

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Elijah and the Baal Prophets

1 Kings 18 - 20

### Opening

Gathering: Give an example of someone who stood up for God against many.

Today's Focus: Elijah followed God's call to show others that Yahweh is the one & only God, even at great risk to himself.

Key Verses: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:5-6

*It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.* Matthew 4:10

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Last Week - *God Feeds Elijah* (1 Kings 15-17)

What great sin did Jeroboam begin and all other northern kings follow?

1 Kings 12:26-33

How did God punish Jeroboam for this evil?

1 Kings 14:8-11

How would God punish the people of Israel for their part in this great sin?

1 Kings 14:15-16

Who was the most evil king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:30

How evil was he?

1 Kings 16:31-33

What were Baal and Asherah?

Every pagan locality had its own *Baal (lord)*

Shrines to Baals were built on *high places* in the area

Baal of Sidon (Phoenicia) was brought to Israel by Jezebel

Controlled rainfall & fire - Critical to agricultural society

Was happy & gave rain when he mated with his wife Asherah

Temple sex induced Baal & Asherah to mate so it would rain

Sacrifices included children under extraordinary conditions

Priests would dance around altar and slash selves with knives

What did *Elijah's* name mean and why was it significant?

1 Kings 18:39

How would God use Elijah to prove He is God of the rain and all creation?

1 Kings 17:1

What miracles did God produce through Elijah in our lesson last week?

1 Kings 17:5-6

1 Kings 17:15-16

1 Kings 17:21-22

What was the reason that God produced these miracles?

1 Kings 17:24

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### Three Years Later (1 Kings 18:1-6)

- What prompted Elijah to return to Ahab and stop the drought?  
1 Kings 18:1-2
- Who was Obadiah and what had he done out of faithfulness?  
1 Kings 18:3-4
- What task was Obadiah given that took him outside the palace?  
1 Kings 18:5-6

### Elijah Meets Faithful Obadiah (1 Kings 18:7-18)

- Who did Obadiah run into during his search for grazing land?  
1 Kings 18:7-8
- Why didn't Obadiah want to tell Ahab that he found Elijah?  
1 Kings 18:9, 11-12
- How anxiously had Ahab wanted to find Elijah to end the drought?  
1 Kings 18:10
- What reason did Obadiah give to convince Elijah not to make him tell Ahab?  
1 Kings 18:13-14
- How did Elijah respond to Obadiah's concern and did Obadiah trust him?  
1 Kings 18:15-16
- How was Elijah greeted and how did he use this to explain the real problem?  
1 Kings 18:17-18

### The Question (1 Kings 18:19-21)

- What did Elijah want Ahab to do before he would end the drought?  
1 Kings 18:19-20
- What question did Elijah present to the people before ending the drought?  
1 Kings 18:21
- What point was Elijah making that Jesus later repeated?  
Matthew 6:24
- Was this concept of serving only one god new to the Israelites?  
Joshua 24:14-15

### The Challenge (1 Kings 18:22-29)

- What challenge did Elijah propose to help the people decide which was the real God?  
1 Kings 18:22-24
- How successful were the many Baal prophets?  
1 Kings 18:25-26
- How did Elijah emphasize Baal's impotence to the people?  
1 Kings 18:27
- Did they follow Elijah's advice and did Baal finally respond?  
1 Kings 18:28-29

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### The Lord is God! (1 Kings 18:30-40)

What was significant about the altar that Elijah built?

1 Kings 18:30-32

How did Elijah show the people that only God could light the sacrifice?

1 Kings 18:33-35

How much yelling, dancing and beating did Elijah need to get God's attention?

1 Kings 18:36-38

What decision did the people make after watching the day's contest?

1 Kings 18:39-40

### The Drought Ends (1 Kings 18:41-46)

How did Ahab and Elijah respond to the events after a day without eating?

1 Kings 18:41-43

How did God answer Elijah's prayers?

1 Kings 18:44-45

Who was waiting for Ahab when his chariot reached Jezreel?

1 Kings 18:46

### Elijah's Reward for Ending the Drought (1 Kings 19:1-4)

How did Jezebel respond to Ahab's news of Elijah returning Israel to God?

1 Kings 19:1-2

Did Elijah stand up in faith to Jezebel?

1 Kings 19:3-4

### God Sustains Elijah (1 Kings 19:5-10)

How did God respond to Elijah's request?

1 Kings 19:5-7

Where did Elijah go and how long did it take him to get there?

1 Kings 19:8

What reason did Elijah give God for coming to see Him?

1 Kings 19:9-10

### God Appears to Elijah on Mount Sinai (1 Kings 19)

How did God reveal Himself to Elijah and why?

1 Kings 19:11-12

How did Elijah respond to the presence of God?

1 Kings 19:13

What instructions did God give Elijah?

1 Kings 19:15-16

What purpose did God have for these new servants?

1 Kings 19:17

Did God agree with Elijah that he was the only faithful left in Israel?

1 Kings 19:18 (Romans 11:2-5)

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Before Hazael (*1 Kings 20:1-22*)

- Who was the king of Aram (Syria) at this time and what was Aram's relationship with Israel?  
1 Kings 20:1
- How did Ahab respond to Ben-Hadad's demands to turn over everything of value?  
1 Kings 20:9-11 (2-12)
- Was God punishing Ahab for his unfaithfulness?  
1 Kings 20:13
- What happened when Ahab initiated the battle as the prophet instructed him?  
1 Kings 20:19-20 (14-21)
- Did this battle eliminate the Aramean threat?  
1 Kings 20:22

The Next Year (*1 Kings 20:23-34*)

- How had Ben-Hadad changed his strategy for fighting the Israelites the next year?  
1 Kings 20:23 (23-28)
- Were the Israelites easy to defeat on the plains as Ben-Hadad's advisors had told him?  
1 Kings 20:29-30
- Did Ahab kill Ben-Hadad now that he had him trapped?  
1 Kings 20:32, 34 (31-34)

Him or You (*1 Kings 20:35-43*)

- How did God get word to Ahab that he had done wrong by letting Ben-Hadad go?  
1 Kings 20:37-38 (35-38)
- Why did the prophet put on this disguise?  
1 Kings 20:39-40
- How had Ahab pronounced his own judgement?  
1 Kings 20:41-42
- How did Ahab end up dying a few years later?  
1 Kings 22:31, 34, 37

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I stood up for others at risk to myself?  
(1 Kings 18:4; Esther 4:10-16; Hebrews 11:31; John 15:13; 18:7-9; Romans 9:2-5)
2. When have I stood up for my faith at risk to myself?  
(1 Kings 18:13; Matthew 10; John 15:18-21; Acts 8:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1)
3. How have I tried to serve more than one god?  
(1 Kings 18:21; Deuteronomy 5:7; 6:4; Matthew 6:24; Revelation 3:15-16)
4. How have I tried to manipulate God to do what I wanted?  
(1 Kings 18:27-29; Job 38-42; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 9:14-20)
5. When have I felt alone in my faith?  
(1 Kings 19:10; Romans 11:1-6; 3:9-20; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:1-4)