 1 Kings 16:21-26)

7. The name "Ahab" means my father's brother. How do we see that Ahab was his father's brother, or like his father? (verse 30)

3. Do you think that the world still tells lies about Christians? Do you think that the world really hates and wants to destroy us? What about Jesus' words which we read from John 15 earlier (see question 15). Do you think that the world perhaps does not persecute us because we are too quiet about the Gospel in our words and deeds?

For Discussion:

1. Why did Israel need a king like Jesus?

2. See if you can list five idols that people in our world worship. What kinds of sins do the worship of these idols lead people into?

3. Do you think that there is still punishment of God today for our sins? Why or why not? Do Christians need to fear God's anger upon sin? What about forgiveness in Jesus Christ?

4. What have we learned about being Kingdom Seekers? Who is our king and how does He rule?

16. What is Ahab's response to the Word of the Lord?

17. Do you think Ahab was really sorry for his sins or sorry because he would have to die? Give some reasons for your answer.

18. What is the Lord's response to Ahab's sorrow? Has the Lord changed His mind? Or is it better that this is to say this was part of His plan? Why?

19. What is the difference between the Lord who is the real King of Israel and Ahab the human king?

20. What kind of human king does Israel really need? Who is that king?

4. Read Leviticus 26:1. Keep Leviticus 26 book-marked. Now read 1 Kings 16:31-33. What had Ahab done to make the Lord so angry?

5. Now return to Leviticus 26:3-5. What does God promise?

6. Read Leviticus 26:14-20. Look closely at verses 19-20. If we understand that "to shut up the heavens" means that God will stop the rain; and that the earth will become "like bronze" means that there will be no crops on the earth, what is God saying to Ahab and Israel by stopping the rain?

7. Do you think that Ahab should have expected the message that Elijah brought? What does Deuteronomy 17:18-20 tell us about the way a king of Israel should rule?

8. Can you remember the way the Lord described the Promised Land? "It was to be a land flowing with _____ and _____." (Deuteronomy 6:3)

- When God dries up the sky, the land no longer flows with milk and honey. The blessings are gone and only the curse remains.

4. Would it have been so bad if Naboth took the money? Don't you think it would have been a good move for Naboth and his family to make so much money?

5. What does Numbers 36:7 tell us about this situation? Can we say that Ahab was leading Naboth into temptation?

6. What do you think is Ahab's basic problem?

7. Which commandment did Ahab break?

8. What is your opinion of Ahab's reaction to Naboth's "no"?

9. What is wrong with Jezebel's words as we read them in verse 7?

10. Describe Jezebel's plan.

14. What have we learned about Ahab?

15. If we compare how Ahab was supposed to be a king, and Elijah was to be a prophet, which one seems to be the man of God? Why?

For Discussion:

1. Do you think that because Ahab was married to Jezebel he fell into the sin of idol worship? Why is it so important to marry someone who is a believer?

2. How does Elijah, as a prophet, remind you of Jesus Christ? Did the people of Jesus' day want to hear His message more than Ahab wanted to hear the message of Elijah? Did His words come true?

Q86: Since, then, we are redeemed from our misery by grace through Christ, without any merit of ours, why must we do good works?

A86: Because Christ, having redeemed us by His blood, also renews us by His Holy Spirit after His own image, that with our whole life we show ourselves thankful to God for His blessing, and that He be glorified through us; then also, that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by the fruits thereof; and by our godly walk may win others also to Christ.

4. What are some of the most difficult things you might have to give up to serve the Lord. Does the Lord always demand that we give these things up? Is it right for Christians to have nice things? What does Paul teach us in 1 Timothy 6:17-19?

Lesson 3: The Word Comes to the Widow

1 Kings 17:8-16

"Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and there was great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow."

- Luke 4:25-26

Opening: By the Lord's command Elijah brought the Word of the Lord to Ahab and then was sent away. Ahab and Israel would have time to think about the power of the Word. Wherever the Word of God goes, it goes with power. Elijah is not powerful in himself but as a prophet who brings the Word, He is used by God to bring glory to the name of Yahweh, the Lord God of Israel. The Lord shows His power to the gentiles in order that Israel might come to see what they have rejected.

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16 and answer the following questions:

1. See if you can locate Zarephath on your Bible map. Remember that is located in the area of Sidon. Is it inside or outside of Israel?
2. What does Elijah need from this woman?
3. Why does Elijah ask the widow for bread? Has Elijah stopped trusting God for food, or does he still trust the Lord? (verse 9) Explain your answer.

