

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 4

The Troubler of Israel

The Troubler of Israel

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach the students that knowing and trusting God gives us boldness to live for Him, even when it's hard.

Key Verses

1 Kings 18:1-19—Main Teaching Passage

Joshua 1:9

Proverbs 3:23-26

Proverbs 21:2

Psalm 9:10

Memory Verse - Proverbs 29:25

"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 15:22.

Ask the students, "Have you ever been in a situation where you needed courage to do (or not do) something? What did you do?"

Then ask the students, "Where do we get courage from?"

Today we are going to learn that knowing God gives us courage to stand up for what's right, even (and especially) when it's hard.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

The word of the LORD again came to Elijah and God told him to come out of hiding and go talk to Ahab. It was time for the drought to be over. For the first time in three and a half years, God would send rain on the earth. So Elijah obeyed. Meanwhile, King Ahab and Obadiah (the head of the king's house) went out to search the land for water and grass for the livestock. Ahab went one direction and Obadiah went another. We are told that Obadiah still served God even though he worked for a wicked ruler. He had rescued and hidden 100 prophets of God in caves and had been secretly bringing them food and water. Remember, the queen wanted to kill all the prophets of the God of Israel, especially Elijah. That being the case, it was no doubt a great surprise for Obadiah to meet Elijah while he was out on the king's errand.

Elijah greeted him and encouraged him to go fetch Ahab and bring him back to talk to Elijah. Obadiah was fearful at this request because he was afraid that if Elijah wasn't there when he returned, he would be punished for letting Elijah escape! But Elijah reassured him, and Obadiah brought the king. Ahab called Elijah, "the troubler of Israel," but Elijah clarified that he was not the cause of Israel's troubles, but King Ahab and his house were because they had forsaken the true and living God to worship Baal. To prove who was the true God, Elijah would issue a challenge. He instructed the king to gather all the prophets of Baal and Asherah and meet him on Mount Carmel.

LOOK

One of the things that is remarkably clear in these verses is that God is the One who is truly in control. Ahab may have been king, but God was calling the shots. Ahab and Jezebel had tried to completely destroy everyone who worshipped the God of Israel, but they were unable to do so. Not only were they unable to find Elijah, but they were completely clueless that God was using one of their most trusted officials to hide 100 prophets in nearby caves. This just goes to show that following God is not always easy. How would you like to sleep and hide in a cave with nothing but bread to eat and water to drink for three and a half years? But it is good and important for us to remind ourselves that the God we serve is in control and He will always have the final word. We will only see this more and more as we continue to study the life of Elijah.

Another thing we see is that Elijah trusted God. He trusted God when he was told to go into hiding, and he trusted God when he was told to show himself. It takes courage to seek out a king who wants you dead. But, like Elijah, knowing God should give us confidence to trust and obey what God tells us to do in His Word. Even as we face great difficulty for obeying God, there is no safer place for us to be than in His will.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Elijah's confidence in God allowed him to be bold and courageous. If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)? So Ahab and Elijah met, and as they began to speak, an interesting thing happened... Ahab blamed Elijah for all of the trouble that had come upon Israel! He said that the drought was Elijah's fault! Does that ever happen to you? Maybe you can think of a time in your own life when the blame has been shifted. It's nothing new. People have been playing the blame game since the garden of Eden. This can be a temptation for those who follow Jesus as well.

When it comes to blame it's interesting to note and important to remember that everything we have in Jesus depended on the blame being shifted from us to Him. That didn't happen through us blaming God for our problems. Rather, our salvation was complete when we finally took responsibility for the sin in our hearts and admitted to God that we needed a Savior. In love, when we were yet His enemies, He took our sin (that we should have taken the blame/punishment for) upon Himself so that we could be blameless, forgiven, and free.

Sometimes it is okay to point out something wrong someone did (that's what Elijah did to Ahab), but it's never okay for us to blame someone else for the consequences of our own sin and failure (that's what king Ahab did). As with Ahab, we often do this because of pride. The only one to blame for Israel's troubles was Ahab, but he was too proud to take responsibility for his own sin, and he would not be convinced of his faults in a secret meeting in the wilderness. God had something much bigger in mind: a public challenge. God would show Himself to be the true and living God on top of a mountain as the entire nation stood watching.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 29:25.

Pray: Ask God to help you grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus. Ask God for confidence and courage to live for Him even when others tell you or tempt you to do otherwise.

Parent Question: How does knowing God give you courage?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on 1 Kings 18:1-19 by David Guzik

A. Elijah meets Ahab.

1. ([1Ki 18:1-2](#)) The end of the drought.

And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was a severe famine in Samaria.*

a. **In the third year:** This remarkable drought lasted three and one-half years by the fervent prayer of Elijah.

b. **Go, present yourself to Ahab:** Earlier God told Elijah to *hide* himself. Now it was time to *present* himself. There is a time to hide and be alone with God, and there is also a time to present our self to the world. Some wish to always remain hidden when they should step up and **present** themselves.

i. Elijah simply obeyed God’s command. Though it happened through the prayers of Elijah, his prayers were sensitive to the leading of God. The drought did not begin or end as a result of Elijah’s will, but at God’s will.

