

ELIJAH

Bible Lesson Teaching Notes

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APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON TO TODAY'S CHILDREN

The BIBLE LESSON is a Bible story which includes the *GOSPEL*, a *PERSONAL APPLICATION* about sin, and an *INVITATION* for the unsaved child. It will also emphasize one *MAIN TRUTH* or teaching point with a *PERSONAL APPLICATION* and a *CHALLENGE* for the saved child.

THE UNSAVED CHILD - Three basic parts of the lesson for the unsaved child:

1. GOSPEL

The Gospel message should be woven throughout the Bible lesson. It should include these Bible truths:

God loves you and me

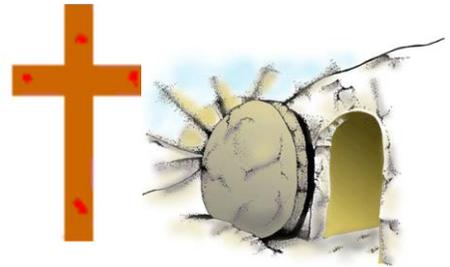
Only sinless Son of God

Sin - You and I have sinned
(Use Scripture verse)

Precious blood of Jesus paid for sin
(Use Scripture verse)

Ever living - Risen Saviour

Let Christ in - Receive Him
(Use Scripture verse)



2. PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR THE UNSAVED

The purpose of the personal application for the unsaved child (PAU) is to explain the sin issue. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REMAINDER OF THE GOSPEL. It is not the invitation. It should come as early as possible in the lesson so the Holy Spirit can begin to convict the child of sin.

The personal application for the unsaved child explains the sin issue with the personal YOU, examples or illustrations of sin, and Bible verse.

3. INVITATION

The invitation usually comes at the end of the Bible lesson, but it could come earlier. It will invite the child to receive Christ as Saviour. A Scripture verse should be used and explained.

THE SAVED CHILD - Three basic parts of the lesson for the saved child:

1. MAIN TRUTH

The Main Truth is the teaching point for the Christian child which you want to stress several times throughout the lesson. It will be a simple statement of Bible doctrine or Christian growth.

2. PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR THE SAVED

The purpose of the personal application for the saved child (PAS) is to explain the Main Truth. It will include the personal YOU, examples or illustrations, and a Bible verse.

As you think about examples or illustrations to explain the Main Truth, ask yourself these questions: *When? Where? How?* The Bible verse will answer the question *Why?*

For example:

WHO?	P ersonal you	“YOU” should be predominant word rather than “we” or “us”
HOW?	A pply by example	Examples to explain Main Truth
WHY?	S cripture	A Bible verse which gives proof of the Main Truth

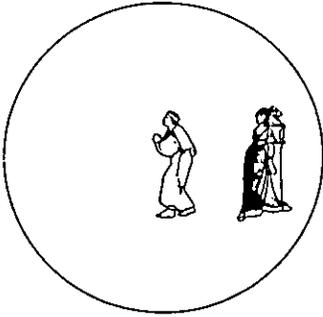
3. CHALLENGE

The challenge usually comes at the end of the Bible lesson. It should encourage the Christian child to put into action the teaching of the Main Truth and personal application for the saved child.

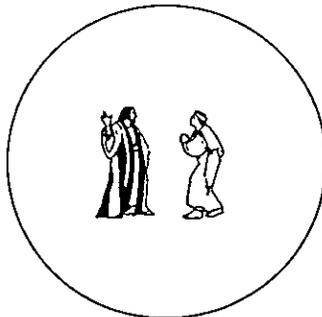
NOTE: We realize there are many methods of Bible lesson preparation and presentation, and that this method is not the only way to teach. However, we trust that as you study these lesson helps they will be beneficial in filling in some of the details of the lesson.



