

## Questions / Answers

1. Who was the prophet that God sent to wicked King Ahab?  
*Elijah.*
2. Why did God say there would be no rain?  
*Because King Ahab and the people worshipped Baal.*
3. How did Elijah get food at the Brook Cherith and at Zarephath?  
*Ravens brought food at the Brook Cherith. A widow woman fed him at Zarephath with a little flour and oil that did not run out.*
4. How did Elijah show the people that God is the true God?  
*God sent fire onto Elijah's altar. Baal could not send fire.*
5. How did God speak to Elijah when he ran away?  
*God spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice.*
6. Who was the prophet after Elijah?  
*Elisha.*
7. What did Elisha see when Elijah was taken away in a whirlwind.  
*Elisha saw a chariot and horses of fire.*
8. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to be cured of his leprosy?  
*Wash 7 times in the River Jordan.*
9. Why was Naaman angry? How did his servants get him to obey?  
*He thought he was too important just to wash in a muddy river. His servants said it was worth doing an easy thing to be cured.*
10. What is leprosy a picture of? How can we be cured?  
*Leprosy is a picture of sin. Baptism washes away our sins.*

## Memory verses

James 5:16—18; 1 Kings 18:38—39; Romans 6:22—23

## Discussion

Discuss how God sometimes used His great power but at other times He used small, unimportant things or people. How can God use you?

## Writing

Pretend you are Naaman and describe how you were healed from your leprosy.

# CBM Senior Lessons

## Lesson 26 Elijah and Elisha



**READING** 1 Kings 17 & 18:20—40 & 19:11—14; 2 Kings 5:1—19

### LESSON

All the Kings in the Kingdom of Israel were wicked. They worshipped idols and turned the people of Israel away from God. God sent prophets to teach the people His ways and turn the people back to worship Him again.

One of these wicked kings was called Ahab. He taught the people to worship

Baal. God was very angry. God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab. Elijah told King Ahab that God was angry because he taught the people to worship Baal. Elijah said that there would be no rain in the land until **God** said that it would rain again.



There was no rain for a long time and there was a famine in the land. God looked after Elijah and sent him to live by the brook Cherith. Elijah drank water from the brook. God sent ravens every morning and evening with bread and meat in their beaks for Elijah to eat.

Eventually the brook dried up. But God was still looking after Elijah. God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath and a widow woman would look after him there. When Elijah came to Zarephath he saw a woman gathering sticks. He asked her for some bread and water. She told Elijah that there was no food because of the famine. She was gathering sticks to cook a last meal for herself and her son. She had only a handful of flour in a bowl and a little oil in a jug. When they had eaten this last food they would starve.

Elijah told the widow to make him a small cake of bread first. Elijah promised that God would make the flour and oil last all through the time of famine. The widow woman had faith and did as Elijah said - and there was always enough flour and oil to make food for them to eat, as God had said.

One day the widow's son died. Elijah carried the boy up to his room and put the boy on his bed. Elijah stretched over the boy three times and prayed to God. God raised the boy to life again. When the woman saw that her son was alive again she believed that Elijah was a prophet of God and spoke true words from God.

It did not rain for over three years. Then God sent Elijah to King Ahab. Elijah told Ahab that God would show all the people that God was the true God and that Baal was only an idol. Ahab gathered all the people and the 450 prophets of Baal on the top of Mount Carmel. Elijah told the people to decide whether God or Baal was the true God. They must worship the true God.

Elijah told the prophets of Baal to make an altar and put a bullock on it, but not to put fire to burn the sacrifice. The true God was the one who could send fire. The prophets of Baal called to Baal and asked him to send fire. They shouted all day, but nothing happened.

At the end of the day Elijah called the people to him. He built an altar of 12 stones. He put a bullock on the altar and made the people pour 12 barrels of water over the altar. Then Elijah prayed, "Lord God, let the people know that You are the true God." Immediately fire came down from the sky and burnt up the bullock and the stones and all the water. The people were afraid and shouted, "The Lord, He is God." Elijah told the people to kill all the prophets of Baal. The people believed God again, so Elijah prayed for rain and God sent rain on the land.

When Ahab told Queen Jezebel that all the prophets of Baal had been killed, she was furious. She gave orders to kill Elijah. Elijah was afraid and ran away. Elijah fell exhausted under a juniper tree and an angel came and brought him food to eat. Then Elijah travelled for 40 days to Mount Horeb. Elijah lived in a cave on the mountainside. God asked Elijah why he was there. Elijah said that he was the only prophet left and he had run away from Jezebel. God told Elijah to stand in the entrance to the cave. There Elijah saw an earthquake, a great wind and a fire - but God was not in any of them. Then Elijah heard a still, small voice. God was in the still, small voice. This shows us that although God has great power, He can also be with us in a quiet and comforting way. He is always looking after us. God told Elijah that there were 7,000 people in Israel who did not worship Baal. God sent Elijah to find a man called Elisha, who would help him. Elisha travelled round with Elijah and helped him.

One day God told Elijah that it was time for Elisha to be the new prophet. Elijah and Elisha went to the River Jordan. Elijah took off his cloak and hit the water with it and the water divided so that they could cross on dry ground. Elijah asked Elisha what he would like to have. Elisha knew that it was a difficult job being a prophet, so Elisha asked for a double portion of God's power to help him. God told Elisha that he would have the power if he saw Elijah taken away.

Suddenly Elisha saw a chariot and horses of fire in the sky and Elijah disappeared in a whirlwind. Elijah dropped his cloak as he went. Elisha took Elijah's cloak and hit the waters of the River Jordan. The waters parted for Elisha to cross. Then the people knew that Elisha had God's power and was the new prophet. Elisha did many miracles to help people and to show them that God is the true God. Elisha travelled round teaching people about God and helping them to believe and obey God's laws.

Naaman was the captain of the Syrian army, but he was a leper. Syria often fought against Israel. Sometimes they took Israelites as captives. Naaman's wife had a maid who was an Israelite captive girl. The maid was faithful and looked after her mistress very well. Naaman's wife was very sad because her husband had leprosy. The Israelite maid told her that there was a prophet in Israel who had God's power. He could heal Naaman of his leprosy. When Naaman heard this he asked the King if he could go and see the prophet. The king gave him gifts to give to the prophet Elisha.

When Naaman came to Elisha's house, Elisha sent him a message, "Go and wash 7 times in the River Jordan." Naaman was a very important man in Syria. He was angry that Elisha did not come out and see him. Naaman knew that the River Jordan was a little muddy river. Abana and Pharpar were much better rivers in Syria. He could wash in those if he wanted to. Naaman was so angry that he started to go away in a rage.

His servants came and pleaded with him. If the prophet had asked him to do some great and important thing, he would have done it. How much easier it was just to wash and be healed. So Naaman stopped being proud and angry and went to the River Jordan. When Naaman came up out of the water of the river for the 7th time his leprosy was gone. His skin was healed.

Naaman had learned to be humble and to believe God. So he was healed. Naaman went back to Elisha's house and offered him many gifts. But Elisha would not take them. It was God's power that had healed Naaman, not Elisha's power. Naaman went back to Syria and worshipped God there.

Leprosy is a picture of sin. We all sin and we all die. But God has given us a cure. He has told us that we must wash and be clean from our sins by being baptised. We have to do exactly what God says. If Naaman had washed in the Rivers Abana and Pharpar he would not have obeyed God, so he would not have been healed. We must always obey God exactly.