12. Why did Jesus choose his disciples? (see Matthew 4:18-22)
What does this mean?

13. What does Jesus say is the cost of discipleship in Matthew 8:18-22?

14. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What were some of the things that Abraham had to give up in order to follow the Lord?

15. What are the blessings for Abraham?

16. What comes with becoming a member of His Kingdom? (see Matthew 10:34-39)

17. What are the rewards? (see James 1:12)

9. How does this prove the truth of God's Word?

10. Why is it important for God's people to know that Israel would have no food and this widow and her son, who lived outside of Israel, were fed?

11. Read Exodus 16:1-16. How did God provide for Israel in the dessert?

12. Why did God do this for the complaining people? (see verse 12)

13. In light of the above, what do we learn about God when He feeds and takes care of us?

14. Now turn to Revelation 2:1-7. What does it mean that Jesus "will remove the lamp stand"? (verse 5)

3. How does Elijah call Elisha?

4. Read Zechariah 13:4 and Mark 1:6. How is the mantle described? What did it become a sign of?

5. Do you think that Elisha had ever thought about being a prophet before?

6. Since so many did not believe Elijah's Word, or in the power of the Lord, why do you think that Elisha goes so easily? (see Ephesians 2:8-10 for help)

7. Look up the following passages: Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 1 Samuel 16:7-13; Matthew 4:18-22; John 15:16-17; 1 Peter 2:9-10. When a person comes to the Lord, who does the choosing? On what basis is the choosing done?

- We see that we never can choose for the Lord until He chooses us first. He chose Elisha not because there was something special about Elisha but because God was going to do special things through Elisha.

3. What would happen if your church, your family, or you would lose, or turn your back on the Word of God?

4. Read Luke 4:23-27. What are the similarities between Elijah and Jesus Christ in their work as prophet?

5. Should we still expect miracles like that of the unending oil and flour to happen today? If we would go to a starving country, may we say to these poor people that we will feed them by a miracle? What is the most important thing we must do when we come to these people?

6. What have we learned about seeking the Kingdom of God and our dependence on Him from this passage?

For Discussion:

1. What are some of the ways that God comforts you when you feel down about your faith or life?

2. Is it ever acceptable to ask God to destroy sinners? What is our duty as citizens of God's Kingdom who fight against the Kingdom of darkness?

3. Why is it comforting for you to know about Jesus Christ? Do you think that we have more or less reason than Elijah to rejoice in the Lord always?

4. Read Psalm 73 together and discuss how this helps to understand what Elijah went through and helps us to remember the Lord in our own struggles.

5. What did Elijah do with the boy?

- Elijah lies upon the boy three times to show that the healing is not of himself, but of the power of God. Elijah's body is used by the Lord to revive the boy.

6. According to verse 22, who raised the boy from the dead?

7. Remember that Israel served Baal. What are we to learn about Yahweh's power compared to Baal's?

8. How does this act of Elijah point to the work of Jesus Christ? (see Luke 7:14)

9. What have we learned of the power of the Word of God?

God's Grace

9. Describe the voice with which the Lord speaks to Elijah.

10. Do you think that this sign or voice shows us the Lord's love to Elijah or His anger? Explain.

11. Now turn to Exodus 33:19-23. Describe how the Lord appeared to Moses.

12. What happened on a mountain as we read in Luke 9:28-36?

13. Now turn to Luke 23:44-46. With what sign did the Lord appear to Jesus on Golgotha? What was the meaning of the sign?

14. Of Moses, Elijah and Jesus, who tasted of God's grace and who tasted of God's wrath? Why?

3. Does God still raise people from the dead today? Can we hope that someone whom we love will rise from the dead to live with us again? Why or why not?

4. What do you believe will happen to you after you die? How do you know?

5. What is our great comfort in seeking first the Kingdom of God? What does Jesus say about those who overcome the trials and temptations of life in Revelation 3:21? What does this mean?

3. The Lord comes to Elijah in destructive forces! These powers belong to the Lord God of Hosts who now reveals His power in these destructive forces. Part of that power is His ability to destroy sin and those who refused to repent of their sin. Turn to Exodus 19:16.

a) With what signs did the Lord appear to the people in Mount Sinai?

b) Compare the response of the people of Israel to that of Elijah at Horeb.

4. What do these signs on the mountain tell us about the holiness of God and His hatred of sin? Is there any place for sin in the Kingdom of God?

