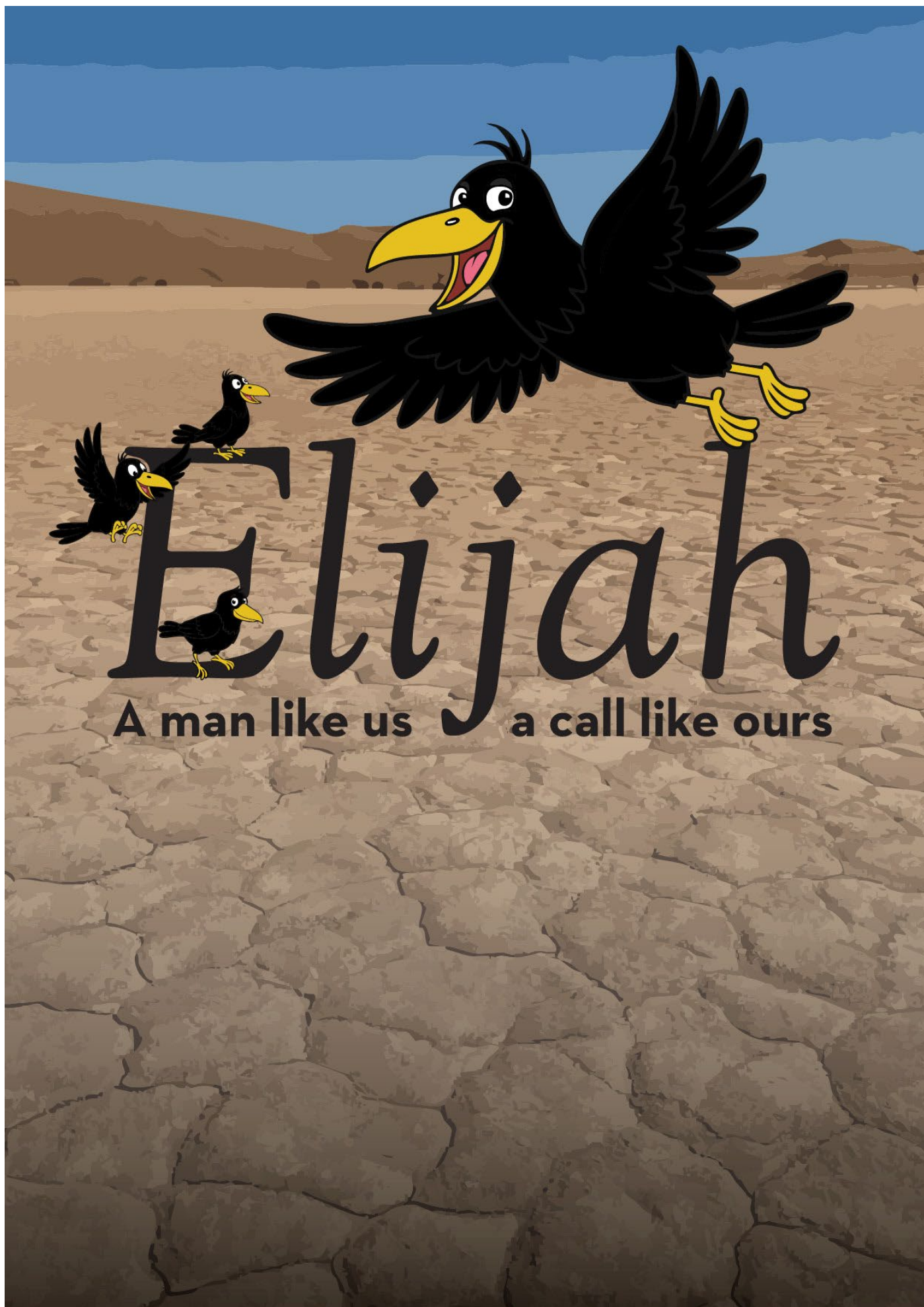




Elijah

A man like us a call like ours

Elijah: A man like us, a call like ours

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Elijah: A man like us, a call like ours

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Revised 2025

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Letter to the leaders

If we look at the life of Elijah we can easily think: “Wow, what an incredible man. Look at how much he achieved, we could never do that.” But actually James 5:17 says: “Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years!” Elijah was an ordinary person. Everything he achieved was **because of God!**

This series, we look at the life of Elijah (1 Kings 17 -19; 2 Kings 1-2). Aim to help the children relate to him as a real person and not just a “story” from the Bible. Have discussions about the times he lived in or how he must have felt. This can be done well by using the “Review Questions” section which is made up of two parts, namely “How is Elijah like us?” and “How is his call like ours?”.

The passages from the Bible will show them how Elijah spoke up, obeyed God, was brave and continuously prayed with faith. But each lesson will also highlight God’s character as He protects and provides for Elijah, He shows His power, does miracles and is faithful to answer Elijah’s prayers, even when Elijah is weak.

We encourage you get an NLT Bible, as many of the stories can be directly read or followed along by the children. It is also important to help the children understand what the term “call” means. A simple explanation is what God has chosen and asked someone to do for Him.

We hope the children leave inspired knowing that God has called them too and with His help they can help others see that He is God!

Lesson 1: Who is Elijah?

Main focus for the lesson:

- Elijah was a prophet, sent with God's message to call people back to Him and warn them of the consequences if they did not.
- Obeying God's commands shows we love Him.
- God wants us to pass on His messages so people will love and obey Him.

1) Memory Verse

- John 14:15

"If you love Me, obey My commandments."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Begin by reading the verse from the Bible and explaining that one of the ways that we can show God love is by obeying His commandments. Let them repeat the verse altogether a few times.

Next divide the verse into parts. "If you"; "love Me"; "obey My"; "commandments" and separate the children into four big groups.

Each group will only say the next part of the verse when you point at them. Start slowly by going in order around the room from group to group. Then make it more difficult but pointing to any random group speeding up as you go.

2) Hands on

Get the children to stand in a circle and hold hands. The leader will then call one of the four instructions (*Jump left, jump right, jump forward or jump back*) and everyone must collectively repeat what the leader has said and obey the instruction.

E.g. Leader says, "Jump forward" and everyone while holding hands repeats "Jump forward" and jumps forward at the same time.

Continue until everyone starts doing it nicely together. It helps to have the leader as part of the circle and doing the actions with the group.

Now change things up a bit. This time everyone must repeat what the leader has said but must do the opposite.

E.g. Leader says, "Jump forward" and everyone while holding hands repeats "Jump forward" **but** everyone jumps backward.

Change it again so that they say the opposite but do what the leader has said.

E.g. Leader says, "Jump forward" and everyone while holding hands repeats "Jump backward" and jumps forward like instructed.

Conclusion:

It was obvious in our game that when we all said and did the same as the leader's instructions things worked out well but as soon as we started to do the opposite everything turned to chaos. This is the same when it comes to obeying God.

When we obey what God is telling us, by our words and actions, things work well and go according to God's plan. When we do our own thing, saying and doing things against God, chaos takes place.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Have the three questions written up around the class. You will answer each one using your Bible. Then go around again, this time get the children to answer the questions.

What you will need:

- Bible
- Posters
- Dress up items (*Material or paper crowns etc.*)
- Name Tag



Why did God send prophets?

Why did God send prophets?

Whenever God's people stopped obeying His commandments and began to live sinful lives, such as worshipping fake gods, God would send messengers called prophets. "Prophet" is a Greek word which means "to speak on behalf". The prophets would call the people back to God and warn them of the judgement and punishment they would face if they did not love and obey God again.

Read 1 Kings 16:30-33 to the children and get them to decide if God needed to send a prophet to call the people back to Him.

³⁰ But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. ³¹ And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King EthBaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal. ³² First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. ³³ Then he set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him. 1 Kings 16:30-33

(Show the children the poster “God said do this, and they did that”) Do you think God needed to send a prophet? *(Let the children answer)* Yes! Israel was in a bad way. Their king, Ahab, had married a woman named Jezebel from a foreign land. She brought idols back into Israel. Specifically, Baal and Asherah, two fake gods people thought brought rain and babies: the same ones God had punished the Canaanites for worshipping. Ahab even built temples and altars for Baal.

This series we are going to learn about Elijah. Elijah was the prophet chosen by God to deliver His message which was to call the people back to Him, stop being disobedient and start following God or they would suffer the consequences.

**God said
do this** 

**They did
that** 



What do we know about Elijah?

What do we know about Elijah?

(Dress up a volunteer like Elijah, letting the children decide if he was a king etc.)

Do you think Elijah was someone really important? Maybe a king or a priest? Well guess what? The first time we read about Elijah, he appears out of nowhere! No family history. No big introduction. Just boom! He walks right up to King Ahab and says:

“As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!”
(1 Kings 17:1)

Elijah was just a regular person. He wasn't from a royal family. He wasn't a priest. He didn't wear expensive robes or sit in a palace. We know he wore a cloak but we will learn about that later but the Bible doesn't really explain what he looked like. We do know he was from a rough, wild mountain place called Gilead, and he lived outdoors most of the time. And here this regular person tells the king there won't be any rain until he says so. But it wasn't just about weather, it was God showing that Baal, who was supposed to control rain, had no power. Only God could do that!

Elijah wasn't powerful because of who he was, His power and authority came directly from God. And so God stopped the rain.

What did Elijah's name mean?

Ask the children if they know what their name means.

Even Elijah's name had a message! In Hebrew, "Elijah" (Eliyahu) means: "My God is Yahweh!"

Yahweh is one of God's names, which means He has and will always exist. God says His name will be remembered for all generations.

Exodus 3:15 "Yahweh... this is My eternal name, My name to remember for all generations."

Every time someone said Elijah's name, they were reminded of who the real God is. This was a big deal because the people had started worshipping a fake god called Baal. Elijah came to remind them: "Yahweh is the only true God!"



4) Review Questions:

- Elijah was surrounded by people who had turned away from God. **How was Elijah like us?** *(So many of the people today do not love and follow God like they should.)*
- Elijah did not let others stop him from loving and obeying God. Instead, he delivered God's warning and message to come back to Him. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** *(We need to hear from God and be delivering a message that helps lead people back to God. Our message is "My God is Yahweh!" Just like Elijah we don't need to be any one special. We just need God. Then we can be ordinary people making an extraordinary difference.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Cellphone Message

God has sent us so many messages too: that He has always been God and will always be the one and only God. His message to us is clear in John 14:15. "If you love Me, obey My commands."

Let the children fill in their response of what they will say to God.