Elijah 1 - Scene 1



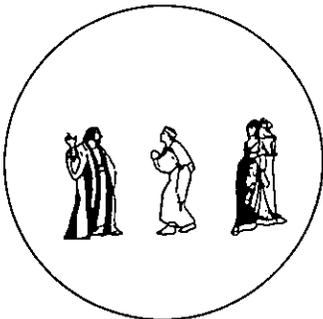
Elijah 2 - Scene 1



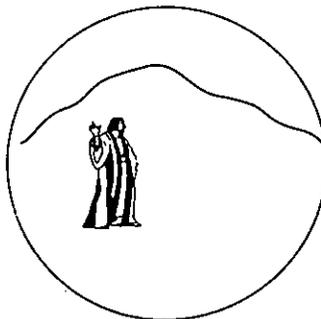
Elijah 2 - Scene 5



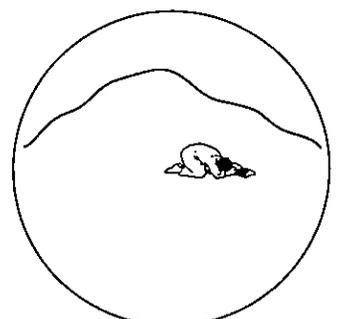
Elijah 1 - Scene 2



Elijah 2 - Scene 2



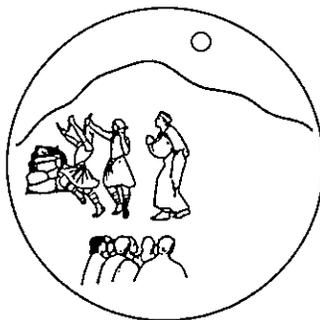
Elijah 2 - Scene 6



Elijah 1 - Scene 3



Elijah 2 - Scene 3



Elijah 2 - Scene 7



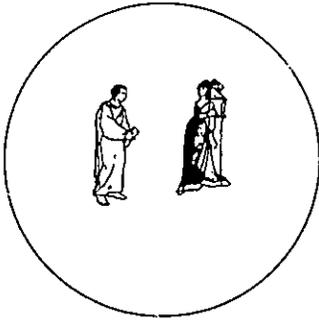
Elijah 1 - Scene 4



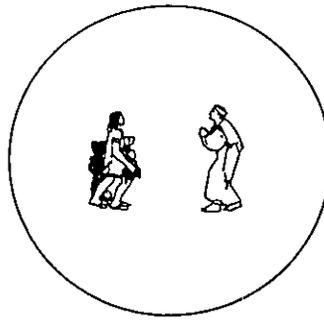
Elijah 2 - Scene 4



Elijah 3 - Scene 1



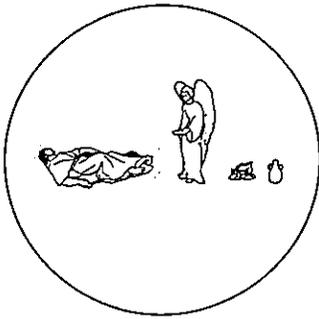
Elijah 4 - Scene 1



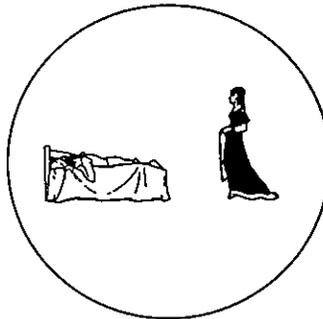
Elijah 5 - Scene 1



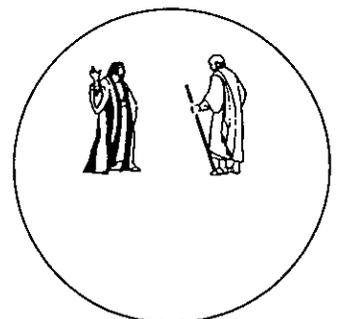
Elijah 3 - Scene 2



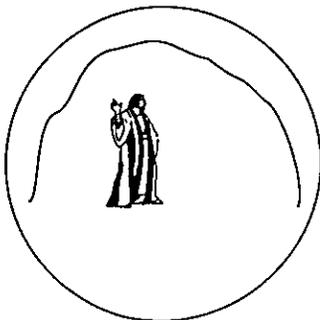
Elijah 4 - Scene 2



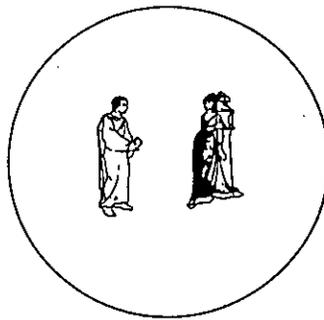
Elijah 5 - Scene 2



Elijah 3 - Scene 3



Elijah 4 - Scene 3



Elijah 5 - Scene 3



Elijah 3 - Scene 4



Elijah 4 - Scene 4



Elijah 5 - Scene 4



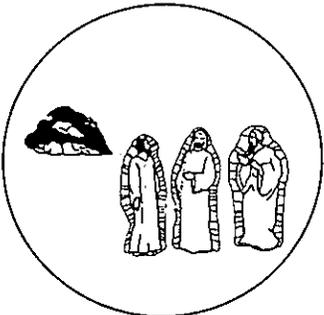
Elijah 6 - Scene 1



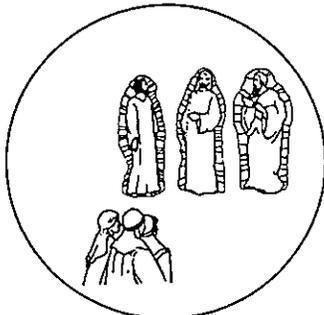
Elijah 6 - Scene 2



Elijah 6 - Scene 3



Elijah 6 - Scene 4



ELIJAH #1

“Elijah’s Startling News” – The True and Living God is Omniscient

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 17:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 15:2

“The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.”

(The underlined portion of the verse indicates what the younger children should memorize. See *Involvement Helps for Younger Children* for helps in teaching the verse to the younger children.)