5. Write out verse 14.

6. In your own words explain what Elijah's problem is.

3. Do you think that Elijah should have been scared to go back to Ahab? Explain. Would you have been afraid if you were in the same situation?

4. Who was Obadiah? How did he live up to his name?

5. What had Jezebel done to the prophets of the Lord? Why do you think she had done this?

6. Why did Ahab send Obadiah to look for water? Who had Ahab forgotten? (verse 5)

7. In your opinion what kind of people were Ahab and Jezebel? Do you think you would ever name one of your children after them? Why or why not?

8. What had Samuel prophesied about kings in 1 Samuel 8:10-18? Was this true of Ahab?

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:6-18; Philipians 3:17-4:1 and give a description of our place in the world and our duty for Christ.

4. What should we remember when we as Christians think we make no difference? (See John 15:18-25 and Romans 8:28-39)

13. How does Elijah answer Obadiah? (verse 15) Why is it important that Elijah swears an oath in the name of the Lord?

14. Why is it important that Elijah commands Obadiah to command Ahab to meet Elijah? Who is the King of Israel? (see Psalm 10:16)

15. What does Ahab do? (verse 17) Did he really have any choice?

16. Why does Ahab blame Elijah for all the problems?

17. What is God's challenge to Ahab?

- The Lord commands Ahab by the Word, through Elijah. Now Ahab must come and answer God's challenge. Now God will show Israel who is King and the strength of Israel.

8. How long did Elijah take to go to Mount Horeb? How had God provided for him?

9. Why was Mount Horeb so important in the history of God's people? (See Exodus 19:1-6 and remember that Mount Horeb is also known as Mount Sinai.)

10. How many years did it take Israel to finally get into the Promised Land from Mount Horeb (Sinai) (see Numbers 14:33)? How many days did it take Elijah?

11. Elijah said to the Lord that he had been very zealous for the Lord. Looking back at 2 Kings 18, list the things that the Lord had done for His glory through Elijah.

12. In light of the above, who really had been zealous for whom? What should Elijah have remembered so that he could be encouraged?

b) Do you confront people when they use God's name in vain? Are you able to do it to people you do not know? Why are we often so fearful to tell others about this sin? How can we become more courageous?

3. Do you think it is easy for your minister to bring the Word of God every week? What are some of the things people might say to him when he brings the truth of God's Word. What are some things you can do for your minister to make his work easier?

4. What is the relationship between the Word, courage and seeking the Kingdom of God?

Lesson 8: Elijah Runs Away to Horeb

1 Kings 19:1-10

"Look on me and answer, O Lord, my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death. My enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,' and my foes will rejoice when I fall."

- Psalm 13:3-4

Opening: We would think that Elijah would have been a very popular man in Israel. He had brought the Word of the Lord and the people had said that the Lord was king in Israel. When Daniel brought the Word to Nebuchadnezzar and Darius, he was given great honour by those kings. Wicked Jezebel had different plans. She was going to kill Elijah. Once more Elijah had to run. It was a very difficult time for Elijah. To seek the kingdom of God means that the world will hate us.

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 19:1-9 and answer the following questions:

1. Try to find Jezreel and Mount Horeb on a map and trace Elijah's journey. Remember that we are not exactly sure where Mount Horeb is.

2. Why did Elijah have to leave? (1 Kings 19:1-3)

3. Did the Lord tell Elijah to go? Why did Elijah leave? Did Elijah do the right thing? (see Psalm 23:4 and Psalm 121) What do these passages teach us?

3. What are the rules of the competition? Be specific. Who sets them?

4. Knowing what you know now about the power of Baal, do you think that the prophets of Baal were confident going into the contest? Why or why not? Why do you think that God chooses this kind of contest to show His great power? Give reasons for your answer.

5. How do the prophets of Baal try to get Baal to answer them?

- The dancing looked like writhing with the prophets rolling and mopping the ground with their hair. It was a ritual or ceremonial dance.

13. What have we learned from our Bible Study about God's will for elders and deacons and ministers and their care of His people?

For Discussion:

1. Did God send rain because Elijah prayed or did God use Elijah's prayer as part of sending the rain? Read Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27 to help explain your answer:

Q27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

A27: The almighty, everywhere-present power of God, whereby, as it were by His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures, and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

2. Look at the Q&A 27 once more. Is it more true to say that we pray when we want to or that God moves us to pray? Do our prayers happen by chance or are they part of God's providence and care for His people?

- Even though Israel was split into two kingdoms now the Lord through Elijah shows that He is God over the whole people and not just the Northern Kingdom.

