



3rd – 5th

September 19-20, 2015

DATE

Elijah

LESSON TITLE

I Kings 16-17; Philippians 4:13

WHERE TO FIND IT

God provides when we obey him.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (10 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

It can be nearly impossible to have a quality discussion in a room with “large” small groups. If you know your room will fill up, start asking the “Connect” questions (from Connect Time) as kids come into the room.

check-in/out

We talked about trusting and obeying this week. Encourage adults to ask kids about it.

large group heads up

Sometimes God asks us to do difficult things. But he will always provide for us when we obey him. This part of Elijah’s story is a time when God asked Elijah to do something difficult. Elijah made somebody (the king!) so angry that God actually told Elijah to run away and hide. That might seem strange but the cool part is, God was with Elijah the whole time.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

PRACTICING TRUST

**Split kids into small groups or play as a whole group. Play one or more of the following games to practice trust:*

- **Lean Walk:** Have kids choose a partner (who's a similar height, but pair up with a kid if there's an odd number). Have partners stand side by side, leaning on each other's shoulders. Choose a destination within the room and see if they can walk there and back while leaning on each other.
- **Human Spring:** Have pairs face each other with open palms stretched slightly forward. Then lean into one another simultaneously and break their respective falls as their hands meet in the middle. (Have kids start this really close together in case anybody falls.)
- **Off Balance:** Have partners come up with silly poses that they couldn't do alone, like standing on one foot while holding on to their partner's shoulders or having one kid put his/her hands on the floor while the other person holds his/her feet. See who can hold their "off-balance poses" the longest!
- **Human Camera:** Have one person close their eyes while the other person sits looking in the same direction. The person with closed eyes has 3 seconds to open his/her eyes and look at one object in their line of sight. Then, with eyes closed again, they must describe one thing they saw without stating its name. Their partner tries to guess it. Then switch.

CONNECT

- What does it mean to trust?
- Did you have to trust your partner? Why or why not?
- Tell me about a time you had to trust God.

Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recognize that Elijah obeyed God even though it was hard and (2) understand that God provided for Elijah

Why? This is an amazing story of God's provision. Hopefully kids will remember it the next time obeying God seems especially challenging.

Tip: As kids create ravens today, be intentional about talking to them about ways they plan to obey—and how that obedience may require trust.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

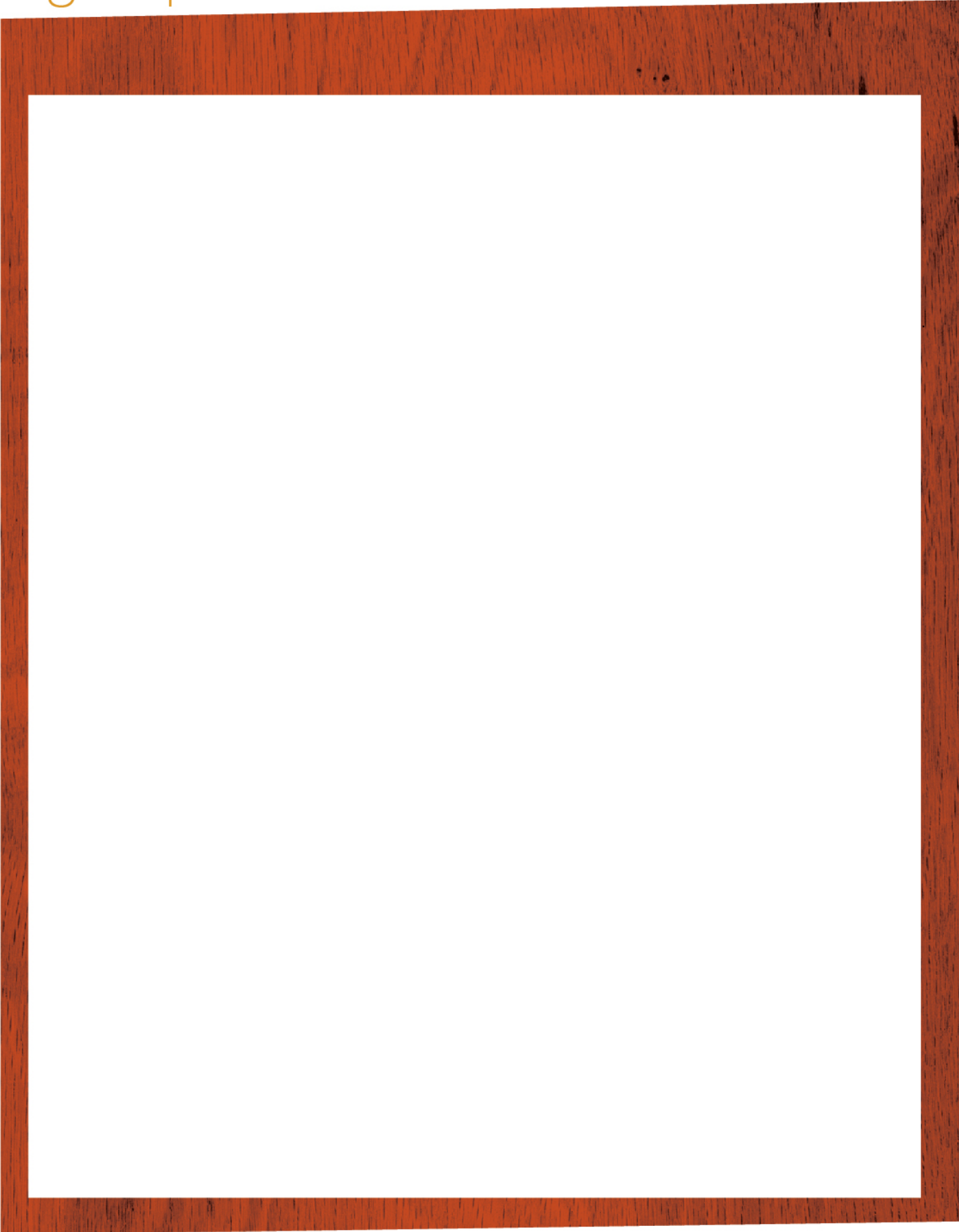
1. Why did the king get angry at Elijah? (Elijah told him God wasn't going to send any rain)
2. Where did Elijah go when they king got mad at him? (into the wilderness)
3. How did God take care of Elijah in the wilderness? (ravens brought him bread and meat)
4. For the next two questions, give kids **two ¼ sheets of paper**. Have kids write/draw the answer to each of the following questions, fold it up and put it in one of the **two paper bags** (label one "trust" and one "obey"):
 - a. When did Elijah **obey** God in today's story?
 - b. When did Elijah **trust** God in today's story?
5. Then play obey/trust Pictionary below!
 - a. Choose one kids to be "artist" first.
 - b. Let him/her choose from the trust or obey bag
 - c. On the corner of a large, tear-off sheet of paper, have him/her draw the example of trust or obedience.
 - d. The person who guesses first gets to be artist next (or, if some kids get multiple turns and others don't, just take turns).
 - e. (Play until it seems like you've covered most of the story.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give kids **two more ¼ sheets of paper**.
- Draw/write one way they will trust and one way they will obey. Then share.

