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
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
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)
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)