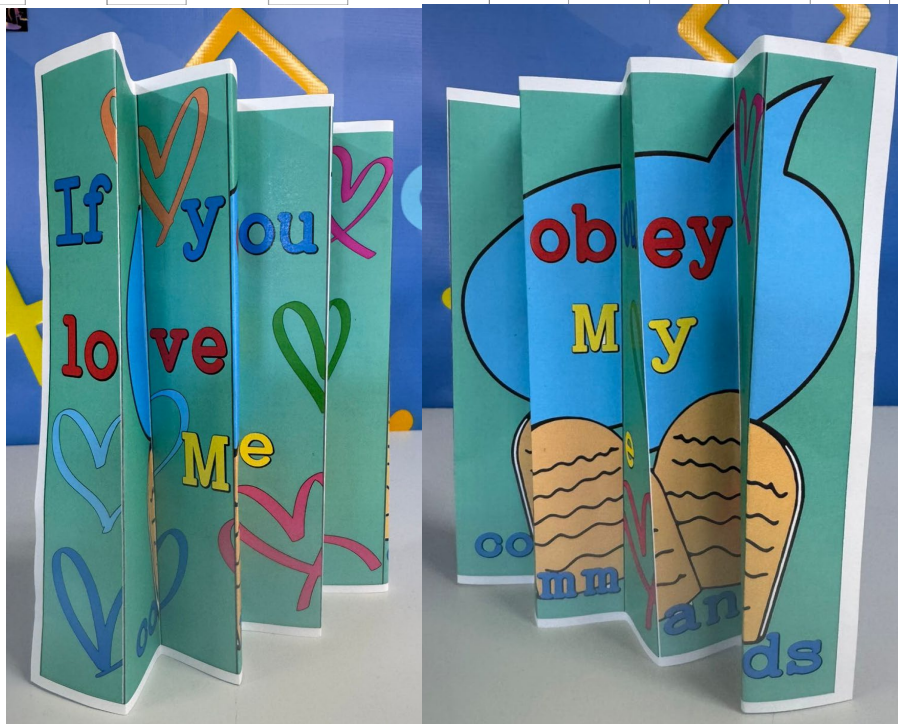
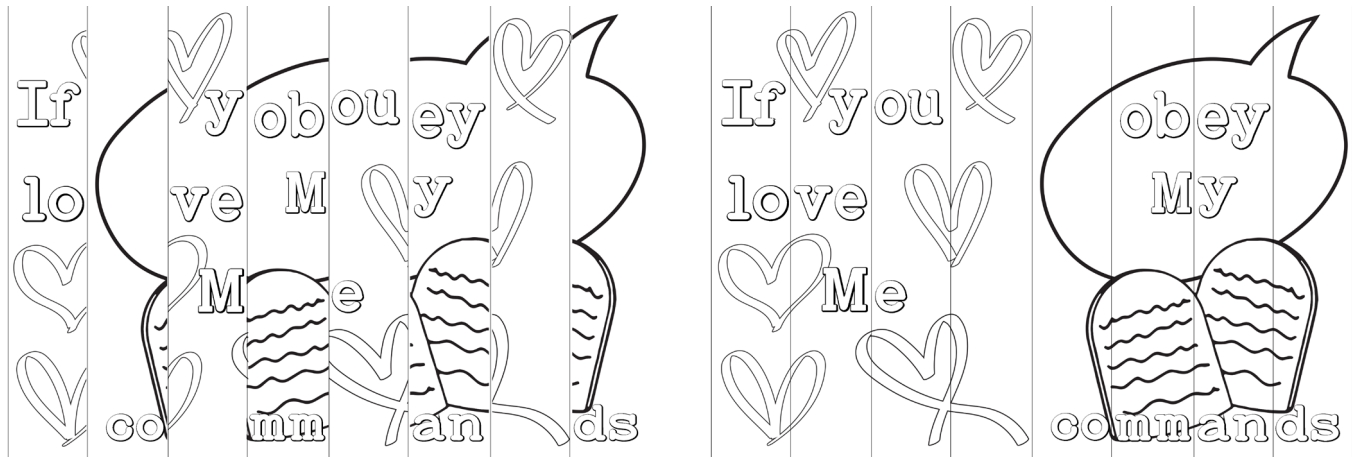
Encourage the children to send someone a message telling them about who God is to them or even to see if they can work out this emoji message.



Option 2: Love and obey (Perspective craft)

Jesus wants us to love Him and He wants us to obey Him. We need to get the right perspective which is – we love Him when we obey Him. And we obey Him because we love Him.

There are two versions of this craft. One the children simply fold and then colour. The other the children colour, then cut the picture into strips, stick them in the alternating order and then fold.



Lesson 2: Elijah speaks up and God protects him

Main focus for the lesson:

- We need to speak up and tell others the message God has for them.
- We do not need to be afraid to tell others as God is with us and helps us.

1) Memory Verse

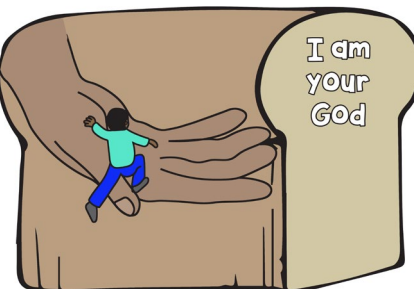
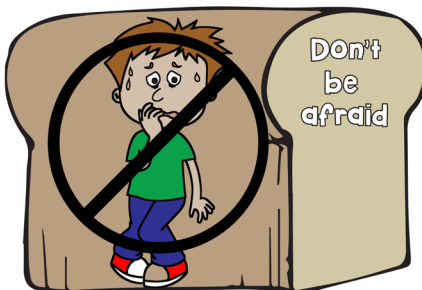
- Isaiah 41:10

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with My victorious right hand.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Bread verse cards
- Ravens



Children put two fingertips through hole to act as the raven's beak and will then collect the bread memory verse cards. This can be done as part of the craft or in teams that race each other.

The "hands on" game can also be used to teach the verse.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Music

Divide the children into pairs where one person is the “raven” and the other is “Elijah”. The “Elijahs” then form a circle and the “ravens” form a larger circle around them. When the music starts, the circles walk in opposite directions from one another so that partners are no longer together the whole time. For a bit of fun have the “ravens” flap their wings and the “Elijahs” rub their hungry bellies.

The leader then stops the music and the “ravens” and “Elijahs” need to find their corresponding partner as fast as possible. The “Elijah” should get down on one knee and the “raven” should sit on the “Elijah’s” raised knee and pretend to feed them.

The last few pairs to find one another and assume the “Raven feeding Elijah” position will need to say the memory verse.

Play then continues.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Speech bubbles

(Show the first speech bubble) “God had told the people how to live”. Get the children to do a thumbs up and say “Yay!” if what God had said was good.

God had told the people how to live. He had told His people to only worship Him. Was that good? (Yay, yes God deserves our worship.)

God told the people to build temples to honour only Him. (Yay, God deserves to be honoured.)

God told the people to love one another and not to harm each other. (Yay, God’s laws are all good.)

But Read 1 Kings 16:29-34 to see what King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, were doing.

Get them to do a thumbs down and say “Boo!” if the people went against what God had said.

King Ahab and Jezebel taught the people to worship fake gods. Was that good or bad? (Boo, they disobeyed God.)

God told the
people how to live.

“Honour Me” “Worship Me”
“Love others” “Love Me”

King Ahab and Jezebel built temples and altars for the people to honour fake gods. *(Boo, only God deserves to be honoured.)*

King Ahab allowed his wife Jezebel to kill God's priests and a godly man named Naboth. *(Boo, God said to love others.)*

Do King Ahab and Jezebel sound like nice kind people you want to meet? No! The Bible tells us that the kings before him were very evil but Ahab was the worst ever!

But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. 1 Kings 16:30

Ahab did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him. 1 Kings 16:33



King Ahab knew what God had said but chose to do terrible and sinful things instead. *(Throw the speech bubble to the side to show that they disregarded what God had said.)*

We can see that it was necessary for God to send a message to His people, to tell them to stop following the ways of this evil king and to love and obey Him once more. So God gave Elijah a message to speak on His behalf. *(Pick up the next speech bubble but do not show the children what it says yet.)*

Would you like to be the one that has to go and tell him he is wrong? What about telling them that there will be no rain? It must have been really scary for Elijah to have to do this. He must have trusted and loved God very much because that is exactly what he said.

"As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives - the God I serve - there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!" 1 Kings 17:1



Prophets Spoke
God's message

"Come back to Me!"

(Now show the second speech bubble) God's message to the people was "Come back to Me" and He used Elijah to deliver this message.

Elijah told Ahab that there was going to be a drought. There would be no rain, not even dew!

Do you think people can survive without any rain? But what was going to happen to Elijah? He also needed water to survive? Do you think God will look after Elijah? *(Let the children answer)* Let's read what God said to Elijah. *(Show the third speech bubble)*

Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food." 1 Kings 17:2-4

God told Elijah

"Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food."
1 Kings 17:2-4

Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River." 1 Kings 17:2-4



"Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food." 1 Kings 17:2-4



You were right! God did have a plan to look after Elijah! His plan was for Elijah to go to the brook or stream and a raven, which is a bird, would bring him food. How many of you have ever been fed by a bird? None of you? It does seem a bit crazy! Do you think Elijah listened to God and went to the brook? Let's read and find out.

So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook. 1 Kings 17:5-6

So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook. 1 Kings 17:5-6



Yes, Elijah trusted God and obeyed Him and went to the brook! Everyone say, "Well done Elijah!"

Today we read about Ahab, a man who did more evil than all before him. Ahab wasn't going to stop doing evil any time soon, so God decided to send the prophet Elijah. I think Elijah must have felt really scared standing up to the evillest king ever ... BUT ... he did it anyway. Wow, that was not only very courageous but very obedient. My favourite part of today's lesson was how God looked after Elijah. Ravens top Mr Delivery every time!