VISUALS: Figures 1-7

MAIN TRUTH: GOD KNOWS ALL ABOUT YOU, and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have needs.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Beginning Statements
 - B. Transition
- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. Scene 1
 - B. Scene 2
 - C. Scene 3
 - D. Scene 4
- III. CLIMAX
- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. Closing Statements
 - B. Bridge
 - C. Invitation
 - D. Challenge

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Beginning Statements

I'd like to tell you a true story about a boy who had a big need. Richie was late coming to Good News Club, but as he came in he said, "Teacher, can each of us pray and say something to God?"

"We've prayed already, Richie, but if you want to pray, we'll just stop right now," the teacher answered kindly.

Richie had trusted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour only a few weeks before in club. He was sure God would answer his prayer. He bowed his head and prayed, "Dear Jesus, please don't let the water company turn the water off. We've got a sick baby at home. Amen."

Richie's mother did not have enough money to pay the water bill and didn't know what to do. But Richie knew how to talk to God.

What do you think happened? Next week Richie was on time and he could hardly wait to pray. He thanked the Lord for coming into his heart and forgiving his sins. He thanked Him for the Bible and Good News Club. Then he said, "And thank You, Lord Jesus, for making the baby well and not letting them turn the water off!"

B. Transition

Richie had learned to trust God for his needs. In our lesson today in the book of I Kings, someone has a great need. (*Show I Kings in your Bible.*) Let's see if that person is willing to trust God.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Scene 1

(Hold figure 1 in your hand; then place it in your Bible.)

Elijah served God in the land of Israel where King Ahab ruled.

(Place figures 2 and 3.)

King Ahab married the beautiful but wicked Jezebel. In the country to the north where Jezebel had been raised, the people did not worship the only true God. They worshiped a god of stone named Baal.

I H Ask the children: Can a stone hear, or answer prayer?

When King Ahab married Jezebel he let her bring Baal worship into Israel. They built places to worship this god. Many people in Israel were forgetting the one and only God and were following wicked Queen Jezebel by worshipping Baal.

Ahab could have said to the queen, “You can’t do this terrible sin, bringing idols into Israel,” but he didn’t.

God says that King Ahab gave in to this evil in the eyes of the Lord, and he was urged on by Jezebel his wife (I Kings 21:25). Both Ahab and Jezebel were very sinful people. They are not the only ones who are sinful.

S, PAU
Isa. 53:6

The Bible tells us, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. . . .*” That means that every one of us have gone away from what God wants us to do. God wants you and me to be honest, but we cheat. God us to be truthful, but we lie. Think for a moment about what you have done that is sin. (*Share at least three examples of sin.*) Yes, you and I are sinners.

Ahab had sinned, too. The Bible says he sold himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, and He gave in to the evil his wife wanted him to do.

(Hold figure 1 in hand.)

Elijah, the prophet or messenger of the living God, heard about the terrible things which were happening in Israel. His heart was sad because he loved God. Elijah believed and served the true and living God. Although Elijah did not know all the details, He believed that someday God would send the Saviour.

O

Do you know about the Saviour? Most of us know where He was born, how He came, and we even know His name. The Lord Jesus, God’s perfect Son, is the Saviour.

I H

Show me a sad face.

Even though Elijah didn’t know all of this, he believed in God and His promise of the Saviour who would come. Because Elijah loved God, his heart was sad when he heard about the terrible things that were happening in Israel.

Elijah knew God had done many wonderful things for His people in the past.

Can you think of some ways God had helped His people? He had opened the sea so they could pass through on dry land. He had sent bread from Heaven when they were in the desert. God loved and provided for the Israelites.

G

Just as God loved the Israelites, He loves you and me. He knows all about our sin, and yet He loves us.

The Israelite people had sinned, too. They continually complained, but God continued to love them and provide for them.

Elijah also knew about the terrible things that would take place if God's people turned away from Him. For God had said, "Be careful that you don't turn away and serve other gods. The Lord will be angry with you, and shut up the heavens so that there is no rain" (Deuteronomy 11:16,17).

Elijah knew that the living God must punish sin.

The only true God is forgotten, Elijah thought. The few who have not forgotten Him are afraid to speak His name.

"Oh God," I can hear Elijah praying, "it would be better for the rain to stop and for all of us to die of thirst than to let the people turn away from You and pray to idols of wood and stone! How could idols help us?" Then Elijah prayed earnestly that it might not rain! (James 5:17).

I H Have the children fold hands, close eyes and pretend to pray.

Perhaps it was while he was praying that God told Elijah to go to the king. The prophet must tell him that there was to be no more rain until the people stopped worshipping idols! Elijah hurried to the palace.

B. Scene 2

(Place figure 1.)

"As the Lord God ... liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." The fearless voice of Elijah rang out in the palace of King Ahab.

After Elijah shouted this startling news, what do you think the wicked king and queen did? The Bible does not tell us but Elijah must have felt sure they would try to kill him.

(Remove all figures.)

Elijah needed God's help, didn't he? How would Elijah know what to do? The true and living God is Omniscient. He knew all about his need, and Elijah needed to trust God.