11. The evening sacrifice was offered at 3:00 in the afternoon. According to Exodus 29:38-46, where was this offering to be made? What was to be offered and how often?

- The tabernacle was replaced by the temple, which was in Jerusalem. While the evening sacrifice was being offered in Jerusalem, Elijah offers it on Mount Carmel showing us again that the Lord is King over all of His people in both kingdoms.

12. What are the differences in the way that Elijah approaches the Lord in comparison to the prophets of Baal's approach to Baal? (verses 36-37)

13. What is the name that Elijah uses to call upon God?

- This is the covenant name of God given especially for His people to use.

5. What did Elijah command his servant to tell Ahab to do after the little cloud appeared? Why? (verse 44)

6. Describe the procession into Jezreel. Who lead Ahab into Jezreel? Who followed him into Jezreel?

- For those people who believe in the idol gods of Elijah's day, it was thought that the gods rode in the chariots of the clouds. Once more you can see that the Lord is showing His power in a way that shows there is no other god and He alone is powerful. Don't miss that the Word leads the king since Elijah the Word bearer runs ahead of Ahab.

7. Do you believe that Elijah could really run faster than the horses of Ahab? Why or why not?

8. Read John 17:1-5.

a) What did Jesus do before He prayed? (verse 1)

For Discussion:

1. Why is it so important that we only serve one God in seeking the kingdom of God?

2. After reading about the dancing of Baal's prophets, do you think the way that the world dances today is the same? Should Christians dance like this? Why or why not?

3. After reading Leviticus 19:28, do you think that God is pleased with people having their bodies tattooed? Is this something that Christians ought to be doing? Why or why not?

4. Why is it so important to you that God places His people in a special relationship with Himself? Are the words of the people in 1 Kings 18:39 your words? Can we seek the Kingdom of God if God doesn't first come to seek us? If God had not come by Elijah to His people, for example, what do you think would have happened?

Lesson 1: The Days of Ahab

1 Kings 16:29-34

"Moses said to Israel just before they entered into the Promised Land, 'And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.'"

- Deuteronomy 31:29

Opening: King Ahab started ruling Israel sometime around the year 850 BC. In one way, it was a very prosperous time for Israel. Israel was strong in army and was a rich nation. Yet, Israel was in spiritual danger. We remember that the nation of Israel had split into two kingdoms after Solomon's sins. Every king who ruled seemed to walk in the sins of Jeroboam and so many of these kings were evil in the sight of Yahweh (the Lord) of Israel. Israel and her kings were going to meet the power of God. Yahweh would show the power of His Word by the mouth and work of Elijah the prophet. In this lesson, we will study what it was like in those days when Ahab reined.

Names:

Elijah: means My God is Yahweh (the Lord)

The Lord - Yahweh: means I Am Who I Am (Ex. 3:14) or I Am

Ahab: means something like, my father's brother

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and answer the following questions:

1. What was the sin of Solomon?

12. What similarities do we see in Solomon and Elisha as they start their work as king and prophet?

13. Describe how Elijah was taken into heaven.

- Isn't it wonderful to see that fire which is poured upon the wicked for destruction is used by the Lord to protect his men and call Elijah home in a special way?

14. Can you name another person who left his earth without dying? (Hint: Genesis 5:24 and Jude 14)

15. Read Malachi 4:4-6 and write out verse 5.

16. How did Jesus say that this prophecy was fulfilled? (see Matthew 11:1-19)

17. Why couldn't Jesus be taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot? Does this mean that Elijah was great in some way?

8. What were Ahab's sins? (verses 31-33)

Lesson 12: Elijah Goes Home

2 Kings 2:1-18

9. What does Joshua 6:26 tell us about the punishment upon the man who would rebuild Jericho?

- The reason that God did not want Jericho to be rebuilt was so that Israel would trust him and not the look out cities. Jericho was the first city that an army would pass after crossing the Jordan. If Jericho was strong, Israel might feel safe. God wants His people to trust and feel safe in Him. This is why God did not want Jericho to be rebuilt.

10. What did Hiel do and what did God do to him? (1 Kings 16:34)

11. What was Israel like in those days?

12. What have we learned about the Lord and His Word?

Opening: Almost as mysteriously as Elijah appears in Ahab's court, so wondrously God calls him home. Elijah knew the struggles and trials of this world and doing the Lord's work. Even in his ascension into heaven the Lord showed His care for His people. We may all look forward to the day when we will receive all the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven that we seek first while we live on this earth.