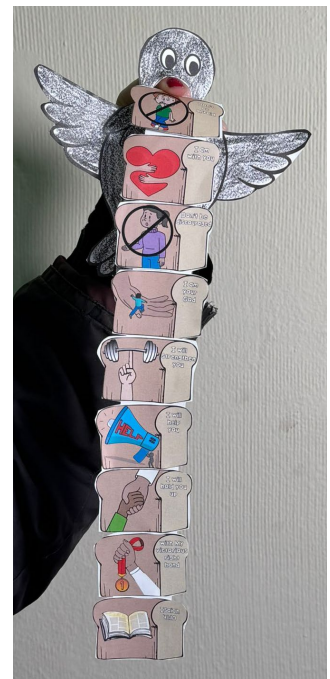
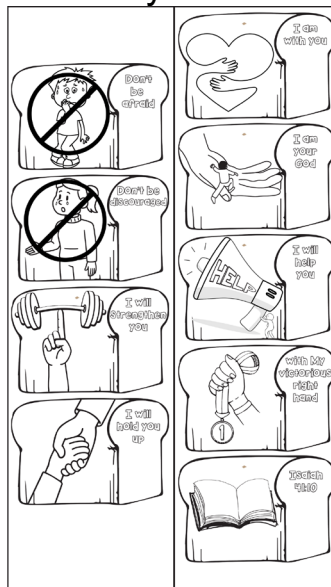
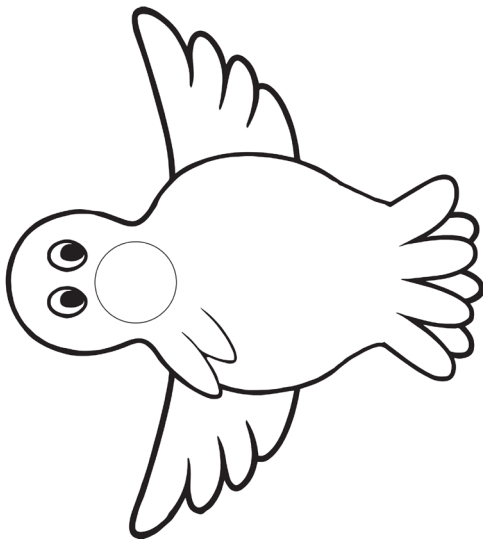
4) Review Questions:

- Elijah said he “served God”. He may have felt scared but he did what God asked him to do anyway. **How was Elijah like us?** (*We love God and want to serve Him too. We may feel scared sometimes too to share God’s message.*)
- Elijah had to actually go to the king, say something and then go to the brook. **How was Elijah’s call like ours?** (*God requires us to act. We can’t just say we trust Him. We need to show this trust in our actions. Sometimes God’s way may seem a little crazy compared to how we might do things, like a bird feeding you supper, but we need to trust Him and do it His way every time!*)

5) Craft

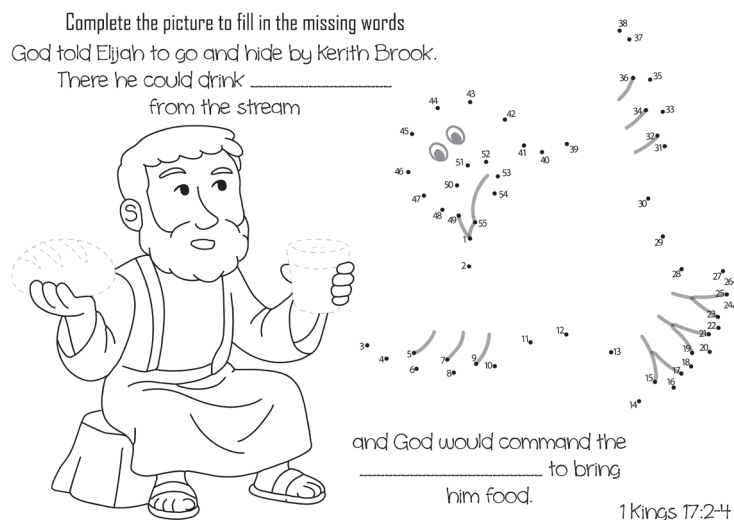
Option 1: Raven and bread verse cards

Children create their own raven and memory verse cards.



Option 2: Elijah fed by ravens (Dot to dot)

Children complete the dot-to-dot and trace the picture to show how God provided for Elijah.



Lesson 3: Elijah obeys and God provides

Main focus for the lesson:

- Elijah obeyed God and God miraculously protected and provided for Him.
- We need to listen to what God wants us to say and do and then trust Him and do it.

1) Memory Verse

- Luke 11:28

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Cups with overflowing oil drops as shown in the craft

Begin with all of the drops hanging out of the cup and let the children read out loud what it says. Pull the closest oil drop back into the cup so it cannot be read. Children again say the verse but have to remember what that one said. Continue until all the drops are hidden in the cup.



2) Hands on

Use these instructions to make a bottle that keeps on filling. As you tell the story use it to show that every day God provided just enough oil and flour for them to eat. And the next day there was more.

What you will need: (A never-ending oil bottle)

- A plastic bottle
- A piece of PVC pipe that fits in the mouth of the bottle (about 2/3 length of bottle)
- Glue gun (Or something to secure the pipe)

Instructions on how to make it:

1. Slide the pipe into the bottle. There needs to be a gap between the bottom of the pipe and the bottom of the bottle. Use the glue gun to secure the PVC pipe in the bottle.
2. Spray paint the bottle so that you can no longer see the pipe through the bottle.
3. Fill the bottle with coloured water to look like oil.



4. Now begin to tell the story of the woman who used the last of her oil to make a meal for Elijah, pouring out the “oil” as you teach. Each time you place the bottle upright again, pause so the pipe can refill ready for you to pour out the “oil” again and again. Explain that this happened every day and so although everyone else was suffering without food because of there being no rain, the widow and Elijah were provided for by God.

At the end explain to the children that you have made a special bottle that can do it. It is not magic and you definitely can't do a miracle. Only God can and did!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Red and Green pens
- Picture of Elijah being fed by ravens from the lesson before

On the children's right hands write “go” or draw a green circle. On their left hand write “stay” or draw a red circle. Draw the same red and green circles on your own hands. As you tell the story get the children to decide if Elijah should go by waving the green hand or stay by doing the action STOP with the red hand. Each time you talk about staying or going in the story do the appropriate hand action and lead them to do the same.

To remind you where we are in our story...

- God has stopped the rain so that people would stop sinning and come back to Him.
- God has told Elijah to go to the brook or stream and Elijah went.
- Elijah is safe. He has water to drink and ravens bring him bread and meat to eat. But then...

But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land. 1 Kings 17:7

God had looked after Elijah by providing him with food and water but now the water had dried up? Have you ever felt very thirsty? What do you think Elijah should do? Dig for more, go somewhere else? Do you think Elijah decided to “go” or “stay”? *(Let the children answer)*

Elijah was still there, waiting! *(All do red hand STOP action)* After the river dried up, it would have been easy for Elijah to try and solve the problem, but he waited for God to speak! Do you think God just left him there thirsty? *(Let the children answer.)* Let's read what happened next.

⁸Then the Lord said to Elijah, ⁹ “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”

1 Kings 17:8-9

God didn't just leave him there. He had a plan to provide for him again. Did God tell Elijah to stay or go? *(Let the children answer by showing their hand actions)* God told Elijah to go to Zarephath. That sounds like a great place to you and me, but Elijah would have known that Zarephath was where the evil queen Jezebel lived.

The people in that country also all worshipped Baal and didn't love or obey God at all. God was sending Elijah right into the middle of the enemy! On top of all that Zarephath was 160km away, which meant he had a very VERY long journey ahead of him before he could find some help.

Do you think Elijah went? *(Let the children answer by showing their hand actions)*

¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

¹² But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die." 1 Kings 17:10-12

Elijah did go *(Wave "go" hand)* but now that he had arrived the lady wasn't a rich person but a poor widow who only had just enough to make her son and herself one last meal.

Do you think Elijah should go somewhere else *(Wave "go hand")* or stay *(Hold up STOP hand)*? What had God said he should do? *(Let the children answer by showing their hand actions)*

Let's read what Elijah said next...

¹³ But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!"

¹⁵ So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. ¹⁶ There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah. 1 Kings 17:13-15

Use the never-ending oil to demonstrate that there was always enough for them to have food to eat. The instructions can be found in the “Hands on” section above.



Elijah had stayed (*Hold up STOP hand*) just like God had told him to and he once again had food to eat! Do you see how important it is to listen to God and obey Him whether He tells us to go (*Wave “go hand”*) or stay (*Hold up STOP hand*). And through His obedience not only did he get food that he needed but the widow, who didn't know God, saw God's provision first hand.

Today's story showed God testing the faith and obedience of both the widow and Elijah and both passed with an A+. Sometimes our faith and obedience is tested and we need to remember that no matter what we must always trust God. When we listen and obey God when He says “Go and tell your friends about me” or “Stay and don't do things you shouldn't”, He will bless us and provide for us too, just like He did for Elijah.

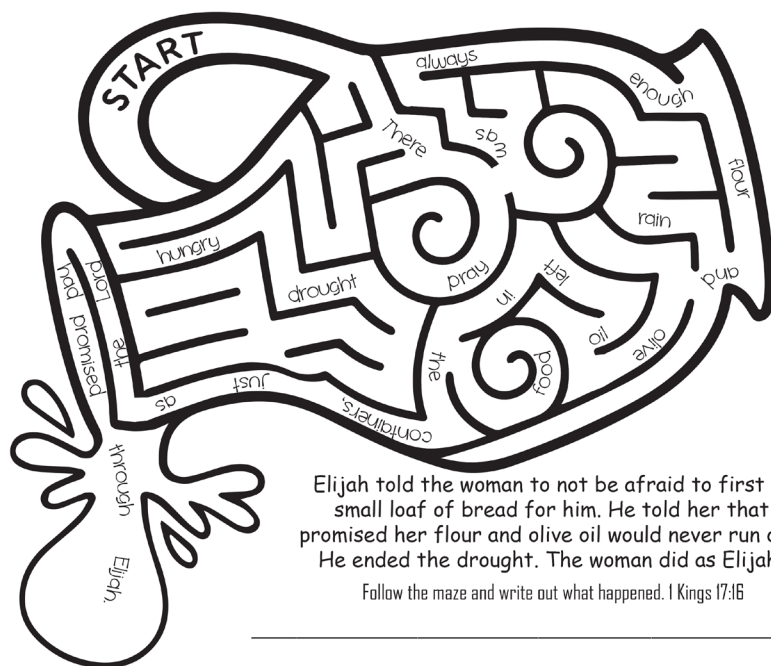
We learnt again and again about how God always provides. First at the brook with the ravens and then again with His supernatural supply of flour and oil. Imagine if Elijah hadn't waited for God to tell him where to go next or hadn't gone to the widow's house, he would have had no food. This teaches us that God's ways are always better than our ways! So remember to listen and obey!

4) Review Questions:

- a) There was no food and no water and so Elijah needed to fully rely on God for help. He could not do it on his own. **How was Elijah like us?** (*We need to fully rely on God too. We cannot be forgiven without God and we cannot live lives that please God without Him.*)
- b) Elijah waited, trusted and went only where and when God told Him. God not only provided for him wherever he went but He put Elijah where he was most needed and could be an effective part of God's plan. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** (*God wants us to be obedient to what He says. He wants us to wait to listen where and when to go, and what to say. This is how we become an effective part of God's plan.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Oil bottle Maze



Children follow the maze to complete the verse to see if God kept His promise.

Elijah told the woman to not be afraid to first bake a small loaf of bread for him. He told her that God promised her flour and olive oil would never run out until He ended the drought. The woman did as Elijah said.

Follow the maze and write out what happened. 1 Kings 17:16

Option 2: Overflowing Oil Spinner

Children decorate the spinner and use their craft to retell the story.



Lesson 4: Elijah has faith and God does miracles

Main focus for the lesson:

- We need to have faith in all circumstances so God can show His power.
- God's miracles show His power to others so they will believe.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 3:20

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

- Divide the children into five equal groups.
- Each group learns their part of the verse and actions.
- Point to each group in the order so that the whole verse is said.
- After a few rounds join two of the groups, so they now say two parts with actions and the rest continue as before.
- Keep joining until all the children are one big group saying the whole verse with all the actions together!

