

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of January 7, 2018

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

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 17:1-6, 18:1-29, 19:3-18, 2 Kings 2:1-15, Amos 3:1-11, 4:2-10, 5:14-15, 9:8

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 15 God's Messengers

Memory Verse: "then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God. I know that the message you have brought from the Lord is true." 1 Kings 17:24



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

• **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 others make fun of you?**

• **How do you think God would want you to act when you see others being made fun of?**

• **Is it ever a good idea to make fun of people?**

EXTRA MILE

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. Place the lid upside down on the top of the jar 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 for God's provision.**

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, Thank you for providing for all of my needs. Thank you for the rain that keeps our land watered, and the food that keeps my body healthy. Please help me to encourage others the way you have always encouraged me or have sent others to encourage me. Help me to always remember that every good thing I have comes from you, and that you give me everything I need. I love you, Lord. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Running Scared*, pg 105 – through break at bottom of pg 110 (blue–pg 120 – break on pg 125) (7 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Kings 17-19

Summary: God takes care of Elijah as he is running away from his enemies.

Do together: Have everyone go around the table and list their favorite food. If you want to lengthen this activity you can have the children use paper and crayons to create a menu of their favorite foods.

Think about: When Elijah went on a long journey, how did God take care of him? If you were on a long journey, what would you want God to do for you? God keeps us safe all the time. Sometimes he keeps us safe when we are not even thinking about it. Name one thing today that you know God did for you that you didn't even think about at the time.

Also read: Nahum 1:7

Prayer: God, thank you that you show us in your Bible how you take care of those who love you. Thank you that you take care of us, too. So many times you do things for us that we do not even know. Help us to remember you in those times and to remember to thank you for all you do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Pass It On*, bottom of page 110 – through pg 111 (blue- bottom of pg 125 – top of pg 127) (2 min)

This reading covers: 2 Kings 2

Summary: Doing God's work was passed on from Elijah to Elisha.

Do together: Make a human chain from the dining table to the kitchen sink and pass the plates and glasses from one to another assembly-line fashion, until the table is clear.

Think about: Clearing the table was an easy job, but the job that Elijah had in our story was much bigger. He was trying to get the people of his land to remember God and to obey God. After he had worked very hard he knew that it was almost time for him to go to heaven. So he found a helper who could do the work after he was gone. What would have happened if Elisha had decided he did not want to be a helper and refused to take over the job for Elijah when he was gone?

Also read: 2 Thessalonians 3:10

Prayer: God, thank you for the jobs you have given each one of us. We know that when we work together we do our best work. And we know when we do our work with a good attitude then the work goes faster and is more fun. Help us to be good workers. Help us to be workers who are happy to help and eager to please each other and especially to please you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Please Come Back* –pg 112 - end (blue - pg 127- end) (4 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Amos 3-5, 9

Summary: God uses his prophet Amos to call his people to return to him.

Do together: Talk about a time when someone or something in your family was lost. Maybe the family pet or even one of the children has been lost. Talk about how everybody felt when the person or thing was gone and how it felt when everyone was finally reunited.

Think about: God wanted his people to come back to him. He used several men called prophets to send his message to the people, but they would not listen. How do you think God felt when that happened? Sometimes we do not listen to our Mom and Dad. God has given them to us as leaders in our family. How do you think God feels when we do not listen to Mom and Dad? God still loves us very much, but he wants his children to live the life he wants to give them. So when we obey our parents and the people God gave to help us in life, we are really obeying him, too. How do you think that makes God feel?

Read also: Mark 10:13-15

Prayer: Father God, we are happy to be a family who loves you. Please help us to always listen to you and the people you give us. Help us to please you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.