



3rd -5th

September 7-8, 2013

DATE

Elijah

LESSON TITLE

I Kings 17-19 (Pg. 401-405)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Showed Up to Elijah in Many Ways

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Pray with your team. It's a great idea to invite God into the hour that you serve in Kids' Club. It's totally cool if the kids see you praying about the hour. In fact, it sets a good example for them. So, gather your other volunteers for a few minutes when you all arrive and pray—it could be the most important thing you do to have a successful service in Kids' Club.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tell their parents how they plan to remember God loves them this week. It will add a layer of accountability!

large group heads up

Today is an overview of Elijah's life, including the time Elijah got discouraged. We see God's unbelievable power...and his loving gentleness in this story.



instructions

Goal: to identify character traits of God and recognize how God showed up for Elijah in different ways

Why? God has so many wonderful traits—and we need his love in different ways at different times. It's good to remember that he shows up when and how we need him

Tip: Kids may relate to different facets of today's story, which will cause them to answer questions differently (especially #5 and #6). That's OK. Allow for open discussion.

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one thing you did on the best day you've ever had.
2. *Give **each kid a post-it**. **Write** down one word to describe your favorite part of today's story. (Have each kid put their post-it in the middle and share.)

DIG DEEPER

3. How did God show up in Elijah's life? What kind of miracles did he do? (Ravens, oil and flour, raising the dead boy, bringing fire. Look at I Kings 17-18 if kids are stuck.)
4. Why did Elijah run away after God won the contest vs. Baal? (Queen Jezebel wanted to kill him)
5. Were you surprised when Elijah ran away from Queen Jezebel and got really sad? Why or why not?
6. If you could be Elijah for one part of today's story, which would it be and why?
7. Name one way *you've* seen God show up in your life. (*can be in big or little ways, on good days or bad! Start by sharing an example of God in your life*)

CHARACTER OF GOD ACTIVITY

Put the **sheet of paper with today's verse** in front of the kids. Read it aloud. **Psalm 86:15: But Lord, you are a God who is tender and kind. You are gracious. You are slow to get angry. You are faithful and full of love.** This verse describes God. But there are other ways to describe God too.

- Think about today's story.
- On a **post-it note**, kids should **write** down ONE other way they would describe God (can be one word or a phrase—or a picture).
- Then ask kids to share and stick the post-it near the sheet of paper in the center.
- Debrief on the next page:

(Continued on the following page)

DEBRIEF

- Have you guys ever forgotten that God is one of these things? Tell us about it.
- How do you remember things like homework, etc.? (example: write them on your hand, tie a string around your finger, put them in your phone, etc.)
- What could you do to remember who God is this week, whether you're having a good day...or a bad one? (Encourage kids to be specific. If they want to write something on their hand, give them a pen. If they want to tie a string around their finger or wrist, **cut off a little piece of string for them**. If there's something else you can help them do right now to remember, do it!)

***Pray together, thanking God for who he is. (Read the words off of your kids' poster!)**

Extra time? Break the kids into pairs. Then play charades using scenes from the story or words to describe God. Let kids act in pairs.

special notes

Today's script might take a little longer than usual. So make sure to start on time!

And if you think it's going too long, feel free to only sing one of the songs at the end.

presenter tips

The intro is designed to engage kids and help them relate to the idea of having great days...and not-so-great days. But don't spend much time on letting everybody share their best day. Kids will have a chance to share them in small groups.

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so happy to see you here today. Before we get started, I want you to imagine the **BEST** day of your life so far. What happened? What made it so great? **Turn to somebody next to you and tell them about the best day you've ever had.** (Let kids turn and tell a friend.)

Some days are pretty great, aren't they? (**Show picture of a birthday party.**) Raise your hand if you said your birthday or a friend's birthday has been the best day of your life. (Let kids raise hands.)

(**Show picture of swimming pool and a roller coaster.**) How about vacation or maybe just a fun day during the summer when you went to a water park or a pool or maybe got to ride a roller coaster? How many of you said that was the best day of your life? (Let kids raise hands.)

(**Show picture of video games.**) What about a day when nobody made you do anything? You could play video games all day or maybe just hang out with a friend or two. How many of you said that was the best day of your life? (Let kids respond.)

...Any other best days? (Let a couple of kids share or *insert your own kid-friendly story of a great day, if you have one! But don't spend too much time on this intro.*)

REGULAR OR BAD DAYS

Wow, those days were awesome, weren't they? But has anybody had a really *bad* day? A day when you just wanted it to end? You don't need to raise your hand, but most of us have had some pretty bad days, too. And you know what? God understands when we get sad. He's with us on the best days and on the most awful days.



script continued

ELIJAH SAW MIRACLES

Today, we're going to talk about a guy named Elijah who had some AMAZING experiences with God. Elijah was a prophet, which means he heard messages from God and shared them. And because he obeyed God even when it was hard, he saw a lot of amazing miracles. But even though he got to see God do incredible miracles just for him...he still got really sad. Let's take a look at the story of Elijah.