"Now all glory to God," (Lift both hands high up in praise)

"who is able, through His mighty power" (Make strong muscles with arms)

"at work within us," (Wiggle fingers from head to toes)

"to accomplish infinitely more" (Stretch arms wide and spin around once)

"than we might ask or think." (Place hands over mouth then on head)

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A packet of crisps or biscuits

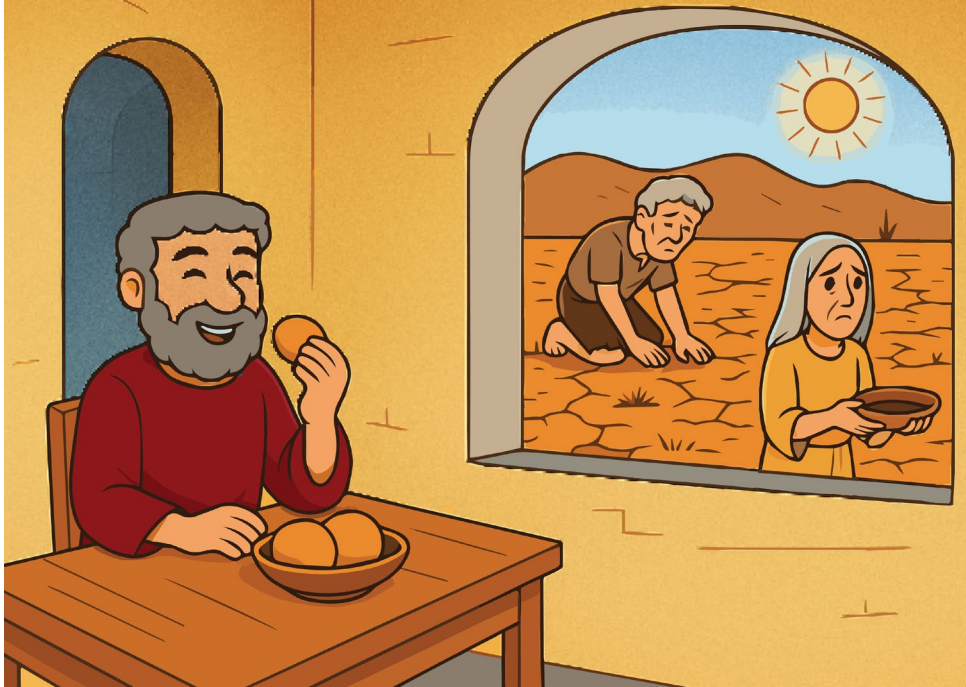
Get four children to stand in front of the class. Beforehand give one of the children a packet of crisps or biscuits, which they are allowed to open and eat.

Somebody here has something nobody else has. Can you tell me who it is? What do they have? Was it easy to notice? Yes.

God sent Elijah to Zarephath, right in the middle of the enemy. No one has food. There is NO rain. Everyone is praying to the fake idol Baal and Baal is NOT answering. But Elijah is praying to God and he and the widow are the only ones who have food. God IS answering! Just like you immediately noticed who had the chips, people would have noticed that Elijah had food in the middle of a drought.

Can you guess which one is Elijah? (*Show the picture*) More importantly people would have noticed that Elijah served a powerful and REAL God.

It was so important that Elijah listened and went where God told him as through this God was able to start showing them that Baal was not real and that they needed to love God and follow ONLY GOD! As we keep reading about Elijah's story see how God keeps showing His greatness and power.



3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Bible
- Story Aid – “Follow the trail”

The last few weeks we have been learning about Elijah and every week God seems to be testing Elijah's faith and obedience. First God tests Elijah by asking him to tell the really bad king, Ahab, that there isn't going to be any rain - and **Elijah has faith** and obeys God. And **God does the miracle** of stopping the rain.

Next God tests him by telling him to go to Kerith Brook to be fed by ravens - and **Elijah has faith** and obeys God. And **God does the miracle** of commanding birds to bring bread and meat to feed him.

Then God tests him by sending him to a woman without any food - and **Elijah has faith** and prays to God. And **God does the miracle** of making the oil and flour not run out.

Each time God tests Elijah He is building his faith and preparing Elijah for the next thing that is going to happen. And with each miracle God shows His power.

In today's story we read about something awful that happened. I wonder what Elijah will do this time.

Start on the left for each part of the story and follow the trail to see what happened next.

Our story starts where Elijah is staying with the woman and her son and God is providing oil and flour that does not run out. Let's read 1 Kings 17 to see what happens next. *(Use your Bible to tell the story)*



¹⁷ Some time later the woman's son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died. 1 Kings 17:17

What did the woman do next? Do you think she had faith and asked God for help? Let's follow the trail and see.

¹⁸ Then she said to Elijah, "O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?" 1 Kings 17:18

The woman thought her sins were being judged. She didn't even ask for help. It doesn't seem like she has faith that God could help. Let's see how Elijah responds.



¹⁹ But Elijah replied, "Give me your son." And he took the child's body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed. 1 Kings 17:19

Do you think he knew this would happen? What did Elijah do next? Let's follow the trail and see.

²⁰ Then Elijah cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?" 1 Kings 17:20

Elijah didn't know this would happen but he did know that he could speak to God. No matter how we are feeling we can speak to God honestly, He already knows our thoughts. We can also trust Him to help, even for something that may seem impossible. Let's see what Elijah did next.





²¹ Elijah stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, please let this child's life return to him." 1 Kings 17:21

Elijah had faith that God could bring the boy back to life. He prayed and asked God three times.

Do you think God heard Elijah's prayers? Do you think God answered them? Do you think God made the boy come alive again? Let's follow the trail and see.

²² The Lord heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived! 1 Kings 17:22

God heard Elijah's prayers and the child was raised from the dead. He was alive again. It was a miracle.



²³ Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "Look!" he said. "Your son is alive!" 1 Kings 17:23

What do you think the mom said? Let's follow the trail and see. She had thought she was being punished for her sins.

Do you think because of this miracle she will have faith in God and that Elijah is His prophet? Let's follow the trail and see.

²⁴ Then the woman told Elijah, "Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you." 1 Kings 17:24

Elijah had been speaking on God's behalf all the time, but only now did the woman fully believe that what he said was from God. God used the faith and prayers of an ordinary man to do a miracle that would make one woman believe. And God can and will use you to do the same.



A miracle is something that happens that normally couldn't happen unless God makes it happen. People do not perform miracles, ONLY God can. In our story today God did a miracle but miracles are not something of the past, they are for today too.

Remember our memory verse today "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

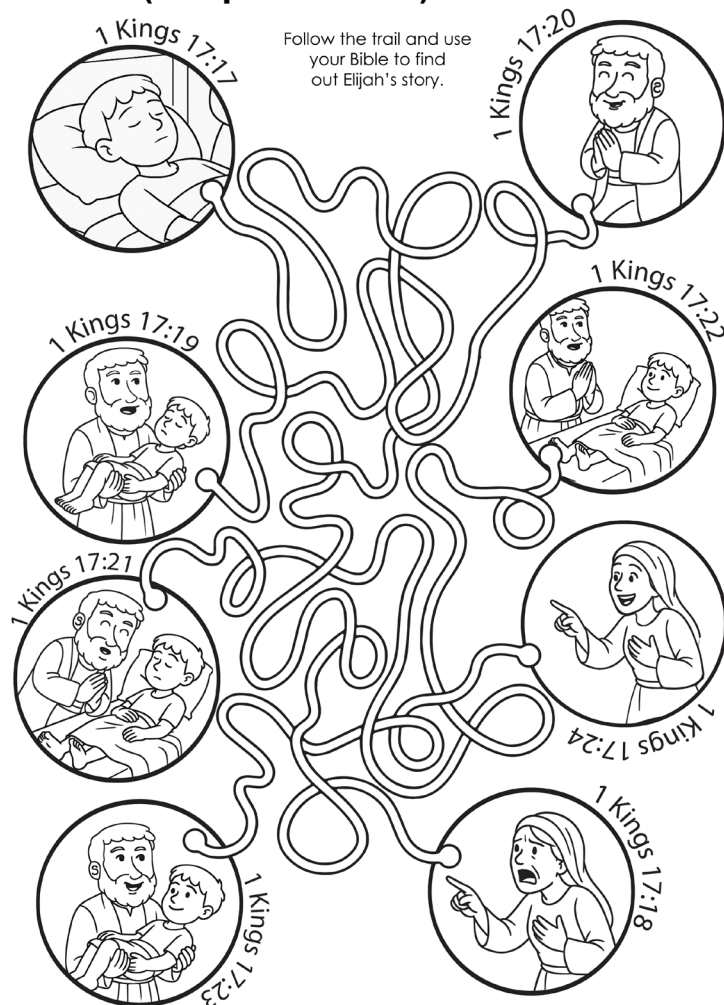
Miracles are evidence that God is real. There is no formula for a miracle to happen! Our role is to be open to be used by God and to pray in faith. If your prayers are not answered like you want them to be, it is not because of something you did wrong because remember it is God who determines if a miracle will occur. He knows so much more than we do and He knows what is best so trust Him.

4) Review Questions:

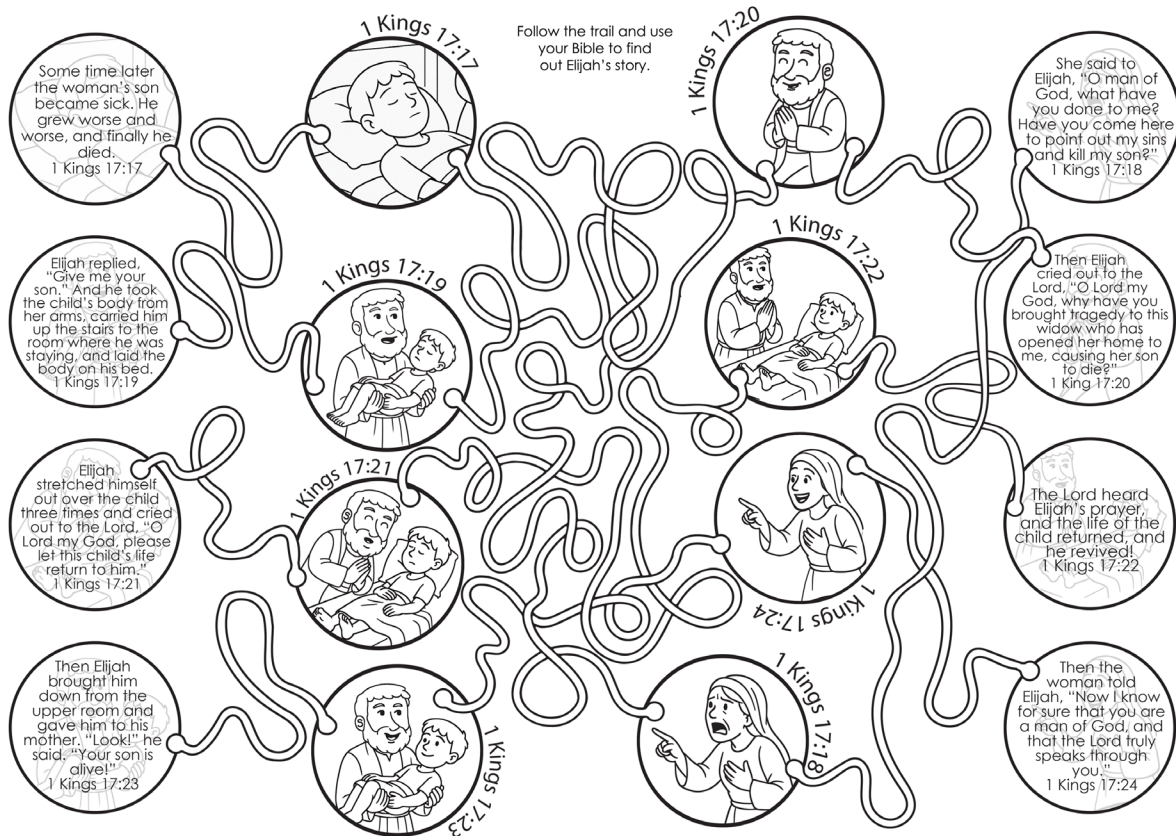
- a) God tested Elijah by asking him to trust and obey Him. Elijah also faced difficult situations that tested his faith in God. These helped prepare Elijah for what would come next. **How was Elijah like us?** *(We face things that test our faith and that we cannot do without God's help. Each of these things build our faith and prepare us for what comes next.)*
- b) Elijah knew he could not bring the boy back to life but he also knew that God could. Elijah's faith and prayers helped others see God's power. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** *(We can only affect those around us to a certain extent. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. When we pray and have faith, God can show His power to others so they will believe.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Follow the trail (Simple version)

