

Lesson 4 - The Elijah Anointing - Ages 8 to 9 years

Teacher's preparation:

Read: **1 Kings 17 and Malachi 4:5-6**

Elijah was a prophet of God; a prophet is someone who brings messages from God so we will know what God wants us to do.

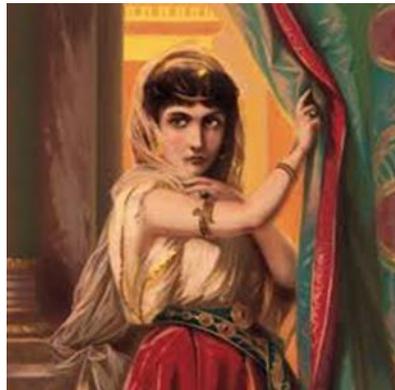
Elijah loved and feared the Lord. He was always obedient to what the Lord asked him to do.

Here we see a picture of Elijah.



Elijah lived in Israel. There was a king who ruled over Israel at that time. His name was Ahab and his wife's name was Jezebel. King Ahab was a very evil king who did not worship the Lord but instead he worshipped other Gods. The Lord was not pleased with this because he led God's people astray.

Here we see a picture of the evil King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel.



King Ahab and his people worshipped a false God called Baal who was the weather God. He believed that he was successful in the land of Israel because his God blessed him.

This is a picture of the false God Baal.



Elijah brought a message from God for King Ahab. The Lord told Elijah to tell King Ahab that there will be no rain or dew over the next few years except when Elijah prayed for it.

Here we see a picture of Elijah delivering the message from God to King Ahab.



Ahab did not believe Elijah. He believed that his God Baal would be able to send rain whenever the people prayed. God was not pleased with the people because they believed in Baal.

After Elijah told King Ahab what was going to happen, the Lord then instructed Elijah to leave that place and hide in a cave. God did this to protect Elijah from being killed.

Here we see Elijah running away as The Lord instructed him.



And here we see him hiding in a cave.



The Lord took care of Elijah because of his obedience. God used a bird called a raven to bring Elijah bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.

Here we see pictures of Elijah being fed by the ravens.



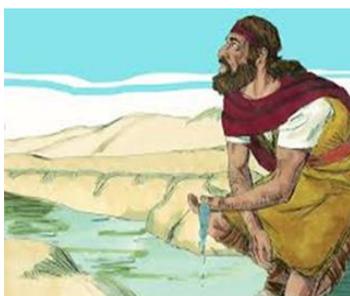
What is a Raven? A Raven is a type of bird which is a vulture that feeds on the flesh of dead animals and insects. Even though this is an unclean bird, God still used it to supply food to his servant Elijah. This shows us what a faithful God we serve.

When we as children of God are obedient to what God asks us to do, He will supply all our needs. God did not let Elijah go hungry.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19. "God Will Supply All Our Needs"

After this God told Elijah to go to the brook called Cherith.

Here we see Elijah at the brook drinking water.



God told Elijah that there would be no rain. That means there would be no water to drink or food to eat. This is called a drought.

This is what happens when there is a drought - the land becomes dry and animals die because they have no water to drink or food to eat.



After some time had passed, the brook dried up because there was no rain. God then instructed Elijah to go to a place called Zarephath where he met a widow who was picking up sticks.

Here we see Elijah meeting the widow who recognized him as a prophet of God.



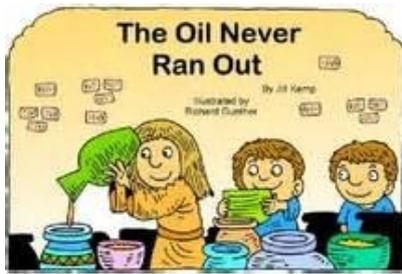
Elijah first asked the widow for some water to drink. Thereafter he asked her for some bread.

She told him that she did not have bread but only a handful of flour and a little oil. He then told her to bake him a small cake and thereafter to make some for herself and her son.

Here we see the widow baking the cake for Elijah.



When she obeyed him, he promised her that she would not be short of anything.



While Elijah was living in the widow's home her son fell ill, and he passed away.

Here we see the widow asking Elijah for help.



Here we see Elijah crying out to the Lord for the boy to live again.



The Lord heard Elijah's prayer and the boy came back to life. The woman was very happy and she thanked Elijah. She told Elijah that she believed that the Lord was with him and whatever he said was true.

Here we see that the woman became very happy because her son lived.



Over three years had gone by without a drop of water. Animals started to die because they had no water or food.

Here we see animals that were dying.



The Lord spoke to Elijah and told him to go back to King Ahab and He will send rain. So Elijah listened to the Lord once again and went to find King Ahab.

Thereafter Elijah summoned the people and gathered the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah told the people that they cannot serve two Gods. They would have to choose one or the other.

He said there would be a contest that would prove who the true God was.