MT If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, God knows all about you, and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have needs.

Elijah had a need, and he needed to trust God for His help. Would he would trust God to show him what to do?

Listen to the orders God gave His servant: “Leave here. Hide by the Brook Cherith by the Jordan River. Drink water from the brook. I’ve commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

C. Scene 3

(Place figures 4 and 5.)

Elijah may have wondered, Will the brook dry up? How can birds feed me? Will King Ahab find me there? But God had said “Go” so Elijah believed and obeyed.

I think Elijah must have been lonely sometimes. But he remembered that God was with him. How good it was to talk to God and know He was so near.

Then the living God showed His special love plan to Elijah. He sent ravens every morning and every night! They brought bread and meat each time. God knew Elijah needed this food or he would die.

P, E
Rom. 5:8

God knows about everything we need. God knew that we would sin and would need a Saviour. Therefore, God showed His special love to us by sending Jesus to provide what we need – the forgiveness of sins and the way to heaven. Jesus came to earth and died in our place on the cross, giving His blood to pay for our sins. ***“But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*** Jesus died for us, but He didn’t stay dead. He rose again to give us new life, eternal life, to live in heaven. God knew exactly what we needed, and He provide it through Jesus.

God knew just what Elijah needed, too. So He sent ravens with food for Elijah. God showed them where to find food and had them carry it to His servant Elijah. Did you notice, they did not eat the food themselves? Even the ravens obeyed God!

What lesson do you think Elijah was learning? As he waited for the ravens and drank water from the brook, he learned that he must trust God for everything he needed.

MT, PAS
Phil. 4:19

This is true for you, too, even though you may have plenty of food at home. If God did not send the rain and sunshine, you would be without food and water. Or if your mom or dad would not have a job, they might not have money to buy the food and clothes you need. If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, you should trust God to take care of your needs. The true and living God is Omniscient. God knows all about you, and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have needs. This doesn’t mean that God will give you lots of toys or lots of money. But He will give you what you need. (Share 3 examples of God supplying needs, such as: courage when you are afraid; remembrance when you have studied for a test; help to say no when you are tempted to sin.) The Bible says, **“But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”** Yes! God will help you with any need. Just as God loves you, and will take care of your needs,

He loved and cared for Elijah and his needs.

Elijah took the food God sent and ate it. This food kept him alive.

At first the brook gurgled loudly over the rocks and Elijah had plenty of water. But remember Elijah's message to King Ahab? There was no rain. Soon the brook was only a trickle of water. It was drying up!

What will I do when it does dry up? Elijah wondered. But God sent me here and I dare not leave until He tells me to.

After God had tested Elijah's faith, He spoke just in time, "Arise, go to Zarephath...and stop there." (Remove figures) God had commanded a widow woman at Zarephath to feed Elijah. Once again Elijah obeyed. But it was a long way to Zarephath. The prophet walked almost one hundred miles. He saw a woman at the gate of the city. God helped him know this was the woman who would provide for him.

I H Have children count to 100s by 10s.

D. Scene 4

(Place figures 1, 6, 7.)

Elijah called to the woman, "Get me a little water that I may drink." He must have been very thirsty and tired. He was hungry, too. As the woman left to get water he called again, "Bring me a piece of bread, too, please."

"I don't have any bread," the widow told Elijah. "I have only a little flour and cooking oil. I was gathering wood to bake bread for my son and me. After we eat this bread, there'll be no more. We will eat it and then die." It was all she had. She too had a need. Would God help her?

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. Make some bread for me and then for you and your son. There will always be flour and oil to make more bread until the Lord sends rain again."

Could you believe that? If you thought you only had enough for your family and a stranger asked you to give him some first, could you trust God to take care of you?

The widow gave bread to Elijah first.

III. CLIMAX

Because she believed God, for many months after that she never came to the end of the flour!

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Closing Statements

And there was always more cooking oil! Isn't that wonderful? God worked a miracle for her every day and supplied all that she needed. God supplied the needs of the widow and of Elijah just as He promised.

B. Bridge

Do you believe the true and living God will give you what you need today?

C. Invitation

L
John3:16 If you have never asked Jesus to be your personal Saviour, then that is your greatest need. The Bible says, ***“For God so loved the world (that’s you and me), that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), that whosoever (you) believeth in him (Jesus) should not perish, but have everlasting life (will not go to the place of punishment, but will have life that lasts forever – life to live in heaven).”*** God loves you so much that He provided the way so you can have your sins forgiven. Are you ready to admit to Him that you have sinned? Do you believe Jesus died and rose again for you? If so, you can ask Him right now to forgive you of your sin and come into your heart to be your Saviour. (Have them bow their heads and close their eyes. Then they can quietly pray inviting Jesus to come into their hearts. Be sure to have them come after class for more counseling.)

