

Family Lesson 39

Principle: Having faith. Calling out to God.

Bible Character(s): Elijah

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 19

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the short [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Can anyone remember what we learned about last week? What did we read about Elijah and the prophets of Baal? (We saw Elijah stand up in faith against King Ahab and all of the prophets of Baal.) **What did Elijah do to stand up against them?** (Elijah was the only prophet still following the one true God, and he wanted to prove that his God was the one true God.) **Did Elijah depend on and trust in God?** (He was strong and courageous as he stood up for the Lord, trusting that God would be faithful to help him. God proved faithful and sovereign by showing his power over Baal.)

We're going to continue reading about Elijah today to see what happened after he faced off against King Ahab and all of the prophets of Baal. King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and now Queen Jezebel wants Elijah dead.

Let's begin by reading the Bible in 1 Kings 19 to see what happens.

1 Kings 19:3-4

³ Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. ⁴ Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died."

Elijah was afraid and discouraged. Do you ever feel that way? (Allow responses.) **What happens when you feel afraid and discouraged? How do you act or what do you do?** (Allow responses.) **It's very easy to just want to give up on everything. It can be hard to trust God when we feel like a failure. Elijah was having a hard time trusting God or keeping his eyes on God.**

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how God responded to Elijah.

1 Kings 19:5-6

⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" ⁶ He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again.

God understood that Elijah was afraid and discouraged. He did not get angry, but he had mercy on Elijah. God sent an angel who gave him food and water because he loved Elijah. Let's continue reading the Bible to hear about the angel's visit.

I Kings 19:7-13

⁷ Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, “Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you.”⁸ So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God.⁹ There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the Lord said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ Elijah replied, “I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

¹¹ “Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.¹² And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Are you surprised that the Lord talked to Elijah in a gentle whisper? (Allow responses.) He did not speak in the powerful things he displayed like the earthquake or the fire. God is all-powerful, but sometimes he reveals himself in the smaller things, like a whisper. It is important for us to be aware of how God is speaking to us, whether through a big, powerful event or with a whisper.

Elijah responded to God by claiming that although he had been very zealous, or passionate, for

God, the Israelites had rejected God and wanted Elijah dead. God gave Elijah clear directions on what to do, and he gave him Elisha as a special friend and helper. God told Elijah four things: 1) to return the way he came, to the Desert of Damascus; 2) to anoint Hazael king over Aram; 3) to anoint Jehu king over Israel; and 4) that Elisha would succeed him as prophet.

Let’s read the Bible to hear more about that now in 1 Kings 19.

I Kings 19:19-21

¹⁹ So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away.²⁰ Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!”

Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.”

²¹ So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

God created us to be in community and to be relationally connected with others. He does not want us to go through life alone. He provided Elijah with a friend who could support and encourage him. He also provides each of us with people who can love and support us. Your family is one source of community because we are here to help you grow closer to God, to be there in times of need, to encourage you, and to pray for you. What are some other sources of community in your life? (Allow responses.)

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you recognize his presence in your life and to help you always depend on and trust in him. He is with you always, and you do not need to be afraid or discouraged.

Activity

Times of Struggle

The purpose is for the campers to remember to focus on God instead of focusing on themselves in times of struggle.

Supplies:

[Worksheet](#) – “Having Faith” (found on the Kids Resource Page)

Pens/pencils

Help your child choose the correct word from the list at the bottom to fill in the blanks for each step.

When we struggle, God wants us to remember to stay focused on him. Sometimes we feel discouraged. We may feel like a failure. We cannot always trust these emotional feelings. We need to look at the truth of God’s Word instead of focusing on ourselves and the way we feel. All of the steps on your postcard point to God. He wants you to keep your eyes on him, have faith that you are not alone, trust that he has a plan, and ask for a friend to help you stay on the right track. The last reminder says for us to ask God for a friend to help you. God provided Elijah with a helper.

Optional Additional Activity

Connecting with Others

Supplies:

3 strands tied together of leather, yarn, ribbon, or string

1 strand of leather, yarn, ribbon or string

Have your child tie a knot to hold the strands of leather, yarn, ribbon, or string to hold them together. Now, read Ecclesiastes 4:12 and use the strands to demonstrate the point. Have your child pull the individual strand of leather, yarn, ribbon, or string until it breaks. Show how much stronger the three strands are when they are tied together.

It is easy to see that three strands are much harder to break than one. God wants us to be connected to other people who believe in him. We can encourage, help, and support one another. God gives us friendships and family. He calls us to love and support one another. We can help each other stay on the right track and encourage one another to focus on Christ and not ourselves.