Both the prophets of Baal and Elijah would present their sacrifices.

Here we see the prophets prepared their altar and prayed to their God Baal.



Elijah prepared his altar and called on the name of the Lord.

Here we see a picture of Elijah calling on the name of the Lord.



Everyone especially the prophets of Baal waited to see what would happen.



But The Lord did not let Elijah down. He answered just as Elijah prayed and trusted in Him.

Here we see how The Lord answered from heaven with fire and consumed Elijah's sacrifice.



The people became very fearful because they knew they were rebellious. When they saw God's amazing power, they all fell down flat with their faces toward the ground and cried out: **"The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!"**

They had seen that Baal could do nothing, but only the Lord heard and answered Elijah's prayer.

God sent Elijah to show the people that his God was more powerful than their God and that they should be worshipping God not Baal.

God was looking to turn the hearts of His people back to Himself. He used a time of drought to get their attention and then, through His prophet Elijah, He performed a miracle right before their eyes. No one who witnessed that event doubted that the Lord was God.

After this the prophets of Baal were killed at Elijah's command and God sent rain to end the drought.

Queen Jezebel was very upset about this and she threatened that she would take revenge on Elijah and wanted to kill him.

Here we see Queen Jezebel very upset and wanting to kill Elijah.



But you see children God was not going to let that happen, for Elijah's task was not yet over.

God once again intervened and sent an angel to Elijah with food and water. This was done so that Elijah would be well nourished and strengthened for what God wanted him to still do.

Elijah was forced to flee to the desert and after travelling forty days and forty nights; he eventually arrived at Mount Horeb which was the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Here God gave Elijah more instructions to follow. One was to anoint Elisha as the prophet who would take his place.

Here we see Elijah placing the mantle upon Elisha.



God chose Elisha to follow Elijah and they became good friends. Elisha served Elijah faithfully.

But one day, Elijah told Elisha that God was sending him away and that Elisha had to remain, but Elisha refused to leave his friend. **Here we see Elisha following Elijah wherever he went.**



Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him before he left and Elisha said he wanted a double portion of Elijah's anointing. This means that he wanted a double portion of the spirit that Elijah was carrying.

Elijah did not die. A chariot of fire swept down from heaven and took Elijah away in a whirlwind. Elisha was the only one who witnessed this event and he took up Elijah's mantle which fell from him as he ascended. This mantle was the anointing that Elisha received from Elijah.

Here we see Elijah's mantle falling onto Elisha.



After this, God answered Elisha's request, and like his friend, Elisha became a powerful prophet as well.

When Elisha asked for twice as much of Elijah's power, he was asking to be the one who would carry on doing Elijah's work as a leader of prophets.

Elisha did not want to be better than Elijah for any selfish reasons. All he wanted was to do great things for God. God granted Elisha's request. During his lifetime, Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah.

When we ask God for success, fame, power, or ability, we should look closely at our reasons for asking. As long as we are asking to glorify and serve God, we will be surprised as He often answers in ways we might not understand.

In order for Elisha to receive this anointing he had to leave, follow and serve Elijah.

What did Elisha have to leave? Elisha had to leave his father and mother and all his belongings and disconnect himself from his past to move forward.

He followed by running after Elijah. This shows his desire to serve Elijah.

Elisha served Elijah as a true servant. You can only serve this anointing through prayer, giving, sacrifice and obedience.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THIS STORY.

1. God will take care of us as long as our faith and trust is in Him.

The bible tells us in:

Hebrews 13:5 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'.

Hebrews 12:2 'Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith'.

This means that our eyes must be fixed on Him at all times.

God took care of Elijah because he was faithful and obedient to God's instructions every time God spoke to him. God wanted His people to trust Him and to turn to Him whenever they needed anything. They had to believe that God would provide for them.

He used a time of drought to get their attention and through His prophet Elijah; He performed a miracle right before their eyes. Everyone who witnessed this miracle knew that the Lord was God.

2. We must belong to a church where there is a spiritual father who continually feeds us the Word of God so that we will grow spiritually and become sons of God in the house.

In our story we learnt about Elijah and Ahab. What is the difference between these 2 people in our story?

Elijah came to turn the hearts of the fathers to the son and hearts of the son to the father. This means that this anointing comes to bring the leader of the church and the congregation into a father son relationship.

A father nurtures and guides his sons. He continually feeds his sons the Word of God so that they may become strong believers.

Ahab on the other hand does not have a father spirit but an 'uncle' spirit. Uncles cannot produce sons only fathers can.

3. If we desire the Elijah anointing, we have to leave, follow and serve an accurate man of God that carries this anointing.

How do we do this?

Be like Elisha. In order to receive this anointing it is important to do as Elisha had done. That was he had to **leave** what was important to him and he had to **follow** and **serve** Elijah. One has to leave the old habits so that we can walk into the new things of what God has purposed for our lives.