***Pray together, asking God to help us obey him, no matter how hard it is.**

If you still have extra time, try your trust games again!



special notes

Prepare your personal story ahead of time (an example of one way you've trusted God).

presenter tips

When you set up the (fake) trust fall, feel free to adapt the exercise to fit your room. Just don't *really* try it. We don't want to risk an injury!

script

WELCOME AND INTRO (5 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here! We have a really cool story to talk about today. But first, let's talk about TRUST. What is trust? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's to fully believe in somebody or something, kind of like trusting a chair will hold you before sitting in it (for effect, you could sit in a chair on stage). Or trusting that a piece of cake will taste good before you eat it!

For fun, let's look at another example of trust. We're going to watch a short clip. In it, one guy gets into a lot of trouble. See if you think he can trust his friends:

Video: Ant and Anteaters

Can he? (Let kids respond.) Yep, you're right. They came to his rescue and were there for him when he needed them. That's what trustworthy friends do. Raise your hand if you trusted your partner in today's game (let kids respond). Why? (Let 1-2 kids share.) Raise your hand if you did NOT trust your partner this morning (let kids respond). Why? (Let 1-2 kids share.)

You know, sometimes people let us down. But there's someone who never stops loving us, wanting us, and protecting us. Can you guess who that is? (Let kids respond.) That's right, GOD. We can always trust him with our whole hearts. Does anybody want to share an example of a time you're trusted God with all of us? (Let kids share.) Wow, that's awesome. One time, I trusted God (*share a personal example of a time you did something hard, trusted God and saw him provide!*).

ELIJAH TRUSTED GOD (7 min.)

(click to show image of Elijah) Well today, we're going to hear about a guy named Elijah who trusted God. Now Elijah was what we call a prophet. Does anybody remember what it means to be a prophet? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it means you hear from God and share it.



script continued

Elijah was also from Israel, which means he was part of God's special family. The problem was, God's family wasn't following God anymore. King after king after king had started worshipping pretend gods instead of the real GOD. And when a king named Ahab was in charge, God gave Elijah some messages for him.

King Ahab and his wife Jezebel worshiped a pretend god called Baal. He was considered a storm god, which means Ahab and Jezebel—and lots of other people at that time—believed that rain for crops came from Baal. Who do you think *really* sends the rain though? (Let kids respond.) That's right, GOD. And God wanted Ahab and Jezebel to know that he was real and Baal was not. So Elijah told King Ahab that it wasn't going to rain anymore...not until Elijah asked the REAL God for rain.