2. ([1Ki 18:3-14](#)) Elijah meets Obadiah.

And Ahab had called Obadiah, who *was* in charge of *his* house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock. So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, “*Is that you, my lord Elijah?*” And he answered him, “*It is I. Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’*” So he said, “How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? *As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, “Elijah is here!”* And it shall come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord’s prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, “Elijah is here.”’ He will kill me!”

a. **While Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water:** This man Obadiah was a brave

man who stood for God and His prophets in a difficult time.

i. This may be the same Obadiah whose prophecy against Edom is recorded among the Minor Prophets. It is a little difficult to be certain, because there were 13 Obadiah's in the Old Testament. The Hebrew name **Obadiah** means "Worshipper of Yahweh" or "Servant of Yahweh."

· An Obadiah was sent out by King Jehoshaphat of Judah to teach the law in the cities of Judah ([2 Chronicles 17:7](#))

· An Obadiah was one of the overseers who helped repair the temple in the days of Josiah, King of Judah ([2 Chronicles 34:12](#))

· An Obadiah was a priest in the days of Nehemiah ([Nehemiah 10:5](#))

ii. **One hundred prophets:** "*Prophets*: this name is not only given to such as are endowed with an extraordinary spirit of prophecy, but to such ministers as devoted themselves to the service of God in preaching, praying, praising God, and the like." (Poole)

iii. "Account for it how you may, it is a singular circumstance that in the center of rebellion against God there was one whose devotion to God was intense and distinguished. As it is horrible to find a Judas among the apostles, so it is grand to discover an Obadiah among Ahab's courtiers. What grace must have been at work to maintain such a fire in the midst of the sea, such godliness in the midst of the vilest iniquity!" (Spurgeon)

iv. "That Obadiah would have little difficulty in finding caves for the sons of the prophets can be seen in that over two thousand caves have been counted in the Mount Carmel area." (Patterson and Austel)

b. **Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him:** The drought was so severe that King Ahab himself and his trusted servant Obadiah were out searching for pastureland. God arranged this unexpected meeting between Obadiah and the Prophet Elijah.

i. "We might have supposed that he would set himself to alleviate the miseries of his people; and, above all, that he would have turned back to God: but no – his one thought was about the horses and mules of his stud; his only care was to save some of them alive... What selfishness is here! Mules and asses before his people! Seeking for grass, instead of seeking for God!" (Meyer)

c. **How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?** Obadiah knew that King Ahab conducted an exhaustive search for Elijah, to punish him for the drought that his prayers imposed on Israel. Obadiah feared that if he announced that he met Elijah and the prophet disappeared again, Ahab would punish Obadiah for letting Elijah get away.

3. ([1Ki 18:15-16](#)) Elijah assures Obadiah that he will meet with Ahab.

Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today." So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

a. **I will surely present myself to him today:** Kindly and wisely, Elijah responded to Obadiah's legitimate fears. He would not make Obadiah a martyr on Elijah's behalf.

4. ([1Ki 18:17-19](#)) Elijah and Ahab trade accusations.

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all

Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

a. **Is that you, O troubler of Israel?** Ahab was easily the worst, most ungodly king that Israel ever had. Yet he did not hesitate to blame the godly prophet Elijah for the problems of Israel. If Ahab would at least stop the active persecution of the people of God, God would relent in the drought. But the wicked king of Israel found it easier to blame the godly prophet.

i. According to his theology, it made sense for Ahab to blame Elijah. Ahab believed in Baal, so much so that his government promoted and supported Baal worship and persecuted the worshippers of Yahweh. Ahab believed that Elijah had angered the sky-god Baal and therefore Baal withheld rain. Ahab probably thought that Baal would hold back the rain until Elijah was caught and executed.

ii. Instead, Ahab should have turned to the Word of God. [Deuteronomy 28:23-24](#) promised that drought would come to a disobedient Israel.

b. **Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel:** Elijah challenged King Ahab to gather the idol prophets of Baal and Asherah for this meeting at Mount Carmel.

i. "*Gather to me all Israel, by their deputies, or heads, or representatives, that they may be witnesses of all our transactions.*" (Poole)

ii. [1 Kings 18:36](#) makes it clear that Elijah did all this at the command of God. This wasn't his clever idea or strategy. This was a God-inspired plan that Elijah obeyed.

iii. It was important to confront and eliminate these prophets of Baal *before* God sent rain to the land of Israel. It was crucial that everyone understand that the rain came from Yahweh, not from Baal.

c. **Who eat at Jezebel's table:** This refers to fact that these prophets of Baal and Asherah were sponsored and supported by the government of Israel, having a special patron in the wicked Queen Jezebel.

i. "Jezebel was not content with a private chapel, nor with her husband's readiness to pay lip-service to Baal; she meant to dethrone the God of Israel, and make her Baal the chief deity and her faith in the official state religion." (Payne)