Our Bible Study:

Read 2 Kings 2:1-18 and answer the following questions:

1. See if you can find Gilgal, Jericho, Bethel and the Jordan River on the map and then trace Elijah and Elisha's trip from Gilgal to Bethel.
2. What was God going to do for Elijah?
3. What comfort should Elijah take from Elisha's desire to come along with him on this special journey? (Remember how Elijah thought he was the only one left in the wilderness and how God promised that Elisha would take on that work.)
4. The sons of the prophets are a group we don't know too much about. Either they were students or a group of men who received special revelation. What did they know? Why should Elisha take comfort in this?

Lesson 2: My God is Yahweh

1 Kings 17:1-7

"I will break your pride of power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. After your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit."

- Leviticus 26:19-20

Opening: Last time we saw that God keeps His Word and punishes sin. We also read from God's Word that Ahab was more wicked than all the other kings before Him and provoked the Lord to anger. God is not mocked and sends His prophet Elijah. His name means, My God is Yahweh. We know very little about Elijah. It seems that he just appears. We can trust that he was called by God to bring the Word.

Names: (see last lesson)

Yahweh means: _____

Ahab means: _____

Elijah means: _____

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 17:1-7

1. Where did Elijah come from? See if you can find Gilead on a Bible map of those days. Perhaps you can find this in a good study Bible or Bible dictionary.

2. What message did Elijah bring for Ahab?

3. Do you think Ahab was expecting this?

21. What have we learned about the Lord and His kingdom from this passage of Scripture?

For Discussion:

1. Why do we so often want things that belong to others or things that we may not have?

2. What does Paul teach us about this? Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and write out verse 6. In your own words explain what this passage means.

9. Is there any hope for Ahab or Israel? If there is any hope, what is it?

10. Why do you think that God tells Elijah to go and hide by the Brook Cherith? See if you can find this place on a map. Is this place inside or outside of Israel?

11. How does God provide for Elijah?

12. Why is it important that we know that "the brook dried up because there was no rain in the land"? Does Deuteronomy 18:17-22 help?

- When Elijah leaves, the Word of the Lord leaves with him. Now God is going to leave His people for some time to realize what life is without His blessings of rain and crops. This means they will not eat. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4) God is not only stopping the food, by the spiritual food as well.

13. What have we learned about Yahweh? Remember what His name means?

11. What happened to Naboth? Why?

12. Read Matthew 26:57-61. What is the similarity between what happened to Naboth and Jesus?

13. What does the Lord tell Elijah to say to Ahab?

14. What does Ahab call Elijah? Why does he call Elijah that? (see also 1 Kings 18:17)

15. Take a look once more at Matthew 26:57-61. Do you think the response of Ahab towards Elijah is the same as the Pharisees to Jesus? Why do you think this is so? Does John 15:18-21 and Matthew 23:29-36 help you in answering this? What is the connection of Naboth to Jesus?

3. Do you think that famines and droughts are still punishments from God today? Why or why not?
What does Romans 8:28 teach us?

4. What have we learned from this passage about being Kingdom Seekers and our duties as citizens of the Kingdom of God?

Lesson 11: Ahab, Naboth and Elijah

1 Kings 21

"So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for everyone of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his father."

- Numbers 36:7

Opening: We know with the calling of Elisha, that Ahab and Jezebel's days were numbered. Ahab as the king of Israel still did not worship the Lord as King in Israel. The land and all that was in it belonged to the Lord. In this story we see the Lord who is true to his Word in justice and mercy. Elijah once more was called to bring the Word.

Names:

Naboth: means sprout or fruit

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 21 and answer the following questions:

1. What did Ahab want from Naboth and why?

2. What was Naboth's answer?

3. How did Ahab try to change Naboth's mind?

4. What is the answer of this widow?

5. Why is it strange that a gentile woman would say, "As the Lord your God lives"? Do you think that she knew the Lord?

- Now God has sent Elijah away from Israel. In Israel, there is no worship of God's name. Outside of Israel Elijah hears an oath taken in the name of the Lord. The Word always demands a response! God will always make sure there is a people to call upon His name!

6. What did Elijah tell the woman would happen? Was this his word or God's Word?

7. What happened?

8. Why do you think that the widow was supposed to feed Elijah first and not her son? Is it only because Elijah was a prophet?