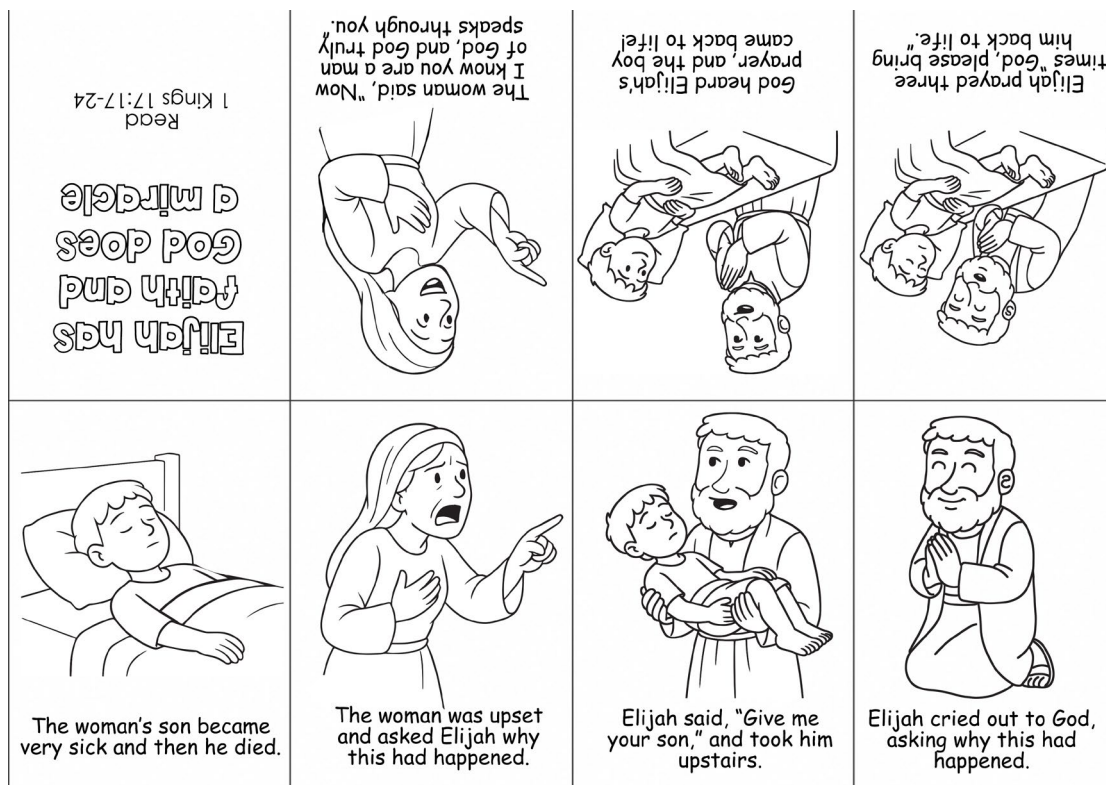


Option 2: Follow the trail with verses (Extended version)

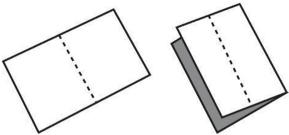
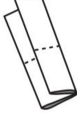
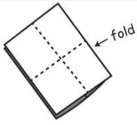
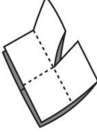
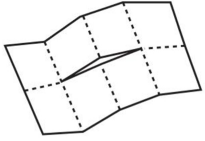
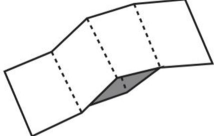
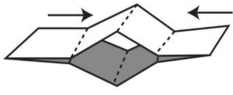
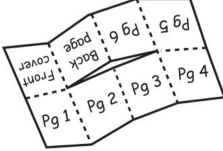


Option 3: Mini Story Book (Elijah and the widow's son)

Use the link to find instructions on how to fold the mini book. Mini Story Book - (Craft) - Leader Resources <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2tugEOAKTQ>



Instructions on how to fold a Mini Story Book

	1) Fold the paper in half widthways. <i>If you are using one of the pre-printed templates, keep the print on the outside to make the folding easier later. The grey in the illustration is showing the wrong side of the page.</i>
	2) Fold the paper in half again, in the same direction. It now forms a long bookmark shape.
	3) Fold the paper in half once more, this time in the other direction.
	4) Unfold your last two folds.
	5) Cut the centre of the fold to where the two fold lines meet.
	6) Open out the piece of paper. It will now be divided into 8 sections and will have a hole in the middle.
	7) Fold the paper in half again, this time lengthways. You now have a row of 4 sections on each side.
	8) Hold one end in each hand and push your hands together, until the cross section looks like the illustration.
	9) Find the cover of your mini story book and fold the pages in the right way.
	10) Your mini story book is finished!
	If you are making your own mini story book, please follow the page order and orientation as shown in the illustration.

Lesson 5: Elijah is brave and God shows His power

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is Lord and there is no other Saviour.
- Like Elijah we can trust that God will reveal Himself to others in even the most difficult situations.

1) Memory Verse

- Isaiah 43:10-11

"¹⁰But you are My witnesses, O Israel!" says the Lord. "You are my servant. You have been chosen to know Me, believe in Me, and understand that I alone am God. **There is no other God — there never has been, and there never will be.**
¹¹ I, yes I, am the Lord, and there is no other Saviour."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Many times in the Old Testament, people treated other things as more important and even made them their god. This is one of the reasons God sent prophets: to tell the people that **"God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour."**

*Each time you name something that the children could make more important than God, say "But remember..." and let them respond with the verse: **"God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!"***

We might think "At least I don't make statues of other gods and bow down to them." But sometimes we make money more important than God. But remember: **God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!**

We could even make our sports more important than God. But remember: **God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!**

Some of us could think being popular is more important than telling people about God. But remember: **God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!**

We might even put having the latest phone or gaming console above God. But remember: **God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!**

Having lots of friends or wanting nice things is not wrong or sinful, it is only bad when those things become more important than God. But remember who is the most important? **God is the Lord, there is no other Saviour!**

2) Hands on

Welcome to Cornerstone Kids. Today we are going to have our very own Cornerstone Kids Contest. So gather around and let's hear a cheer if you want to see a dance off, a sing off and a draw off!

We will need someone to volunteer for a “Dance off” against Leader A. Another to have a “Sing off” with Leader B and finally a person to have a “Draw off” with Leader C. The rest of you will need to decide who the winner is.

The aim of the contests is for the leader to be absolutely useless so that the children can see which person is the obvious winner. E.g. Dance by simply tapping your toe and point to it, if you go too crazy they may vote for you. Do the same with the singing and drawing. You will need to choose and prepare your volunteers beforehand so they do not get stage fright in the moment.

Who was the winner, the leaders or the kids? Yes, there was no contest the kids won every time. Let's give our volunteers a hand.

Conclusion: Did you enjoy the contest? The people in Elijah's times also loved a show and so when Elijah told everyone he was going to have a contest he got their attention and many people came to see who the winner would be.

Today we are going to learn about the great contest Elijah had. The contestants were Baal and God. Just like in our competition there was an obvious winner. Who do you think is going to win?

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Pictures
- A lit candle
- Some water or wet items that will not burn

At each part in the story compare what Elijah did to how Ahab lived to show who is the real God.

It had been three years since Elijah had told Ahab that there would be no rain. Since then Elijah had stayed at the stream where the ravens had brought him food and now he is living with the widow. Things are going well for Elijah because God is providing food that will never run out, God answered his prayers and brought the boy back to life and even the widow is saying he is a man of God whom God speaks through.



(Show the pictures of Elijah being provided for by God.)



What about King Ahab? Has he realised he is wrong? Has he come back to God? No! Even after three years of drought he has not yet owned up that the fake god he has chosen over the true God is unable to stop the drought! To make matters worse he is still listening to his mean wife, Jezebel, who keeps on trying to get rid of all the people who worship God and she will stop at nothing! She is killing all the prophets and, together with Ahab, looking for Elijah. *(Show the picture of Ahab and Jezebel)*



(Compare the pictures of Elijah to Ahab and Jezebel) God has stopped the rain and still provides for those who love and follow Him. But those who follow Baal cannot make it rain again and are starving. Who is the true God? **God is Lord, there is no other Saviour.**

So what do you think God is going to tell Elijah to do next? *(Let the children answer)*

Later on, in the third year of the drought, the Lord said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!” 1 Kings 18:1

Being led by God to hide at a river is one thing, but now God is leading him to confront the angry king. This will require way more obedience and courage! But for three years Elijah has seen how God has been with him, protecting him, providing for him and showing His miraculous power. Do you think Elijah should go? Do you think he went?

So Elijah went to appear before Ahab. 1 Kings 18:1

Elijah then challenged Ahab to fetch all the prophets of the fake gods for a show down, just like the competition we had earlier. Elijah said to them: “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal is god, then follow him!” 1 Kings 18:21

Each side would prepare a bull for sacrifice but not set fire to it. Elijah then told them, “call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!” And all the people agreed. 1 Kings 18:24

Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. (*Show the before picture*). They got their bull ready and prayed from morning to noon, shouting to Baal, but nothing happened. They danced around the altar and kept calling out. Elijah mocked them, saying maybe their god was asleep, away or even busy on the toilet. The prophets shouted louder and even hurt themselves trying to

get Baal to respond, but no matter what they did there was no answer! (*Show the after picture which is exactly the same picture as the before picture.*)

Elijah then called everyone close to the altar he had prepared for God so they could see what God was about to do. But first he did something unbelievable.