1. RAVENS DELIVERED FOOD TO ELIJAH

(Show picture of ravens.) For instance, one time, the King got REALLY mad because Elijah said there wouldn't be rain for three years, which meant all the king's crops would die and the people would have nothing to eat. In fact, the king was SO mad that God told Elijah to run away into the wilderness and hide. Elijah had nothing to eat out there, but God actually sent ravens to deliver meat and bread to Elijah every morning and night.

2. GOD REFILLED FLOUR AND OIL FOR A LADY WHO HELPED ELIJAH

(Hold up the container of flour.) Then God told Elijah to move into a town and get food from a lady who was a widow and lived alone with her son. When Elijah asked her for food, she said she only had enough flour and oil to make ONE more loaf of bread. Then she and her son would starve. She shared her food with Elijah anyway! ...and you know what? She NEVER ran out of flour or oil. God just kept refilling it as long as she needed it.

3. ELIJAH PRAYED AND RAISED A DEAD BOY TO LIFE

A few days later, the lady's son got really sick. Pretty soon, he died. Elijah prayed for the boy...and guess what? God brought him back to life!

4. GOD HELPED ELIJAH PROVE TO THE KING THAT GOD IS REAL

There's three great miracles right there, but that's not all. Elijah went back to the angry king three and a half years after hiding from him. He asked the king to meet him on top of a mountain. The king believed in a pretend god named Baal—and Elijah suggested they hold a little contest: Baal vs. GOD. Let's see what happened.

Video: Lego Elijah (4:30-7:18)

So who won that contest, Baal or God? (Let kids say: GOD.) As you can probably guess, Baal didn't start any fires...because fake gods *can't* start fires. The movie didn't show the actual fire, but GOD did bring a real fire to Elijah's altar, even after Elijah poured *water* all over it!

After that, huge crowds of people started worshiping God and believed that he was real! Then Elijah prayed for rain—and for the first time in 3 ½ years, it rained. Talk about an amazing day.

ELIJAH GETS SAD

But the queen, Jezebel, got really angry with Elijah, because Elijah had gotten rid of the prophets who worshiped Baal. And Jezebel was a cruel woman—not the kind of person you wanted to be mad at you. She had already *killed* many of God's prophets...and now she was planning to kill Elijah. But after God had just showed up like fire, do you think Elijah was scared of the queen? (Let kids guess.)



script continued

Well, he *was* actually... Even though he knew how strong God was. In fact, Elijah was SO afraid, that he ran away and hid. While he was hiding, he got really sad. He didn't want to do anything except sleep. So he went to sleep.

See, sometimes we forget that God loves us when things go wrong—or when people hate us. It's easy to forget that God's stronger than our problems. Throughout history, God's family has had BAD days—days so bad, they've forgotten that God loves them.

GOD'S RESPONSE

But let me tell you what God did when Elijah ran away and slept. It's pretty cool. God actually sent an angel to wake Elijah up and give him some bread and water. God very gently showed Elijah that he wasn't alone. Queen Jezebel was still mad at Elijah, but at least Elijah was reminded that GOD loved him. And that's what matters.

The good news is God loves all of us, too! Here's a verse from Psalm 86:15:

SLIDE: Psalm 86:15: But Lord, you are a God who is tender and kind. You are gracious. You are slow to get angry. You are faithful and full of love.

Elijah got to see how STRONG and POWERFUL God is. But he also got to feel God taking care of him gently, lovingly and patiently. He got to be reminded that God loves us on good days...and bad days.

WORSHIP

Let's stand and worship God to thank him for loving us so much! (Cut out one song if Large Group is running long.)

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Song: Come With Me

PRAY

Ask somebody to come thank God for giving us great days and being with us to help us get through bad days.



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Per small group:

- Adventure Bible (pg. 401-405)
- One poster with today's verse printed on it (can use 11x17 paper; jpeg of verse is in curriculum folder—need a fresh one per small group)

- 2 packs embroidery floss (any color)
- One pair of scissors
- Markers/Pens

Per kid:

- 2 post-its

large group supplies

1. Adventure Bible (pg. 401-405)
2. One flour container that is clearly empty but had flour in it

a/v needs

1. Slide with 1 image in corner: birthday party (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Slide with 3 images in 3 corners: (1) birthday party (again!), and (2) pool and (3) roller coaster (jpegs in curriculum folder)
3. Slide with 4 images in 4 corners: (1) birthday party, (2) pool, and (3) roller coaster (again!) and (4) video games (jpeg in curriculum folder)

4. Image: raven (jpeg in curriculum folder)
5. Video: Lego Elijah (4:30-7:18)
6. SLIDE: Psalm 86:15: But Lord, you are a God who is tender and kind. You are gracious. You are slow to get angry. You are faithful and full of love.
7. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions and lyrics)
8. Song: Come With Me (with hand motions and lyrics)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Elijah.
What's does Elijah's story reveal about God?

parent page

We looked at an overview of Elijah's story today—from the many miracles he witnessed...to the time he got completely discouraged. The cool part is, God showed up for Elijah in many different ways. And God does that for us too! Read Elijah's story in I Kings 17-19 and talk about what it reveals about God.