18. What have you learned about the Lord and the way He works with His people from the calling of Elisha?

19. What does Elisha's name mean? How are we saved?

For Discussion:

1. Why is it good to know that we are chosen by God? Why have we been chosen? (see Ephesians 2:8-10) What does this mean for your life? What are your responsibilities in the Kingdom of God?

2. If the Lord does not choose because we are good or because we do good things than why should we do anything good at all?

3. Now compare your answer to the Heidelberg Catechism:

15. Is it proper to say that God had removed the "lamp stand" from Israel when He sent Elijah away? Why or why not?

16. What have we learned about the Lord and His Word in this lesson?

For Discussion:

1. Do you think it is proper to show elders and ministers in the church the same kind of respect as the widow did in first feeding Elijah? What does Romans 10:14-15 tell us about the place of the preacher? What about 1 Timothy 5:17? Is it because Elijah, or your elder or minister, is so special or is it because of the position God has given him?

2. Why is it so important that we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"?

8. What does Elisha ask of Elijah? Why?

9. The fact that Elisha's father, Shaphat, owned 12 yoke of oxen meant that they were quite well off. Since Elisha was a son, some of this wealth was, and later would be, his. Do you think that Elisha is asked by the Lord to give up quite a bit? For example, would you find it easy to have to give up your house, clothes or way of life to follow the Lord in a special way?

10. What does Elisha do before he follows Elijah? Can you explain why this is important? Does Matthew 4:18-22 shed any light on this?

- Elijah allowed Elisha to celebrate his calling with him family. Elisha uses the oxen and the yoke instead of the animals such as goats or lambs that were more normally eaten to show that he was finished with his own way of life and was ready to take up the task given to him by the Lord.

11. Why do you think it is important to know that Elisha became Elijah's servant?

Lesson 4: Elijah Raises the Widow's Son

1 Kings 17:17-24

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

- John 11:25-26

Opening: God had shown His power by feeding the widow and her son in Zarephath. In Israel, the widows and others were starving. Where the Word goes the power of God goes with it. We have seen God's power to feed His people when and how He wants to. Now we will see His power over death.

Our Bible Study:

1. What happened to the son of the widow?

2. Was the widow right to be angry towards Elijah?

3. What was Elijah's response to the widow?

4. What did Elijah do first? (verse 20)

Lesson 10: The Lord Saves

1 Kings 19:19-21

"You did not chose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that fruit remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another."

- John 15: 16-17

Opening: Last time we saw the anger of God upon sin and the grace of God to His own. The Lord saves His people from their sins and spares them punishment because of His promises to them. Though Israel had seen the Lord's power over Baal they had chased Elijah from the land. Now God had promised to destroy Ahab and Jezebel and would call Elisha the prophet after Elijah. The work must continue until Christ's work brought all the promises to fulfillment.

Names:

Elisha: means my God saves

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 19:19-21 and answer the following questions:

1. What does Elijah going back to Israel show about Elijah's relationship to the Word of the Lord?

2. How do you explain that Elijah found Elisha so easily?

10. Read John 1:1 and John 11:26. What does this say about the Word, Jesus and eternal life? Why do you think this is important to know?

11. What was the response of the widow?

12. What was the Lord showing or revealing about Elijah and Himself?

For Discussion:

1. If God is in control of all things, is it alright to be angry with God when bad things happen? What did Job say when he had trouble? (see Job 1:21 and 2:10)

2. Why do you think God took this boy's life? Does John 9:1-5 help?

15. With what other words did the Lord comfort Elijah? (see verses 15-18)

16. Has the Lord forgotten to punish sin?

17. What have we learned about the Lord our King? Why is this important for us to see when we seek the Kingdom of God?

▪ Recap: Sometimes we like Elijah lose sight of the Lord and His goodness to us. The Lord did not punish us but punished His Son for our sins. Elijah and Moses were able to see the glory of God though they didn't deserve it. Jesus saw the glorious anger of God when He hung in the darkness. On one mountain the prophets Moses and Elijah were not enough, on another Jesus was glorified and on yet another hill He was crucified. The Lord punishes sin but is always good to His people! Then the Lord promises that He has saved a people for Himself and promises that the work will continue with Elijah and that the sinners will meet their just reward.

Lesson 5: The Lord as King Commands King Ahab

1 Kings 18:1-19

"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"

- Hebrews 2:2-4

Opening: Elijah had been sent out of the land of Israel. Not only was there a drought in Israel but also there was no Word. Ahab and Israel were to learn of the power of the Word of God, in both punishment and blessing. After some three years of living in Zarephath, the Lord sent Elijah back to His people. Elijah was to bring the Word of the Lord to the people who had turned their back on that Word.