Elijah knew King Ahab wouldn't want to hear this. But he trusted God to help him and told King Ahab anyway. We're going to watch a video to see what happened after that. As you watch, see if you can figure out what happened *after* Elijah told King Ahab that there would be no more rain.

Video: Elijah and the Ravens (4:10)

Wow, so when King Ahab heard the rain would stop, what happened? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he got *really* angry! In fact, he got so angry that God told Elijah to run away. Once Elijah was hiding in the wilderness, how did God take care of him? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he sent birds called ravens to give Elijah meat and bread. And he provided a brook full of delicious water!

ELIJAH TRUSTED (6 min.)

(click to show image of Elijah and Ahab) You know, there were lots of times that Elijah had to trust God: When Elijah got a message that he knew King Ahab wouldn't like, did he have to trust God? (Let kids say: yes.) Why? (Let a kid respond.)

(Click to show image of angry Ahab) When King Ahab was so angry with Elijah that he wanted to kill him, did he have to trust God? (Let kids say: yes.) Why? (Let a kid respond.)

(Click to show image of wilderness) When Elijah first got out to the wilderness and wondered how he'd eat and drink, did he have to trust God? (Let kids say: yes.) Why? (Let a kid respond.)

WE CAN TRUST GOD (4 min.)

There are a lot of times we need to trust God too. It can be hard though. Trusting God can feel different than sitting on a chair we can see in front of us. It can be more like taking a leap he wants us to take and trusting him to catch us. To imagine this, I need four volunteers (choose four kids and have them come up; then pair them up and have each pair grab hands. Have the pairs stand next to each other with hands extended, as if ready to catch somebody).

OK, now I've got a ladder in the back. I'm going to go grab it in a second, but first, I need somebody to volunteer to stand up on the ladder and fall backwards into their arms. It's called a



script continued

trust fall, and it's so that you can practice trust. Anybody want to volunteer? (Let kids respond; you can pretend the ladder is really tall or do whatever it takes to make this seem scary.) Raise your hand if you're willing to try it (let kids vote). Now raise your hand if there's no way you'd trust these guys (let kids vote). Why not? (Let a kids respond.)

Well, you guys can have a seat, because I was kidding about the ladder. We aren't really going to do a trust fall like that—we don't want anybody to get hurt in Kids' Club! And even though you guys (turn to the four) look pretty strong, there's a chance it wouldn't work...so you can go ahead and have a seat (let kids sit).

Here's the thing: people sometimes let us down. Sometimes our friends don't help us out. Sometimes people drop their friends in trust falls. But God *never* drops us. If we were at the top of the ladder and God told us to jump into his arms, it might be really scary, but we could trust that he would eventually catch us.

WHEN TO TRUST GOD (3 min.)

There are lots of times when we need to trust God in order to obey him. Maybe we hear somebody fighting and we're scared or don't know what to do. Maybe we give money to somebody in need even though we don't have much money ourselves. Maybe we know God wants us to be a friend to somebody we don't really like...

Whenever God asks us to do something hard, we can trust him. Remember the Bible verse we're learning this month is this:

SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

How about some motions? (Lead kids in saying it with the following motions):

- **Philippians 4:13** (hold up 4 fingers; then say "thirteen")
- **For I** (point to self)
- **can do everything** (extend palms outward)
- **through Christ,** (point up)
- **who gives me strength.** (flex muscles)

RESPOND AND PRAY (1 min.)

Great job! Now, let's think about one way God wants us to obey him. When you have it in your hand, put your hand on your heart (give kids a moment to think). It's sometimes hard to obey, but we can trust God with our whole hearts.

(Lead kids in prayer): Jesus, thank you that we can trust you. Thanks for always helping us to obey you, even when you ask us to do something scary or uncomfortable. We love you and want to obey you this week, like Elijah!

WORSHIP (6 min.)

Now let's worship God by telling him we will obey and follow him bravely, no matter what!



script continued

Music Video: Brave Ones

Music Video: Do Like You Do

**Dismiss kids to small groups*

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per Room
none

small group supplies

Per kid
Four ¼ sheets of paper pieces of paper

Per group
Markers
1 Bible
2 paper bags

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Ant and Anteaters (0:26-0:50 of this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9j3-ghRjBs>)
3. Image: Elijah
4. Slide: Night sky image with sounds
5. Video: Elijah and the Ravens (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akoBYiggHxY>)
6. Image: Elijah and Ahab
7. Image: Angry Ahab
8. Image: Wilderness
9. SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do

- everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
10. Music Video: Brave Ones (<https://vimeo.com/126214265>)
 11. Music Video: Do Like You Do (<https://vimeo.com/108496105>)

connect questions

Tell me about Elijah.
How can we trust and obey God?

parent page