(*Show the before picture and the after with the trench of water*)



³³Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood." ³⁴After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, ³⁵and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench. 1 Kings 18:33-35

(*Demonstrate how it is impossible to burn a candle in water or wet piece of paper etc.*) If I just put a tiny bit of water on this candle it will go out. And if I put water on this piece of paper it will not set alight. But Elijah poured so much water over the altar that it even filled the trench around it. Everyone watching must have laughed and thought "that will never burn." But Elijah's plan was to show them just how real and powerful God is. Listen carefully to what Elijah prayed and see if you can answer why Elijah wanted God to answer him. (*So the people would know God is the only God who wants them to love and follow Him again.*)

At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at Your command. O Lord, answer me!

Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to Yourself." 1 Kings 18:36-37



(Show the after picture) ³⁸ **Immediately** the fire of the Lord flashed down from Heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—He is God! Yes, the Lord is God!" 1 Kings 18:38-39

(Compare the pictures to show how God answered but Baal did not.) Elijah didn't do a special dance or say certain words, he just spoke to God. God immediately answered Elijah's prayers and burnt everything up, even though it was soaked in water! But those who followed Baal could not get him to answer because he is not real. Who is the true God? **God is Lord, there is no other Saviour.**

The very reason God had sent Elijah was so that people would turn back to Him. Once they saw with their own eyes that God is real, He answers prayers and He is more powerful than anyone, let's read what the Bible says they do.

And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD - He is God! Yes, the LORD is God!" 1 Kings 18:39

They could all see, **God is Lord, there is no other Saviour.**

4) Review Questions:

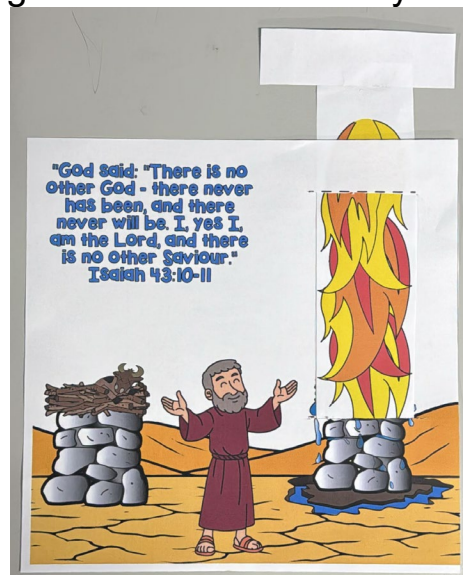
- a) Elijah knew God was the only God and that he could trust God to powerfully answer his prayers. **How was Elijah like us?** *(There is only one God and we are created to have a relationship with Him. We can trust God to answer our prayers powerfully too.)*
- b) God sent Elijah to show others that He is the one and only true God. *(God has chosen us to reveal to others that God is Lord, there is no other Saviour.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: No other God (Fire from Heaven)

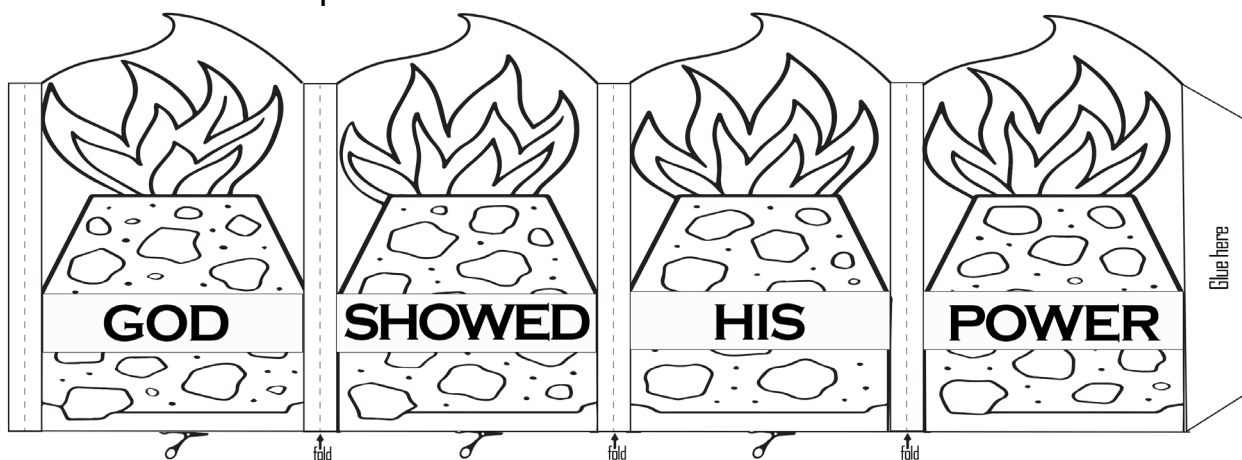
Cut slits in the main picture to slide the flames through. Glue the small rectangles to the ends to prevent it from sliding all the way out. Children can use their craft to retell the story of how only God answered showing He is the one and only God!

God said: "There is no other God - there never has been, and there never will be. I, yes I, am the Lord, and there is no other Saviour."
Isaiah 43:10-11



Option 2: God showed He is God (3D Altar)

Children colour, fold and glue the cut out template to build an altar. Remind them how God showed His power.



Lesson 6: Elijah prays and God answers

Main focus for the lesson:

- God hears and answers our prayers. Even the ones that seem impossible.
- Don't give up praying and don't lose faith, even when God takes time to answer.

1) Memory Verse

- James 5:16-18

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Download the song and see the idea in the Hands on section below to help teach the verse.

The Prayer of a Righteous Man (James 5:16) by Wonder Kids Bible songs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwMryvcMADc>

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Posters

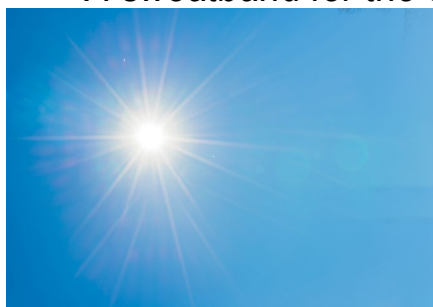


The best way to teach children about prayer is to give them the opportunity to pray. Put up the posters around the venue of the things they could be praying for. When the Bible verse song plays, the children will move from one poster to the other, where they can choose to pray on their own or with a partner.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Picture of rainy day
- Picture of sunny sky without even one cloud
- A small cloud to prestick onto the sunny picture
- Items for the four volunteers:
 - One to hold the sunny picture
 - A crown for King Ahab
 - A cloak for Elijah
 - A sweatband for the servant



Some days you wake up and you look outside and it looks like this. (Hold up sunny day picture) It is sunny with no rain. Okay all pretend to sleep. And other days you WAKE UP and it looks like this! (Hold up the rainy day picture) It's raining. That's just how the weather works, right? Sometimes it is sunny and sometimes it is rainy. But then DUN DUN DUN! Elijah showed up with a message from God... and EVERYTHING changed.

(Get a volunteer to stand on the one side of the venue and hold up the sunny picture) People would go to sleep and when they woke up it would be... (Point to the person holding the picture and all say "sunny") And the next day it would be... sunny. And then again... and this went on for over three years!

And that is where today's story begins. Let me introduce you to my three volunteers who are going to help me tell my story.

First, we have our grumpy king, Ahab (Add a crown). Next is Elijah our brave prophet (Add a cloak). And lastly our servant. We're going to give him a sweatband because he does a LOT of running in our story.

So there had been NO RAIN for a LONG time. (Point to sunny picture) Everyone say together: 'STILL sunny!'

But Elijah went to King Ahab and said to him in a loud and dramatic voice: "Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!" (Get Elijah to repeat what to say. If you say it dramatically they will too.)

But wait? Elijah said he could hear a rainstorm. Let's check what the weather looked like. (Point to sunny picture and prompt the children to answer with you.) It's STILL sunny!

Ahab went off to eat a big royal lunch. Maybe some grapes and turkey legs. Oo, careful you spilt a bit! (Have Ahab pretend to munch royally and sit back down.)

And Elijah? He climbed up Mount Carmel (Have Elijah climb an imaginary mountain and act out what you say) he bowed down ...and he prayed. Then he quickly called his servant. He said "Go look out toward the sea and check the weather".

So the servant ran to check. (Point to the sunny picture and get the servant to run there and back again.) And what did you see? (Prompt the servant to say "Still sunny")

There was no sign of rain, not even one cloud. And so Elijah prayed again, just like he had before. Then he quickly called his servant. (Pause for Elijah to call the servant) And told him to go check the weather again. (Point to the sunny picture and get the servant to run there and back again.) And what did you see? (Prompt the servant to say "Still sunny")

(Get them to do all the actions again) And so for a third time Elijah prayed. And then he said again to the servant 'Go look!'. And again the servant checked. And again the servant replied "Still sunny".

Oh no it is still sunny. What do you think Elijah must do? Yes, he should keep on praying and trusting God! And so he did. (Get the Elijah and the servant to act it out super-fast.) A fourth time Elijah prayed, the servant ran and checked and came back "Still sunny". A fifth time Elijah prayed, the servant ran and checked and came back "Still sunny". A sixth time Elijah prayed, the servant ran and checked and came back "Still sunny".

(Quickly stick on the little cloud to the sunny scene.) But on the seventh time Elijah prayed, the servant ran and checked and FINALLY the servant came back and excitedly said: "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."

That was all Elijah needed. He jumped up... and said "Quick! Go tell Ahab to hurry home. Or else the rainstorm will stop you!"

And you know what? The sky turned black with clouds. (Get the volunteer to hold up the raining picture.) And a heavy rain came pouring down! Thunder! Lightning! Wind! Let me hear you make sounds like a rainstorm. (Make sound effects: boom! whoosh! crash!)

And that's how God answered Elijah's prayer. It didn't happen right away. But Elijah didn't give up. He kept praying and trusting God! And God faithfully answered.

