

PARENTS' PAGE LESSON 15: God's Messengers

Timeless Truth: *God is more powerful than any other god.*

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 17:1-6, 18:1-39, 19:3-18, 2 Kings 2:1-15, Amos 3:1-11, 4:2-10, 5:14-15, 9:8

Key Verse: [Elijah said] "I serve the LORD. He is the God of Israel" (1 Kings 17:1).

Resource: *The Story: Teen Edition, The Story for Kids/Children/Little Ones:* Chapter 15

Parent Tips:

Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity lets your family make rain and thank God for his provision. The Extra Mile encourages your family to get out and run—just like Elijah did.

Get the Point:

Preschool: God encouraged Elijah in hard times. God encourages me.

Elementary: God encouraged Elijah in hard times. God encourages me.

Middle School: God raises up mighty people—such as Elijah and Elisha—in hard times to point people to him.

High School: God raises up mighty people—such as Elijah and Elisha—in hard times to point people to him.

Table Talk

Preschool/Elementary

- Elisha was an awesome man of God. He did many miracles, including making the blind see and raising a child from the dead. In 2 Kings 2:23-24, it tells of a time that some young people made fun of Elisha's bald head. Elisha called down a curse on them, and two bears came out of the woods and attacked 42 of the young fellows. What do you think is the main point of this story?
- Has anybody ever made fun of you?
- What did you do?
- How do you think God would want you to act when other kids make fun of you?
- Is it ever a good idea to make fun of people?

Middle/High School

- Elijah often felt alone—maybe because Ahab and Jezebel killed all of God's other prophets and birds fed him when he lived alone in a valley. Have you ever felt alone in your stand for God?
- Have you ever prayed for God to show his mighty power, like Elijah did? What was the result?
- There are a lot of temptations that pull teens and tweens away from God—drinking, drugs, rebellious music, sex—what area is the biggest problem at your school or among your friends?
- What area would you like to make a difference in? Pray to ask God to help you make a difference in your world in one of these areas. Then find teachers, parents and adults who can help you.

Living Faith

When Ahab became king of Israel, he did more evil things than any of the kings who had ruled before him. God sent Elijah to tell Ahab that he was judging the land because of the king's poor choices. Elijah told Ahab that the living Lord is the God of Israel and to prove it "there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land" (1 Kings 17:1). For three years it didn't rain.

Have your family make it rain by gathering a clean glass jar with a metal top and ice cubes. Begin this activity by filling the jar half-full with super hot tap water. Put the lid upside-down on top to trap the heat. Place several ice cubes in the lid. In about 15 minutes, raindrops will start to splash inside the jar.

As it starts to rain, ask these questions:

- What would the biggest problems be if it didn't rain for three years?
- What was God's point in stopping the rain?
- What are some ways mentioned earlier in *The Story* where God showed his power in mighty ways?
- Rain is one way that God provides for our needs. What are some other ways that God provides for us?
- Have family members talk specifically about an area of their lives where they're especially grateful of God's provision.

At the end of the draught, Elijah had a showdown against the 850 prophets who worshiped false gods. He challenged the false prophets to pray and have their god send fire down to earth. The false prophets tried and tried, but nothing happened. Elijah had the altar doused with water three times. Elijah prayed and God sent fire from heaven that burned up everything—even the water! The people of Israel turned back to God and he sent rain.

Extra Mile

Do you like walking in the rain? How about singing in the rain. Elijah enjoyed running in the rain. In fact, he outran Ahab's chariot from Mount Carmel to Jezreel—and that's over 20 miles!

In honor of Elijah's amazing feat mentioned in 1 Kings 18:46, go jogging as a family. Run around your neighborhood or a local park. You may even want to race each other. God gave Elijah amazing power to beat Ahab to Jezreel. You could put somebody on a bike and have him stay on the sidewalk as another family member sprints across a field. See who wins to a predetermined point.

Make an effort to get outside and exercise as a family a few times this week. It could be jogging, running, biking—anything. And it doesn't have to be for long, even 15 minutes can be beneficial. Maybe it'll become a habit. As you exercise, use the time to talk about what's happening in your life and how you see God moving.