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FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Key Passage:

"I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols." (Isaiah 42:8)

Big Picture Question:

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Lesson:

This week, we're going to review our lessons on Elijah and Elisha.

After King Solomon died, the tribes of Israel split into two kingdoms— the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The two kingdoms were frequently at war with each other and both were often led by evil kings. For years, God sent prophets to warn His people about the consequences their sin would bring. Ahab was the king of Israel when the prophet Elijah came to him. The name Elijah means "My God is Yahweh."

Elijah gave Ahab this message: "There will be no dew or rain for the next few years unless I command it. This will certainly happen."

Then God told Elijah to go to a small village. God said a widow in the town would provide for Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. When Elijah got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering wood. Elijah asked the woman for some water and bread.

But the woman told Elijah, "I don't have bread. I only have a little bit of flour and oil." The woman and her son were planning to eat one more meal before they died from hunger. "Don't be afraid," Elijah said. "Go and prepare the meal, but first bring me a small loaf of bread. Then make some for yourself and your son. God says you will not run out of flour or oil until rain comes again." So the woman prepared the meal. She, Elijah, and everyone in her household had enough to eat, and she did not run out of flour or oil just like the Lord had said.

Some time later, the woman's son got sick and he stopped breathing. Elijah took the boy upstairs and laid him on the bed. He cried out to God, stretched himself out over the boy three times, and cried out to God again. "Lord my God, please let this boy live again!" Elijah prayed. The Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy's life came into him again.

No rain fell in the land of Israel for three years. God was punishing the people for turning away from Him to worship false gods. God told Elijah to go to Ahab, the king of Israel. So Elijah obeyed God. Elijah told the king, "Meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring the people of Israel and the prophets who worship false gods."

Elijah set up a challenge to show who is the one true God. The prophets of the false god Baal set up an altar first and put a bull on it. Elijah said, "Call to Baal and ask him to send fire to your altar. I will call on the Lord. The God who answers by sending fire is the one true God."

The prophets of Baal danced and cried out for hours. "Answer us!" they said. But no one answered. Then the people gathered around Elijah. He set up an altar with a bull on it. Elijah told the people to pour water on the altar so everything was wet. Then Elijah prayed: "Lord, answer me so that these people will know that You, Lord, are God."

God sent fire from the sky. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust! It dried up the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done. Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah, so Elijah fled into the wilderness. He walked to Mount Horeb. At the mountain, God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him to not give up.

God told the prophet Elijah (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). Elisha would be a prophet to Israel after Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. He found Elisha plowing a field, and Elisha followed Elijah and served him.

The two of them went together to the Jordan River. A crowd of prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood by the river. Elijah rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The river parted, and they crossed to the other side.

Elijah asked, "Is there anything I can do for you before I go?" Elisha said, "I want a double portion of the spirit that you have." Elijah said, "If you see me go, you will have it."

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha watched as Elijah went away. Then he picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to the river. He hit the water, and it parted for him to cross to the other side just as it had for Elijah.

The crowd of prophets was there watching, and they saw that the spirit that was with Elijah was now with Elisha. The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him since God had taken him up to heaven.

After Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha continued Elijah's work as a prophet to Israel. At that time, the king of Aram was at war with Israel. The king planned to set up camp for his army at a certain place. Elisha sent messages to the king of Israel, warning him about the army's location.

When the king of Aram found out that his plans had been discovered, he thought one of his own soldiers had told the king of Israel where they were staying. But the soldiers said, "We didn't tell! It was Elisha, the prophet in Israel. He knows what you say, even when you say it in secret."

The king of Aram heard that Elisha was in the city of Dothan. That night, he sent horses, chariots, and a large army to surround the city. Elisha's servant got up early the next morning and saw the army surrounding them. "What are we going to do?" he asked Elisha.

Elisha said, "Don't be afraid. Our army outnumbers their army." The servant was confused. He only saw the Aramean (ar uh MEE uhn) army. Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, open my servant's eyes and let him see." So God opened the servant's eyes, and he saw horses and chariots of fire—the army of the Lord!—covering the mountain.