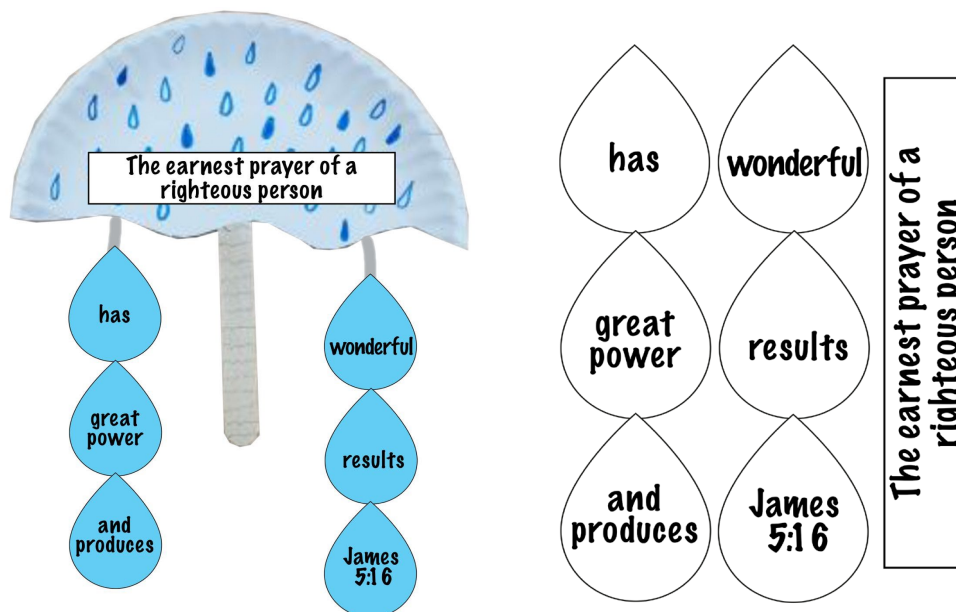
4) Review Questions:

- Elijah could not make it stop raining or make it rain, only God could do that. But Elijah knew he could speak, listen and be directed by God. **How was Elijah like us?** (*We can't change things on our own BUT we can speak, listen and be directed by God.*)
- We know for sure God was using Elijah to pass on His message to others and we know God heard Elijah's prayers. But did you notice how Elijah had to keep on asking, trusting and waiting for God to answer. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** (*God wants us to pray to Him. And when we don't get the answer, He wants us to keep on asking, trusting and waiting to hear from Him.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Umbrella Bible verse

Children decorate half a paper plate as an umbrella and hang the Bible verse drops from it.



Option 2: Daily Prayer Chart

Encourage children to thank and trust God for all areas in their lives.

PRAY EVERY DAY!

Put this timetable somewhere you can see it.
Colour in the blocks as you make time to pray every day, thanking God for what He has done and is still going to do.

Add in your own.

	MORNING	DAYTIME	BEDTIME		MORNING	DAYTIME	BEDTIME
Monday	"Thank You for a brand new week!"	"Help me be kind to everyone."	"Thank You for helping me today."	Monday			
Tuesday	"Show me how to be like Jesus today."	"Please bless my teacher and my friends."	"Forgive me for ..."	Tuesday			
Wednesday	"Good morning, God! I'm glad You're with me."	"Help me be brave when I'm feeling scared."	"Thank You for my home and my family."	Wednesday			
Thursday	"Let Your love shine through me today."	"Please help anyone who is sick or sad."	"Thank You for all the little things today."	Thursday			
Friday	"Thank You for the teachers who teach me."	"Help me finish this week strong."	"You were with me all week, 'Thank You!'"	Friday			
Saturday	"Thank You, God for the weekend!"	"Bless the time I spend with my family."	"I am thankful for laughter and rest."	Saturday			
Sunday	"Today is for worshipping You, Jesus."	"Thank You for church and our leaders."	"Thank You for Your Son, Jesus and His love."	Sunday			

Lesson 7: Elijah is weak and God helps

Main focus for the lesson:

- Like Elijah, when we are afraid and feel weak, we can go to God for help.
- God is always faithful to help and show His power, even when we are weak.

1) Memory Verse

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“Each time God said, ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Sets of cup telephones

In this verse Paul was really struggling with something and each time he asked God for help God would reply: “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9



So Paul decided that instead of trying to hide his struggles, he would celebrate them because they made him depend on God. We should do the same.

- Choose two children to start with the cup telephone. Remind them to keep the string tight or it won't work.
- One child whispers the Bible verse into their cup. “God says: ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’” 2 Corinthians 12:9
- The other child listens carefully through their cup and tries to hear the whole verse.
- Once the listener can say the verse correctly, they become the new whisperer, and a new person takes the other end.
- Keep going until everyone in the class has had a turn and they can all say the verse together.

Just like you had to listen carefully through the cup, Elijah had to listen carefully to God. When Elijah felt weak, scared, or unsure, he didn't try to do everything by himself, he asked God for help and God gave him strength and answers.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- 2L plastic bottle with a **big hole** in the lid. Label it "On my own".
- 2L plastic bottle with a lid. Label it "With God's help".

Let's pretend these bottles are like us. (*Hold up the empty bottle with the big hole in the lid.*) This is what happens when we try to do things for God without relying on Him for help.

(*Squeeze the bottle so it crumples and collapses.*) When hard things happen, we can feel crushed or weak, and we feel like we cannot do any more.

(*Hold up the empty bottle with the lid tightly on.*) But if instead we rely and trust God to help us and we face these same things look what happens. (*Try to squeeze it too but it won't collapse like the other one.*)

Our weakness doesn't stop God, rather it shows His strength! When we feel tired, too young or not good enough, that's when God's power can shine the most. It's a reminder that we don't need to be strong on our own. God helps us and gives us strength when we feel weak or unsure.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Bible
- God... poster
- Picture with flaps

GOD...

Is our protector

Is our provider

Does miracles

Is powerful

Answers prayers

Is the Greatest



This series we have learnt a lot about Elijah but it has also taught us so much about God too.

(*Refer to the poster showing all the things we have learnt about God.*)

We saw how God is a **protector** as He looked after Elijah by keeping him safe at the stream. God is also a **provider** and He showed this when He made the oil and flour never run out. We see that God **does miracles** when He brought the boy back to life. God is also **powerful** and sent fire to consume the sacrifice when the fake gods could do nothing. Time and time again we saw how God **answers prayers** like when He sent the rain.

Elijah knows, just as we have also learnt that there is only one God and **He is greater** than anyone or anything! So let's see how the story of Elijah continues...

In today's lesson every now and then I am going to give you two options of what happened next and I want you to decide which one is true. *(Read the verse shown from the Bible to the children for them to work out which one is true. The answer is in bold.)*

When Jezebel, Ahab's evil wife, heard how Elijah had proven that God is real and what he had done to her prophets, she was furious. She sent Elijah a message, threatening to have him killed. When Elijah heard this... Which one is true?

a) Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. (1 Kings 19:3)

b) Elijah had faith and was not worried.

Can you believe it? *(Refer to "God..." poster)* Even though Elijah had seen all that God had done and had trusted God many times before, he was still an ordinary man. He didn't need to feel afraid, but he did.

So Elijah travelled all day into the wilderness, sat down under a tree and prayed, "I have had enough, Lord, take my life." Then he lay down and fell asleep under the tree and... Which one is true?

a) When he woke up, he was all alone in the wilderness.

b) As he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" (1 Kings 19:6)

Just like before, God heard Elijah's prayers and helped him. *(Refer to "God..." poster)* The truth is God's love and help is unconditional. Right there beside Elijah was some hot baked bread and a jar of water! So Elijah ate and drank, then lay down and slept again. And then... Which one is true?

a) The angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." (1 Kings 19:7)

b) The angel woke him up again and told him to go back home.

Again, God sent help to Elijah. *(Refer to "God..." poster)* The truth is God's help is not limited, He is so generous to keep on providing for us. So Elijah got up, ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai. This was the mountain where Moses had met with God, and now Elijah wanted to meet with God too. When he arrived, God asked him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Which one is true?

a) Elijah lied and told God everything was fine.

b) Elijah told God the truth about how he felt and what he was worried about. (1 Kings 19:10)

"I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." 1 Kings 19:10

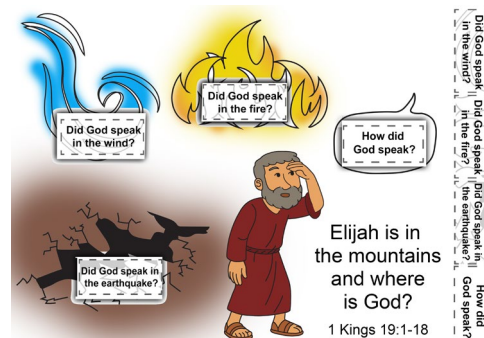
The truth is God already knows how we are feeling but He wants us to be honest with Him and tell Him too. Then, God told Elijah to stand on the mountain, because He would pass by. Elijah did what God said and... Which one is true?

a) **There was a mighty wind, an earthquake, and fire. But God was in none of them.** 1 Kings 19:11-12

b) There was a mighty wind, an earthquake, and fire. But God was in all of them.

Let's check under the flaps to see which is true.

(Open the wind, earthquake and fire flaps to show that God was not in these.) God was in none of them. But God was there even if it wasn't in the way Elijah expected. *(Open the "whisper" flap)* God was in the whisper.



Again, God asked Elijah why he was there, and again Elijah told God all his worries. Which one is true?

a) God would not help Elijah because his fear showed he had not faith in God.

b) **God helped Elijah and told him what to do.** 1 Kings 19:15-18

God encouraged Elijah. *(Refer to "God..." poster)* He told him which new kings to anoint. He reminded him that he wasn't alone as there were 7,000 others who had not bowed to Baal. God also told Elijah to anoint Elisha to one day take his place. Elijah then returned home and did everything God had said.

We have learnt that Elijah was an ordinary man who listened to God, told others about Him, and prayed with great faith. And we saw that when Elijah obeyed God and stood up bravely, God showed His power through miracles, answered his prayers, and protected him in amazing ways. *(Refer to "God..." poster)* But God doesn't just do these things when we get everything right. Even when Elijah was scared, tired, and wanted to give up, God still cared for him and still showed His power. God protected him, provided food, gave him rest, sent help and spoke to him gently. God still answered His prayers. This shows that God is faithful not just when we are strong, but even when we feel weak or afraid.

So remember, when Elijah felt scared and alone, he went to God and God helped. And the truth is ... God wants you to do the same.

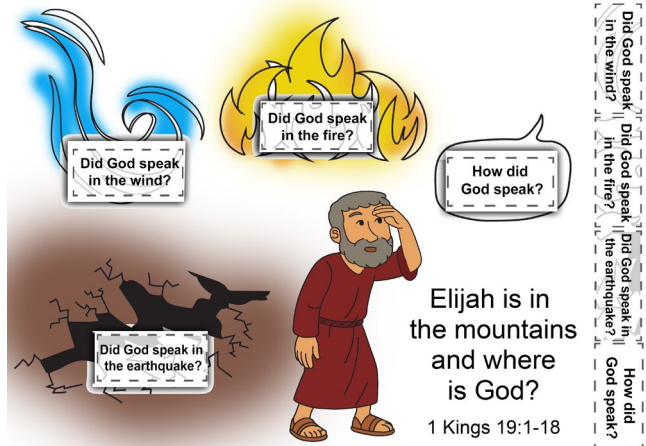
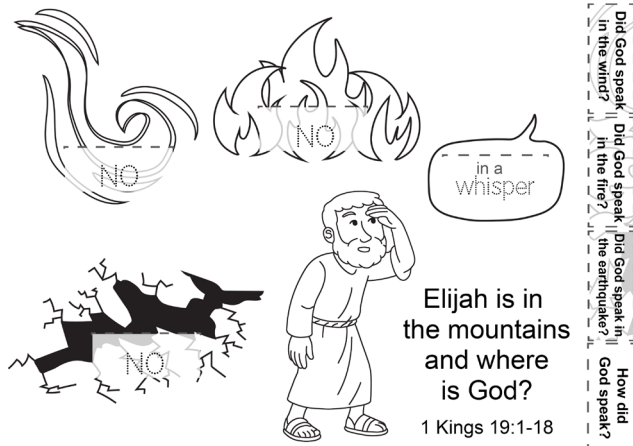
4) Review Questions:

a) Elijah was an ordinary man. Sometimes he felt weak and afraid and doing things for God felt really hard. Elijah knew he could go to God no matter what. **How was Elijah like us?** *(God knows that we are just ordinary people too who sometimes feel weak and afraid to do things for God. We can go to God for help no matter what happens or how we feel.)*

b) God wanted Elijah to have faith and obey Him, but God's ability to act was never dependent on Elijah's strength or perfection. Even when Elijah was weak, afraid, or ready to give up, God still provided for him, protected him, and showed His power. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** (God wants us to have faith and obey Him but God's impact is not limited to how much faith we have or how obedient we are.)

