

47. Elijah and the Ravens

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

47. Elijah and the Ravens

- a. Tell them that Elijah was a very great prophet, perhaps the greatest in these stories. You might describe him—he had lots of hair, he wore rough clothing, and a leather belt around his waist.
- b. He was very brave when he told Ahab that there would be no rain in the land. After all, Ahab was the king, with lots of soldiers.
- c. You might tell them that when people worshiped idols, they often didn't keep the Ten Commandments. You don't have to give examples, but say that the Lord is our God, and He is the one who gave the Ten Commandments, so when people turned to idols they thought they could do whatever they wanted.
- d. Of course Ahab was searching for Elijah when there was no water, to make him say that there would be water. So Elijah hid by a little river.
- e. But there was no food there. Talk about the ravens—big, black birds. What do they eat? They eat meat. But they didn't eat the meat! They brought it to Elijah and let him eat it. That was a miracle.
- f. When the little river dried out, the Lord sent him to a town in a far country.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Sends Ravens to Feed Elijah

King Ahab was the new king of Israel. He was an evil king who had done more bad things in the eyes of the Lord than any other king who went before him. He built a temple to a false god called Baal. He put an altar in the temple and the people bowed down to statues of Baal instead of worshiping the Lord. Then the Lord was angry with the king. So the Lord sent Elijah, His prophet, to King Ahab. And Elijah said to the king, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will not be any rain until I say so.” And the famine was terrible in the land.

Then the Lord said to Elijah, “Go and hide by the stream called Cherith. You can drink the water, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you.”

So Elijah obeyed the Lord and went to live by the stream. And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the stream.

And Elijah stayed there until the stream dried up because there was no rain in the land.

Then the Lord came to Elijah and said, “Go to Zarephath and live there. I have commanded a woman there to look after you.” So Elijah listened to the Lord and went to Zarephath.

I Kings 16, 17