Then Elisha prayed for God to close the eyes of the Aramean army. God did, and they were blind. "You're in the wrong city," Elisha told the army. He led them away to Samaria. Then he prayed for God to open their eyes, and God did. Elisha told the king of Israel to give them food and water. Then the king sent them home. That army did not come into Israel again.

Christ Connection:

Elijah believed God's words and obeyed. God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow's son. Elijah's miracles proved that he was a prophet of the one true God.

Many years later, God miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is even greater than Elijah. Jesus' miracles proved that He is God the Son.

All of God's promises come true in Jesus. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him. We can trust that Jesus loves us and has a plan to use our lives to point other people to Him so they can know His love too.

The people who worshiped the false god Baal danced and cried out for hours to show that they loved Baal but Baal did not answer. The false god also had no power.

But the one true God is not like the false gods. We do not have to work hard to show God we love Him. Instead, He showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him. God—the only one true God—has power to help his people and to save them!

God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.

God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so he could see God's protection. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth as the visible image of our invisible God. God's protection from sin and death is given to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What did God do through Elijah for the widow and her son? *Provided abundant flour and oil and raised the son from the dead.*
2. What are some ways God has provided for you or your family? *Guide your kids to discuss the various ways God provides for people. Remind them that even the more "normal" kinds of provisions are from God, such as their homes, their food, their friends, and their lives. All good things are blessings from God.*
3. What was God's ultimate provision for people? *Guide your kids to see that we are all born in sin. Our greatest need is salvation, and God has provided the only way to be saved from sin through Jesus' death and resurrection. When we trust in Him, He removes our sin and gives us His righteousness. This is the most miraculous provision of all.*
4. What challenge did Elijah give to the prophets of Baal? *Whichever God sent fire to the alter is the one true God.*

5. What did God's fire burn up? *Everything: the offering, wood, altar, and water*
6. How do you think we can help other people see that God is the one true God? *Guide kids to see that Elijah received specific instructions from God. It would not be wise for us to try to "test" God. Instead, we can tell people about Jesus and help them understand the Bible in order to show that God is the one true God.*
7. What did Elisha ask for before Elijah went to heaven? *A double portion of the spirit Elijah had*
8. Whose power and spirit did Elisha really receive? *Discuss the source of Elijah's power. Remind the kids that the miracles Elijah performed happened by God's power. When Elisha received that power after Elijah, God was now working through Elisha as He had through Elijah.*
9. What do you think are some ways we may be "blind" to what God is doing around us? *Guide your kids to think about the ways we allow ourselves to be distracted by the world. We often focus on ourselves and the circumstances we face instead of on God and His power to help us.*
10. How do you think Jesus shows us what God is like? *Guide your kids to see that, although God the Father does not have a physical body the way Jesus does, Jesus shows us the Father's power, love, mercy, grace, and holiness. Jesus perfectly obeyed God and perfectly communicated God's plans for the world. Jesus is God the Son.*

Suggested Activity:

Today, we're going to use stones to remember that our God is the one true God.

Find 6 stones large enough to write a Bible reference on then write the following references on them: Romans 1:23–24; Psalm 135:15–17; 1 Kings 18:39; Isaiah 42:8; Exodus 20:3–4; Isaiah 44:6. Put the stones in a paper bag. Remind kids that Elijah and the prophets of Baal used rocks to build altars as part of the challenge to prove who is the one true God. Have your children pull one stone at a time from the bag and look up the reference in their bibles. Continue until you have read all the verses.

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship. God showed His love for us by sending His Son. Jesus died to rescue us from sin, and He hears us when we cry out to Him. Ultimately, He deserves our worship because He is the one true God. Only He created us, and only He sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue us from sin. In Him, we have all we need.

You can then provide additional stones for your kids and encourage them to use markers to write on their stone the phrase "The Lord, He is God!"

Family Worship:

Listen to a song from the [CBC Kids Scripture Songs album](#) on Spotify or iTunes.

["King of Everything"](#) by Austin Stone Worship

["You Cannot Be Stopped"](#) by Phil Wickham & Chris Quilala

You can also listen to the ["Cultivate Unity, Celebrate Diversity" playlist](#) created by Gardner on Spotify.