D. Challenge

MT Some of you have already received Jesus as your Saviour. God knows all about you, and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have needs. The Bible says, ***“But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*** This doesn't mean that God will give you lots of toys or lots of money. But the true and living God is Omniscient. He knows what you need and He promises to provide what you really need. (Review the 3 examples used in the PAS of God supplying needs, such as: courage when you are afraid; remembrance when you have studied for a test; help to say no when you are tempted to sin.) Will you take a few minutes right now to tell God about your needs? If you are willing to trust Him for your needs, will you tell Him that right now?

How will God take care of your need? (Repeat Exodus 15:2.) He will give you His strength when you're afraid, His joy when you're sad, and He promises to help you with any problem you have. Talk to God about your need right now and tell Him you will trust Him to help you. (Give silent time.) Each time you think about what you need this week, say your verse. Then thank God that you know He's going to help you. (Give verse token.)

ELIJAH #2

“Elijah's Struggle Against the False God” – The True and Living God is Omnipotent

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 18:1- 2, 17-46

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 44:6

“. . . I am the first, and I am the last, and besides Me, there is no God.”

VISUALS: Figures 1-2. 8-16

MAIN TRUTH: GOD HAS POWER TO DO ALL THINGS, and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have problems.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Beginning Statements
 - B. Transition

- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. Scene 1
 - B. Scene 2
 - C. Scene 3
 - D. Scene 4
 - E. Scene 5
 - F. Scene 6
 - G. Scene 7

- III. CLIMAX

- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. Closing Statements
 - B. Bridge
 - C. Invitation
 - D. Challenge

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Beginning Statements

Lu Ling had some big questions on her mind. The questions were about the god which sat on the shelf behind the door.

Is this god made of wood really the true God? she asked herself as she looked at the idol. It is the god I have been taught to worship. But can it really hear me when I pray? Does it really have power? Can it help me win over evil?

Lu Ling had learned that the Lord Jesus Christ was all powerful. She learned He even had power to forgive sin. Could her god do that? (No.) How do you know? (Her god was only an idol--it had no power.) The Lord Jesus is the true and living God. Our memory verse reminds us there is no other God. Let's say the verse together, "I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me, there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6).

B. Transition

Today, we'll learn more about our God's great power.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Elijah, God's prophet, knew his God was the first and the last and there was no God but Him. But remember King Ahab and Queen Jezebel? Who were they worshiping? (The idol Baal). They were causing many people to turn from the true God to worship a god made with men's hands. What had God said He would do if the people no longer worshiped Him? He said He would not send rain.

God kept His promise. But He also took care of His servant Elijah. First by the brook and later at Zarephath. As long as the all-powerful God wanted Elijah hidden, no one on earth could find him. Not even the king!

Over three years had passed since Elijah first hid by the brook and later met the widow and her son at Zarephath. Day after day Elijah, the widow and her son had eaten bread made from the little flour and oil. It never ran out! There was always more.

Now the ground in Israel was parched and dry. There was no more green grass. The streams were drying up and there was little water for the cattle. Many lay dying. Even the people were thirsty. The king was searching for water and pasture for his animals. Foolish and wicked King Ahab thought, If I can only find Elijah and kill him, everything will be all right! But the all-powerful God kept the prophet safe.

MT Then in the quiet of the home at Zarephath, the Lord spoke to Elijah: "Go to Ahab. Tell him I will send rain upon the earth." Go to Ahab? That might mean death! The king was really angry at Elijah. But the prophet knew God had the power to take care of him.

God will do that for you if you know Jesus as your Saviour. The true and living God is Omnipotent. God has power to do all things and He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have problems.

Elijah would trust the Lord. He knew his God was alive and told men so (1 Kings 18:15).

Elijah had learned a lot about God's power to help him. He did not waste any time going to King Ahab, even though it was going to be a rough time.

A. Scene 1

(Show figures 1 & 2.)

When they met, the king thundered, "Are you the one that is making trouble for Israel?"

I H Have the children repeat the question.

Was it Elijah's fault there was trouble in Israel? What was the real reason God had held the rain back? Because the king and queen were leading the people in worshiping idols. The king was not willing to admit he had done wrong in the sight of God.

S, PAU
Rom 3:23 Do you find it hard to admit when you are wrong? *(Share at least three examples of sin.)*
I know it is hard to say, "Yes, I have sinned," but you can't hide it from God because He already knows about it. He even said in the Bible, "***For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.***" That includes you and me. None of us are like God. You and I are sinners. Are you willing to admit that you sin? King Ahab was not ready to admit that he had sinned and done wrong in the sight of God.

But Elijah was not afraid. He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you, King Ahab. You have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed Baal." Then Elijah said "Call all the people from all of Israel to come to Mount Carmel. And bring with you the 450 prophets of Baal who eat with you each day."

Something strange happened. The king did just as Elijah told him! Instead of trying to kill the prophet King Ahab obeyed Elijah's orders. The all-powerful God caused the wicked king to obey. The prophets of Baal came. Many people came. Soon a crowd had gathered.

(Remove figures. Place yarn to indicate mountain.)