Names:

Obadiah: servant or slave of Yahweh (the Lord)

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 18:1-19 and answer the following questions:

1. What did the Lord send Elijah to do?
2. What were the conditions like in Samaria? (see verses 2-6)

7. Elijah is telling the Lord that the people are wicked and they ought to be destroyed. Elijah wonders why he who is of the Lord and does the Lord's work is persecuted and the wicked seem to prosper. Now turn to Exodus 32. The people of Israel had been wicked also and had worshipped the golden calf. Read Moses' plea to the Lord in Exodus 32:31-32. What did Moses ask the Lord to do?

8. Read Luke 23:32-34.

- a) What mountain or hill is Jesus on?
- b) Write out Jesus' words in verse 34.
- c) Whose words do these remind you of more, Moses' or Elijah's?
- d) Who is the only one who could be punished for the sins of others?
 - Recap: God is angry with sin and He will punish it. We see that in the signs of earthquakes, thunderings, fires and winds. Elijah wanted the Lord to punish the sins of the people and destroy but it was not time for that yet. The Lord had promised Jesus must come. Earlier Moses near the same mountain asked that God would punish him. But Moses is not the perfect sacrifice, only Jesus could do that. We see here that the Lord our King is just and is angry with sin. Now we hear of God's grace.

- The reason that Ahab wanted to keep the horses and mules fed was so that he could keep his army strong. Ahab was only concerned about keeping his own power. He was supposed to be a shepherd of the people, to take care of them. Now the people were starving and thirsty and Ahab hopes to feed the animals.

9. Write out Psalm 33:16-17.

10. Now read Psalm 33:18-19. How had the Lord showed this to be true for his prophets through Obadiah?

11. What is Obadiah's reply to Elijah after Elijah commands Obadiah to go to Ahab?

12. Why was Obadiah not afraid when he hid the 100 prophets, but now is scared to tell Ahab? Does Mark 11:22 help you answer this? How did he not live up to his name in this case?

Lesson 9: The Lord Comforts Elijah

1 Kings 19:11-18

"And the Lord said, 'Here is a place by Me and you shall stand on the rock. So shall it be when My glory passes by that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.'"

- Exodus 33:21-23

Opening: Elijah spent 40 days wandering the wilderness finally finding a place to sleep on Mount Horeb. We learned last time that Horeb is also known as Mount Sinai. Elijah was tired and depressed. It seemed to Him that He was the only one left who served the Lord. He had lost faith in the power of the Lord even though he had seen great things. But far from pushing Elijah away the Lord comforts Elijah. Let us see now how the Lord does that.

Our Bible Study: God's Law

Read 1 Kings 19:11-18 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Lord ask Elijah to do?

2. List the first three ways that the Lord appeared to Elijah.

18. What have we learned about the Lord and what He expects from His people.

For Discussion:

1. Ahab called Elijah "the troubler" of Israel. Why? Now read John 15:18-25. How did the Pharisees see Jesus? Do you think that the world sees you as someone who causes trouble? Does the world hate you and the people of your church? If we are active in our faith and holy life, do you think they will love us?

2. a) Obadiah was scared of Ahab and had to be persuaded by the power of the Lord to answer His command. What does Jesus say about fear in Matthew 10:28. Are there times when you are scared to do the right thing?

Let us look at what the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 99 says:

Q99: What is required in the third commandment?

A99: That we must not by cursing, or by false swearing, nor yet by unnecessary oaths, profane or abuse the name of God; nor even by our silence and connivance be partakers of these horrible sins in others; and in summary, that we use the holy name of God in no other way than with fear and reverence, so that He may be rightly confessed and worshipped by us, and be glorified in all our words and works.

13. Go back once more and look at Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:36-37. What is the difference between Elijah then and at Mount Horeb? Why do you think this had happened?

14. What does James 1:2-8 teach us?

For Discussion:

1. We too live in an age where it seems that the world has more power than we who seek the Kingdom of God. What should be our attitude? Should we run away from the world? Should we give up? What have we learned from the story about God's power and Elijah's attitude?

2. What does Philippians 2:5-11 tell us about Jesus? When you read this about Jesus, how do you feel about Him and your place in this world?

Lesson 6: The Lord is God Over Israel;
The Lord Defeats the Priests of Baal on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:20-40

"Those who make an image, all of them are useless and the precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses. They neither see nor know that they may be ashamed. Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?"