5) Craft

Option 1: Where was God? (Flaps)



Option 2: Secret Sentence Challenge

Secret Sentence Challenge!
Use all the letters to complete the sentence:

"Elijah is _____ and God _____."

Circle the correct answer. Each correct answer gives you a letter. Write the letter next to the question.

Where can we find Elijah's story in the Bible?

- 1) 1 Kings 17 ~ (Letter: R)
- 2) 2 Kings 19 ~ (Letter: T)
- 3) 1 Kings 19 ~ (Letter: W)



Who was chasing Elijah?

- 1) Jezebel ~ (Letter: E)
- 2) Obadiah ~ (Letter: D)
- 3) No one ~ (Letter: P)



Why did Elijah run away?

- 1) He was exercising and keeping fit ~ (Letter: M)
- 2) He didn't want to get wet in the rain ~ (Letter: Z)
- 3) He was afraid of being killed ~ (Letter: A)



What did Elijah ask God?

- 1) To help him ~ (Letter: L)
- 2) To let him die ~ (Letter: K)
- 3) To give him food ~ (Letter: Y)



What was God's response to Elijah's prayer?

- 1) He let him die ~ (Letter: B)
- 2) He ignored him ~ (Letter: F)
- 3) He sent an angel to help him ~ (Letter: H)



How many days did God feed Elijah?

- 1) 40 days and nights ~ (Letter: E)
- 2) 30 days and nights ~ (Letter: U)
- 3) 2 days and nights ~ (Letter: S)



How did God speak to Elijah?

- 1) He said nothing ~ (Letter: R)
- 2) In a whisper ~ (Letter: L)
- 3) In a shout ~ (Letter: Q)



What did God tell Elijah to do?

- 1) To kill Ahab and anoint Jehu king ~ (Letter: D)
- 2) To anoint Jehu as king and Elisha as prophet ~ (Letter: P)
- 3) To anoint Elisha as king ~ (Letter: X)



In what order did God appear to Elijah?

- 1) Wind, fire, earthquake ~ (Letter: G)
- 2) Wind, earthquake, fire ~ (Letter: S)
- 3) Earthquake, wind, fire ~ (Letter: C)



Lesson 8: Elijah passed the cloak & God gave the power

Main focus for the lesson:

- Elisha continued Elijah's work. We are called to do God's work too.
- God gives us power through the Holy Spirit to tell others about Him.

1) Memory Verse

- Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere — in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Add some actions to help the children learn the verse.

"But you will receive power" (Flex your arms and make a POWER pose)

"When the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Wave hands down like something coming down from Heaven)

"And you will be My witnesses" (Point to your mouth like you're speaking)

"Telling people about Me everywhere" (Spin around while pointing outwards)

Then ask them the following:

"Who gives us power? (God does!)"

"What's it for?" (To tell about Jesus!)"

"Where do we go?" (Everywhere!)"

Keep asking the same questions, but changing the order each time.

2) Hands on

Puppet Show: Called by God

	<i>Begin recapping that we have been learning about how Elijah was called by God and God calls everyone too. Then Blue appears holding a phone.</i>
Leader	Hey there Blue. Are you okay? You look a little... tense.
Blue	I am! I can't move a muscle.
Leader	Um? Why not, Blue?
Blue	Because... I'm waiting for a call.
Leader	A call? From who?
Blue	From God of course! I heard you say "God calls us", so I've got my phone ready, battery charged, Wi-Fi ON, and I'm not moving an inch!
Leader	Ohhh... I see what's going on. You think God is going to call you on the phone?
Blue	Well, how else is He supposed to call me? Email? A letter? Smoke signals?! I'm not allowed to play with fire!

Leader	Yes, definitely don't play with fire. But Blue, you don't have to worry. You have already been called by God.
Blue	Wait what?! Then... (gasps) Oh no! You mean I missed it? It must have been when I was cleaning my room! I told my mom I shouldn't do that.
Leader	Don't worry, you didn't miss anything. God's "call" isn't about phones. It means He's chosen you for something special. We're all called to love Him, follow Jesus, and share His message with others!
Puppet	You mean I am chosen or <i>called</i> to love God? Oh He's easy to love. And I am chosen or <i>called</i> to follow Jesus? Oh I love following Jesus. And I am <i>called</i> to share God's message well I am going to do that right now. <i>(Goes behind stage and talks on phone)</i> Hey Sam! Sam! Did you know you've been called? No, not by me - by GOD! NO, you didn't miss it! Do you know nothing?!
Leader	Well at least he's sharing the message.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Dress up items
- A piece of material to act as a cloak

Have some volunteers dressed up in different outfits or uniforms that easily show you who they are. They will not say anything.

Who is the fireman? How do you know? Who is the clown? How do you know? Who is the doctor? How do you know?

These people did not even say one word and yet you knew who they were. In Elijah's time God's prophets wore a mantle. That was like a big cloak. *(Put the cloak on.)* When everyone else saw them wearing it they knew this person had been chosen by God and given God's authority. Elijah wore a cloak like this because God had chosen him as the prophet to speak on God's behalf.

After God had spoken to Elijah on the mountain, he went to find the man who God said would replace him as God's prophet. He found Elisha ploughing in a field. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. *(Demonstrate by placing it on a volunteer)*. It was like Elijah was saying "Tag, you're it".

Elisha knew this was a BIG deal and from then on he followed Elijah and became his assistant. *(Place the cloak around you and the volunteer)* Elijah and Elisha

travelled together for about six years, giving people messages from God and Elisha watched and learned as they went.

Elijah knew something special was about to happen. God was going to take him to Heaven and so Elijah made his way to where this would happen. They travelled to Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and finally the Jordan River. At each stop, Elijah turned and said, "Stay here, Elisha for the Lord has told me to go." But Elisha always replied, "As surely as the Lord lives, I will never leave you!"

At the Jordan River, something amazing happened... (*Demonstrate as you explain*) Elijah took off his cloak, folded it and hit the water with it. And guess what? The river split in two! They walked across on dry ground!

Of course it was not the cloak but God's power that parted the river! When they reached the other side Elijah asked Elisha "What I can do for you before I am taken away."

Elisha didn't ask for money. He didn't ask to be famous. Instead he asked, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit and become your successor."

Elisha asked for the power and authority to do great things for God too and even more. (*Hold up the cloak*) This was not something Elijah could give him, he would have to wait and see if that was God's plan.

Then, suddenly BOOM! A chariot of fire appeared! Horses of fire rushed between them! And a whirlwind came and took Elijah up into heaven! Elisha saw it all!

And the cloak fell to the ground. (*Drop the cloak on the floor.*) God was passing on His authority to Elisha.

Elisha picked up the cloak and went back to the Jordan River. He struck it on the water and cried out, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" Then the river divided, and Elisha went across. God was with Him too and Elisha would now continue to speak on God's behalf.

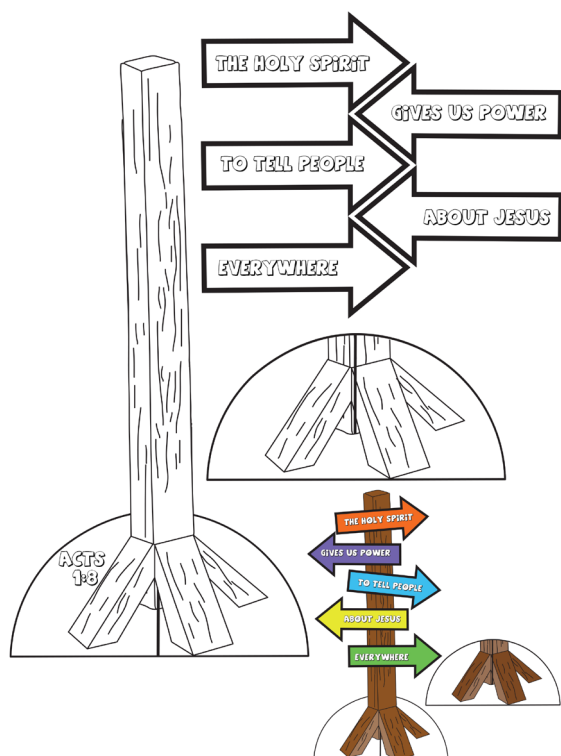
4) Review Questions:

- a) Elijah had no power or authority of his own but with God he could part the river and speak on God's behalf. **How was Elijah like us?** (*We do not have any power or authority of our own but God has given us the Holy Spirit who gives us power to tell others about Jesus, everywhere.*)
- b) God called Elijah to do His work. And then God called Elisha to continue God's work. **How was Elijah's call like ours?** (*God wants us to help others know Jesus, love Jesus and follow Jesus. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us do this. We continue the work Jesus and the disciples started.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Power to tell everywhere (Sign Post)

Children cut and stick on the arrows to build the verse.



Option 2: Elijah's story and ours (Reading Plan)

Each day children read a part of Elijah's story and see how it applies to them as they fill in the squares.

START →

Read 1 Kings 18:21 Elijah chose God even when others didn't.	I can follow God even when others don't.	I can show I follow God by...	Read 1 Kings 17:2-5 Elijah obeyed God's voice.
Each day read a part of Elijah's story and see how it applies to you too.			
I can be brave for God even when I'm nervous.	Read 1 Kings 18:1-2 Elijah was brave even when he was scared.	I think God wants me to...	
Read 1 Kings 17:6 Elijah trusted God to take care of him.	I can ask God to help me to...		
I can trust God to take care of me too.		I pray...	Read 1 Kings 18:37-39 Elijah helped people see who God really is.
I can show I trust God by...	Read 1 Kings 17:21-22 Elijah prayed and God answered.	I can pray, and God will hear me.	I can help others know who Jesus is.
			One person I want to tell about Jesus is...
			Read James 5:17-18 Elijah was an ordinary person, but God used him.
One way I want to be part of God's plan is	I'm part of God's big plan too.	Read 2 Kings 2:13-15 Elijah was part of God's big plan.	God wants to use me...
			God can use me too!