B. Scene 2

Up, up, up the mountain, Elijah climbed. Up the mountain too, climbed the people of Israel--thousands of them. Up the mountain climbed the prophets of the false god, Baal--hundreds of them. And up the hill climbed King Ahab. What was going to take place on Mount Carmel that day? The people did not know and the king did not know. But Elijah knew. God had told him what to do.

(Place figure 1.)

I H Have the children pretend to climb up the mountain .

Suddenly Elijah shouted to the crowd on the hillside, “How long will you wait to decide? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” But no one said a word. Would you be like those people and not answer a single word? Or, would you say, “Yes, I believe in the one true God, and I will follow Him.” People today follow many different religious leaders and believe what they say instead of what the true and living God says in the Bible.

O The Bible tells us that there is only one to follow. There is only one who can make us ready for heaven. That one is the Lord Jesus, God's perfect Son. He said, ***“I am the way . . . no man comes to the Father but by me”*** (John 14:6). Will you follow Him? You must choose. That is what Elijah was asking the people to do – choose, but no one answered.

Elijah broke the silence as he boldly said, “I'm the only prophet of the Lord that is left; and there are 450 prophets of Baal. Though Elijah may have felt alone, he knew that God was with him and he knew he could trust Him.

G Perhaps you've been lonely, too, and wondered if anyone cares. Well, someone does. God cares. God loves you. In spite of your sin, He loves you.

I H Have the children do the motions for God loves you. (Point up, cross arms, point to someone.)

He also loved Elijah, and I'm sure Elijah knew that God loved him and that He was with him. He could trust God.

Elijah gave more orders to the people, “Bring two bulls. Let Baal's prophets choose one, cut it in pieces and place it on wood on an altar. I will do the same. Neither of us should place fire under the wood.”

“Then you are to call on the name of your gods. I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God who answers by fire, let him be God.”

All the people agreed, “It is well spoken.”

C. Scene 3

(Place figures 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.)

The prophets of Baal prepared their bull as an offering to their gods. They prayed in the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, “O Baal, hear us.” But there was no answer. No fire came to burn up the animal sacrifice. When nothing happened, the prophets leaped upon the altar.

Elijah mocked them, and called out, “Cry louder: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he's asleep. You must wake him up!”

The Baal prophets cried louder. They cut themselves until blood gushed out. Noon passed and evening was coming on, but still there was no answer from Baal. No one heard! No one answered their prayers!

Elijah stepped forward motioning to the people. “Come near,” he shouted. The people moved closer to him. They stared at Elijah as he carefully built an altar to the Lord, using twelve large stones.

D. Scene 4

(Place figure 13, water may be cut off and added separately.)

The people watched as the prophet dug a ditch or a trench around the altar. Next he placed the wood and the pieces of the animal on the altar. This sacrifice is a wonderful picture of Jesus.

P, E
1 Peter 2:4

In the Old Testament, a sacrifice to the true and living God was a picture of what Jesus did on the cross. Just as the animal took some person's place, Jesus took our place when He died on the cross. He gave His blood to pay for sin, not His sin, but ours. ***“Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness . . .”*** (1 Peter 2:4) Jesus died; He was buried and rose again. He lives today in heaven waiting to forgive you of your sin and to give you eternal life. The animal could not come back to life, nor could its blood cleanse from sin. It was only a picture or reminder of what Jesus would do.

After Elijah placed the sacrifice on the wood, the people were surprised to hear him say, “Fill four barrels with water and pour it on the sacrifice and the wood.” After that he said, “Do it the second time.” After that he said, “Do it the third time.” The water ran down around the altar, filling the trench with water.

(Remove King Ahab and prophets.)

E. Scene 5

(Exchange figure 1 for figure 4.)

Then Elijah prayed, “Lord God . . . let it be known today that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.”

Immediately there was a great blast of heat and crackling flames!

(Place figure 14.)

Did Elijah's God hear? (Yes!) Did he answer? (Yes!) It must have been a wonderful sight!

The true and living God sent fire to burn up the sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust and even the water that was in the trench!

When the people saw the all-powerful God answer Elijah's prayer, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God." God had answered Elijah's prayer. The people saw God's marvelous power and believed on Him!

I H Have the children repeat "The Lord He is God".

God had been getting Elijah ready for this great day on Mount Carmel during the three years by the brook and in the home of the widow of Zarephath. During that time Elijah had learned to trust God for many things.

MT, PAS
1 John 4:4 The true and living God is Omnipotent. God has power to do all things, and if Jesus is your Saviour He wants you to learn to trust Him when you have problems. (Share three examples of problems they might have, like: loneliness, hard homework, pressure to follow the gang when they do wrong things.) 1 John 4:4 says, ". . . **greater is He (Jesus) that is in you, than he (Satan) that is in the world.**" Remember to trust or believe God to help you when you have problems.

I H Have the children show their muscles.

Through the years Elijah had learned to trust God. Now he was ready for the big challenge of Mount Carmel.

