

Bible Stories for Adults

Elijah Goes to Heaven

1 Kings 21 - 2 Kings 2

Opening

Gathering: Who is a modern-day Elijah that leads others to God even when they don't want to follow?

Today's Focus: God took Elijah to heaven for his faithfulness and called Elisha to continue His work.

Key Verses: *In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me.* John 16:16

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly...Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins. James 5:17, 20

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Past Weeks - *Elijah* (1 Kings 15-22)

Who was the most evil king of Israel (northern kingdom) and how evil was he?
1 Kings 16:30-31

Why did God send Elijah to Israel during Ahab's reign?
1 Kings 18:21

What did *Elijah's* name mean and why was it significant?
1 Kings 18:39

How close of a relationship did Elijah have with the leaders of Israel?
1 Kings 18:16-18
1 Kings 19:1-2

Was Ahab reformed by God's revelations through Elijah & did he turn to God?
1 Kings 21:25-26

Naboth's Vineyard (*1 Kings 21:1-16*)

Did Ahab's evil lead him to rule ruthlessly and abuse his power?
1 Kings 21:1-4

Then how did Ahab get a bad reputation besides his unfaithfulness to God?
1 Kings 21:7-11 (5-14)

Did Ahab go along with Jezebel's plan?
1 Kings 21:15-16

Ahab's Punishment (*1 Kings 21:17-29*)

How would Ahab be punished for his evil?
1 Kings 21:17-19

How was this fulfilled?
1 Kings 22:34-38 (29-40)

Was Ahab the only one to be punished for his evil?
1 Kings 21:20-24

Did this happen right away?
1 Kings 21:27-29

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Ahab's Dynasty (2 Kings 9)

Who did God call later to carry out this punishment?

2 Kings 9:6-10 (1-10)

Did Jehu take his calling seriously?

2 Kings 9:22-26 (11-29)

What happened to Jezebel?

2 Kings 9:30-33

What became of Elijah's prophesy, *Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel*?

2 Kings 9:34-37

Ahab and Aram (1 Kings 22:1-4)

What happened in last week's story when Israel was attacked by Aram (Syria)?

1 Kings 20:13, 21, 26, 28-29

Did Ahab prevent further attacks by killing Ben-Hadad?

1 Kings 20:34, 42

Did the treaty keep peace for the rest of Ahab's reign?

1 Kings 22:1-4

Satisfying Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:5-8)

Why would Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, agree to fight alongside Ahab?

2 Chronicles 18:1

Did Jehoshaphat make any conditions for his support?

1 Kings 22:5-6

Did Ahab's prophets satisfy Jehoshaphat?

1 Kings 22:7-8

The Prophet's Word (1 Kings 22:9-40)

Did Micaiah tell Ahab to proceed with the attack?

1 Kings 22:12-15

Was Ahab surprised at Micaiah's prophesy?

1 Kings 22:16-18

Why had Micaiah said this?

1 Kings 22:19-23

How did the Baal prophets feel about Micaiah calling them liars?

1 Kings 22:24-25

The Next King (1 Kings 1:41-53)

Who took over as king after Ahab died at Ramoth Gilead and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 22:40, 51-53

What country that was subject to Israel decided to rebel after Ahab died?

2 Kings 1:1

How did this contrast with what happened in Judah?

1 Kings 22:44, 46-47

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King Ahaziah (2 Kings 1:1-8)

What happened to Ahaziah and what did he do in response?

2 Kings 1:2

How did God respond to Ahaziah's action?

2 Kings 1:3-4

Did Ahaziah's messengers know who Elijah was?

2 Kings 1:5-8

Elijah and Ahaziah's Soldiers (2 Kings 1:9-17)

How did Ahaziah try to get Elijah to take back the curse?

2 Kings 1:9

How did Elijah show that his message was from God and not just a personal curse?

2 Kings 1:10-12

Note: Sidon's Baal was considered to be over fire and rain. Yahweh showed He was in control (1 K 17-18)

Did the third captain give an even more forceful command to Elijah?

2 Kings 1:13-14

How did Elijah respond to the captain?

2 Kings 1:15

Was Ahaziah successful in getting Elijah to take back the curse?

2 Kings 1:16-17

Elijah's Last Day (2 Kings 2:1-8)

Was Elijah's job done once Ahab and Ahaziah died?

1 Kings 19:15a, 16b, 19-21

How did Elisha reply to Elijah's request not to follow him on his last day?

2 Kings 2:1-2

Did anyone other than Elijah know that he would be taken by God that day?

2 Kings 2:3

2 Kings 2:4-5

Did anyone join Elijah and Elisha as they continued traveling east?

2 Kings 2:6-7

How did Elijah show his powerful faith once more?

2 Kings 2:8

How did this show Elijah's faith?

Matthew 17:20

Elijah's Inheritance (2 Kings 2:9-10)

What did Elisha want when Elijah asked if there were any last requests?

2 Kings 2:9

For what was Elisha asking?

Deuteronomy 21:17

Why did Elijah have trouble with this request?

2 Kings 2:10

Was it God's plan for Elisha to succeed Elijah?

1 Kings 19:16b

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Elijah Goes to Heaven (2 Kings 2:11-18)

How was Elijah taken away?

2 Kings 2:11

Was Elisha able to see this and therefore inherit Elijah's role?

2 Kings 2:12

How was it made known that Elisha was now Elijah's successor?

2 Kings 2:13-15

Why did Elisha not want the prophets to go search for Elijah's body?

2 Kings 2:16-18

Had anyone else ever been taken to heaven without dying?

Genesis 5:24 (Hebrews 11:5)

Will it ever happen again?

Matthew 24:40-41

Elijah, God's Faithful Prophet

Does the end of the Old Testament indicate that Elijah's work was done?

Malachi 4:5-6

Who did some people believe was the return of Elijah?

Matthew 16:13-14

Has Elijah yet returned as promised?

Luke 1:13, 17

Did the people recognize Elijah when he returned?

Matthew 17:10-13

Were the people told that Elijah had returned?

Matthew 11:7, 11, 14 (1-15)

How did spectators misunderstand Jesus' cries from the cross?

Matthew 27:46-49

What role did Elijah play as Jesus neared his crucifixion?

Matthew 16:21; 17:1-5

Does God have any more work remaining for Elijah?

Revelation 11:3-6

Did Elijah's power mean that he was more than just a man?

James 5:16-18

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Who is my Jezebel? When have I followed someone against God's will?
(1 Kings 16:29-33; Matthew 23; 1 Corinthians 10:11-13; 1 John 3:7-10)
2. When have I been a Jezebel and tempted others?
(1 Kings 21:25; Matthew 18:6-9; Luke 17:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:32; James 3:1)
3. Do I consider whether the advice I receive from others is from God?
(1 Kings 12; 22; Proverbs 12:5, 15; Isaiah 8:19; 1 Timothy 1:15-16)
4. What servant of God is a model for me?
(2 Kings 2:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 2:5; 3:17; 4:9)
5. In what ways am I a model for others?
(2 Kings 2:12; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; Hebrews 11; 1 Peter 5:1-3)