- Isaiah 44:9-10

Opening: The Lord showed he was King of Israel by commanding Ahab to meet with His servant Isaiah. The Lord had challenged Baal to a duel of power. Baal was supposed to be the chief god over all the gods. He was supposed to be the god of fire, thunder, lightning and storms. The god who would answer by fire would be shown to be God over Israel!

Names:

Baal: owner, master, lord or husband.

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 18:20-40 and answer the following questions:

1. See if you can find Mount Carmel on a Bible map.
2. What was the sin of the people? Had they forgotten God or tried to serve two gods? What does Exodus 20:3 and Matthew 6:22-24 teach us?

4. What does Elijah pray for? Why does he pray for this?

- Elijah says that he is no better than his fathers. He means that he had not brought any change in the land. Still the Baal worshippers rule the land.

5. Do you think that Elijah's wish to die was proper? Was his work really done? What does Philippians 1:19-26 teach us?

6. Read John 19:28-30. What is the difference between the attitude of Jesus and Elijah?

7. What did the Lord provide for Elijah? Who else had received the same thing in the wilderness? (If you can't remember see Exodus 15:22-25 and 16:11-12.)

6. Do you think that Baal was more like a god or more like a man? What does Elijah think? (see verse 27)

7. What do the prophets of Baal do when Elijah tells them to cry louder? (see verse 28) What does Leviticus 19:28 and Deuteronomy 14:1-2 say about this?

8. Who at this point is really the god of the people? How do you know?

9. Now describe the steps that Elijah takes before calling on God. (verses 30-35)

10. Look up Exodus 24:4 and Joshua 4. What do the 12 stones represent?

3. Part of being a Kingdom Seeker is to pray. Why do you pray? What do you pray for? What did Jesus teach us to pray for? (Matthew 6:9-13)

4. The Heidelberg Catechism teaches us this about prayer:

Q116: Why is prayer necessary for Christians?

A116: Because it is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us, and because God will give His grace and Holy Spirit only to those who earnestly and without ceasing ask them of Him, and render thanks unto Him for them.

Look at your answer above and compare your answer to the catechism. What is the same and what is different?

14. Why is Elijah doing all of this? (see verse 37)

15. What does the Lord do?

16. Was there ever really a contest? Why or why not?

17. What did the people say? (verse 39)

18. What did Elijah do to the prophets of Baal?

19. Isn't Elijah being cruel? Who should have carried out the punishment? (see Deuteronomy 13:1-5)

20. What have we learned about God and His Word from this passage?

b) How did He address God in His prayer?

c) What does He pray for?

9. Now read John 17:6-12. Who does Jesus pray for and what does He ask the Father to do for them?

10. What are some of the similarities between Elijah's prayer and Jesus' prayer? How do these two prophets compare?

11. Now compare Ahab and Jesus. What are the differences between these two kings? Who would you desire to have as your king?

12. What have we learned about God and His demands for office bearers?

Lesson 7: The Lord Sends Rain Upon His People

1 Kings 18:41-46

"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."

- James 5:17-18

Opening: Elijah was not finished there on Mount Carmel. Baal had been defeated but the land was still dry from three years of no rain. Remember that Israel was in the Promised Land and that the Promised Land was supposed to be flowing with milk and honey. Now it was time to restore the land because God had restored His people to Himself by the work of Elijah. Through the prayers of Elijah, God would restore the land.

Our Bible Study:

Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 and answer the following questions:

1. Who do you think ought to have been praying for the rain and for the people, Ahab as a king or Elijah as prophet? Who shows himself to be the most faithful?

2. Why do you think that Elijah instead of warning or scolding Ahab asks him to get a drink? Read the following from the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 104 to help you in your answer:

Q104: What does God require in the fifth commandment?

A104: That I show all honour, love and faithfulness to my father and mother, and to all in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to all their good instruction and

correction, and also bear patiently with their infirmities, since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.

3. Describe the position of Elijah's body when he was praying. Why is this important? How does 1 Timothy 2:8 tell us that men ought to pray? Does this mean that we should also pray this way?

4. Why do you think that the Lord required that Elijah pray seven times before He answered Elijah's prayer?

- The number seven is the sacred number of fullness. When Elijah prayed once for the fire upon the altar the curse was lifted. But now Elijah is praying for the covenant to be renewed and made complete once again. God calls him to pray seven times to show the beauty of what is happening. God will once more bless the people by sending rain upon the land. It is no small thing. So Elijah must pray seven times.