That day, because Elijah trusted God and did what God asked him to do, thousands of people believed that the Lord was God. They believed that Elijah was His servant. They found out that Baal was only a helpless make-believe god.

(Remove all figures.)

After the great happenings of the day, King Ahab went to eat and drink. He still refused to believe in the God of Elijah. But Elijah did something very different.

F. Scene 6

(Place figure 15.)

He went up to the top of Mount Carmel. He put his face between his knees and prayed earnestly that God would send rain. Elijah trusted God and asked Him to do what He had promised.

G. Scene 7

Elijah called to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” The servant went up and looked, and said, “There is nothing.”

(Place figure 16.)

Elijah answered, “Go again.” Why do you suppose Elijah wanted his servant to look toward the sea and sky? To see if there was any cloud that would show God was beginning to answer his prayer. The servant went six times, but he saw no sign of a cloud.

I H Have the children count and shake their head each time when he saw no sign.

Why do you think God gave us this story of Elijah's prayer? Maybe it is to help us remember that God does not always answer our prayers right away. But we are to keep on trusting Him anyway.

Elijah kept on sending His servant. The servant went to look seven times. When he returned from the seventh trip, he had good news! “There's a cloud as small as a man's hand coming out of the sea.” Then Elijah knew God had answered his prayer and rain would soon be falling in great drops.

(Remove figures.)

Elijah told his servant, “Go and tell the king to hurry down the mountain or the rain may stop him.”

Even before the servant got back from warning the king the sky was black with clouds. The wind was blowing and there was a heavy rain.

III. CLIMAX

Our God who is the first and the last . . . showed His mighty power that day.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Closing Statements

Elijah got up from praying and started to run back to the city. The true and living God once again showed His power by causing Elijah to get to the city gates before King Ahab, who was riding in a chariot.

B. Bridge

God has the power to do all things.

C. Invitation

L
John 1:12 One of the things that God wants to do is to make you His child. John 1:12 says He has the power to do that. It says, ***“But as many as received Him*** (If you take or invite Jesus to be your Saviour), ***to them*** (you) ***gave He power*** (God gives you the privilege, the right) ***to become the sons*** (children) ***of God, even to them that believe on His name.***” Are you willing to admit to God that you have sinned and that you want Him to save you? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross in your place and rose again the third day? If so, you can receive Him as your Saviour right now. God wants to save you and make you one of His children, but you must ask Him to be your Saviour. Are you ready to do that? Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. If you want Jesus to be your Saviour from sin, will you raise your hand right now? (Invite those children to come forward so you can counsel them.)

D. Challenge

MT If you have received Jesus as your Saviour, you should remember that God is Omnipotent. God has power to do all things, and He wants you to learn to trust him when you have problems. 1 John 4:4 says, ***“... greater is He*** (Jesus) ***that is in you, than he*** (Satan) ***that is in the world.***” (Review the three examples of problems mentioned in the PAS that they might have, like: loneliness, hard homework, pressure to follow the gang when they do wrong things.) Will you ask God right now to help you to remember to trust or believe that He will help you when you have problems?

TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Give each child a folded sheet of colored paper with the title on, “My Story about trusting God.” Have each child draw a picture or write a short story like the four stories included here to share in class next week.

ELIJAH #3

“ELIJAH RUNS FROM QUEEN JEZEBEL” – The True and Living God is Omnipresent

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 46:10
“Be still and know that I am God.”

MAIN TRUTH: GOD IS WITH YOU EVERYWHERE, and He wants you to learn to trust Him to take care of you.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Beginning Statements
 - B. Transition

- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. Scene 1
 - B. Scene 2
 - C. Scene 3
 - D. Scene 4

- III. CLIMAX

- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. Closing Statements
 - B. Bridge
 - C. Invitation
 - D. Challenge

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Beginning Statements

Josh had a real hard time being in the right place at the right time. When he was supposed to be ready to go on a picnic he was at a neighbor's house. When his favorite aunt came to visit he was on a bike hike. When it was time for dessert he was playing a video game. Poor Josh. He was either in trouble with Mom and Dad or he was missing out on something special. What do you think his problem was? It was a hearing problem – but not the kind you might be thinking of. Josh was not deaf; he just wasn't listening. Josh always had the TV blaring, or ear phones piping loud music into his ears, or he and his friends were playing army games and making noises like missiles. It is important for you to learn to listen to your parents, teachers, and especially to God.

B. Transition

God is going to speak to someone in our lesson. Is it Elijah? Will he listen?

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

God had done many wonderful things as He watched over His servant Elijah. He had given him food and water and a place to live. He had showed His great power on Mount Carmel. God sent rain after three years when Elijah prayed, asking Him to do so. Surely Elijah would never be afraid to trust God to care for him again.

But wicked Queen Jezebel was angry with Elijah. She was so angry that she wanted to kill him. What made the queen so wicked? It was because she had a wicked heart.

