

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 20
Elijah (I Kings 19:1-13)

Theme: Heroes

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The word "prophet" usually means "one who foretells or predicts." But here a more accurate meaning would be "one who speaks for, or on behalf of, another." The prophets spoke for the Lord Jehovah.
- B. The prophets showed Israel how they had wandered away from God. In the spiritual sense this part of the Word teaches us how we separate ourselves from the Lord and thus bring misery upon ourselves, and how we can find our way back to God.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. The children of Israel had different kinds of leaders at different times. One kind of leader was a *prophet*. The prophets followed the Lord, and told the rest of the people how to follow the Lord.
- 2. Today we will learn a story about one of the prophets, whose name was *Elijah*.
- 3. The Lord told Elijah to remind the Children of Israel to follow the Lord. The rulers at that time were Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel did not want to follow the Lord.
- 4. Ahab and Jezebel didn't want to hear about the Lord from Elijah. She told Elijah to stop bothering them, or they would kill him. He was afraid of Jezebel and Ahab so he ran away.
- 5. He ran into the desert. This is where our story begins....

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. I Kings 19: 1-13
- 2. Read this ahead of time so you can paraphrase, or just read some of the sections. It is a long story. You could also act out the story while you read it, or read it through twice and act it out the second time. (See Activity section below.)

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. What is the name of the prophet that we read about today? (Elijah) Did Elijah want to follow the Lord? (yes)
- 2. What were the names of the wicked rulers at that time? (Ahab and Jezebel) Did Ahab and Jezebel want to follow the Lord? (no)
- 3. Why was Elijah afraid of Ahab and Jezebel? (They said they would kill him if he didn't stop bothering them, and telling them to follow the Lord) So what did Elijah do? (he ran away)
- 4. Where did he run? (to the desert) Where did he lie down in the desert? (under a tree)

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5. When he fell asleep, who woke him up? (an angel) What did the angel say to him? (arise and eat) What did he eat? (bread and water)
6. Then Elijah went back to sleep. Then what happened? (the angel woke him again)
7. Then what did he do? (The angel told him to eat again, because he had to go on a big journey)
8. Then Elijah needed strength and wisdom from the Lord. He was standing on a mountain. Then three things came by. What were they? (a strong wind, an earthquake, and fire)
9. But the Lord was not in any of these things. Then the Lord did come to him. How did the Lord come to him? (in a still small voice)

D. Further Ideas

1. After the Lord came to Elijah in the still small voice, Elijah was brave enough to go back and tell people to follow the Lord again. He helped to get new kings, and a new prophet for the Lord.
2. Sometimes we feel like the prophet Elijah did. We sometimes feel afraid to do what the Lord wants us to, or say what the Lord wants us to.
3. But the Lord can send his angels to us. He can give us strength like the food for Elijah.
4. The Lord can also comfort us, and give us wisdom, like He came to Elijah in the still small voice.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. *Lori's Songs*: "The Still Small Voice," (tape 3, side B, song 6)

B. Activities

1. Act out the story.
 - a. Use adults or teens to be Elijah, the angel, and a narrator. Preschoolers act out the wind (wave arms and blow), the earthquake (drum on the floor with hands), and the fire (wave red, orange, yellow scarves or pieces of tissue paper).

C. Project

1. Prophet costume
 - a. Before class, cut head and arm holes in brown paper grocery bags.
 - b. In class, the children can "decorate" their costumes with brown and gray and black markers, and cut fringe at the bottom. The prophets wore very plain clothes, so tell the children that there wouldn't be any color at all on their garments.
 - c. Write on back of garment: "I can be a servant of the Lord just as Elijah was. "

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2. Bread and water
 - a. Before class prepare a small batch of bread dough.
 - b. In class give each child a small amount of dough to knead and shape into a small loaf.
 - c. Bake bread in church kitchen.
 - d. Give each child a container of any kind to fill with a small amount of water.
 - e. Put bread in baggies with a text slip: "Strengthened by that food, Elijah traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God."

3. The Still Small Voice
 - a. Give the children a big piece of construction paper, and let them draw wind, fire, and earthquake. To get them thinking, you could ask them what would these big fierce things feel like? What colors would we use for wind? For fire? For earthquake? Encourage them to cover the whole page.
 - b. Then give them a small piece of white paper with the words "a still small voice" written on it. They can glue this over top of all the fierce things, because the still small voice is really more powerful, because the Lord was in it. They could decorate this "small voice" with glitter or yellow marker to show that the Lord is there.
 - c. Text slip at bottom: "And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore through the mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind was an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake was a fire? But the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire was a still small voice, ...saying, "Elijah, why are you here?" (I Kings 19: 11-13.)"

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Bread and water
- B. Sample projects

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

AND BEHOLD, THE LORD PASSED BY, AND A GREAT AND STRONG WIND TORE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, AND BROKE THE ROCKS IN PIECES; BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE WIND: AND AFTER THE WIND WAS AN EARTHQUAKE; BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE EARTHQUAKE: AND AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE WAS A FIRE; BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE FIRE: AND AFTER THE FIRE WAS A STILL SMALL VOICE.... SAYING, 'ELIJAH WHY ARE YOU HERE?'
(1 KINGS 19: 11-13.)

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