S, PAU The Bible says, ***“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it.”*** This verse isn't just talking about Queen Jezebel's heart, but everyone's heart, your heart and my heart. Our hearts are full of sin, too. Yes, you and I are sinners. Our hearts are deceitful; they can even trick us and encourage you and me to sin. You don't kick someone because you have a wicked foot; it's because you have a wicked, sinful heart. *(Share at least three examples of sin.)* You and I are sinners and

Queen Jezebel was a sinner. Her husband, King Ahab, had told her all that had taken place on the mountainside, and so she wanted to kill Elijah.

In her anger, the queen sent for her servant.

IH Have children show angry face.

A. Scene 1

(Place figures 3 and 17.)

The queen gave a message to her servant for Elijah, “May the gods kill me if you are not dead by tomorrow.” She felt sure she could have Elijah killed. Wasn't she the queen?

(Remove figures.)

MT Jezebel didn't know that God was watching over His servant Elijah. No harm could come to him unless God permitted it. This is also true of you who have received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. The true and living God is Omnipresent. God is with you everywhere, and He wants you to learn to trust Him to take care of you. God is watching over you every moment of the day because you are His child. God was also watching over Elijah. No one could harm him unless God permitted it.

IH Have children spread their arms to their sides.

(Place figure 1.)

When Elijah received the message from the queen's servant, his heart was suddenly filled with fear.

Elijah was very, very tired. He had stood all day on the mountain against the prophets of Baal. He had prayed a long time for rain to come. When the rain was coming, he ran all the way down the mountainside ahead of the king's chariot. When we are tired sometimes we forget what God has taught us.

IH Have children stand, pray and then run in place.

Elijah seems to have forgotten how powerful God is. He ran from the wicked queen in fear for his life! Elijah was not trusting God, was he?

G The Bible, God's Word, doesn't tell us only the good things about people, but it tells us about their sins also. It tells us how Elijah failed to trust God, yet how loving and tender God was with him. This reminds me that God loves you and me even though we have sinned. Elijah was not trusting in God, but God still loved him.

(Remove figure 1, placing Elijah, figure 4.)

In Elijah's fear and discouragement, he ran into the desert. There he sat **I John 1:7** down under a juniper tree and prayed, “Oh, Lord, take away my life.” Elijah wanted to die to get out of his problems. That wasn't a very good reason, was it?

O, P, E The Bible tells us of someone who wanted to die to pay for our sin. The Lord Jesus, God's perfect Son, is that person. The Bible tells us that Jesus did die on the cross and gave His precious blood in payment for our sin. It is Jesus' blood that cleanses us from our sin. I John 1:7b says, “**. . . and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.**” Jesus died and was buried, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again. Jesus had a wonderful reason for wanting to die, but Elijah only wanted to get out of his problems.

Then Elijah lay down and slept.

B. Scene 2

(Place sleeping prophet, figure 18, in place of figure 4. Add angel, cake and pitcher, figures 19-21 as you speak of them.)

As he slept, an angel touched him, and said, “Arise and eat.” Elijah looked and saw a cake baked on the coals and a pitcher of water. So the prophet ate and drank. Then he laid down and slept. He still was very tired. Later, the angel came again. He awakened Elijah and told him once more to eat and drink.

IH Have the children eat, drink and sleep again.

After his sleep and the two meals Elijah was rested and had new strength.

(Remove all figures.)

Elijah should have taken time to talk to God and ask Him what he should do. He should have waited until God showed him what to do next. God had always protected him before; He could still protect him from the wicked queen who was determined to kill him.

But instead of being still and thinking about all God had done for him, Elijah hurried farther from the place where God needed him. He traveled for forty days and forty nights until he came to Mount Horeb. There, Elijah found a cave and went inside to rest.

C. Scene 3

(Place yarn representing cave, Elijah, figure 1.)

Because Elijah had not asked the Lord what to do or where to go as he should have done, God asked him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah answered, “All the rest of the people have forsaken you, God. I'm the only one left; and they want to kill me.”

IH Have children say “What are you doing here Elijah?”.

The Lord said, “Go forth and stand upon the mountain before the Lord.” As Elijah did this, a great and strong wind shook the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces. After the wind came an earthquake, and after the earthquake, a fire. Then it was quiet. After these things came a still small voice. God was now speaking to Elijah again.

(Substitute Elijah, figure 22, for figure 1.)

MT, PAS
Psa. 46:10

When Elijah heard God speak, he wrapped his face in his robe, went out, and stood in the door of the cave. Then the prophet heard that question again, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Who was talking to Elijah? Elijah had run 200 miles away and hid in a cave, but someone was there with him. It was God. God is Omnipresent. **“Be still and know that I am God.”** Many times we forget that God is watching over us and can take care of us because we are rushing around doing what we want to do. Or, there is so much noise around us we can't even hear His still, small voice. Do you have a quiet place where you can be alone with God -- in your room or in your yard or in a park? Each one of us needs to be still and remember that God is with us. (Hebrews 13:5). God is watching over you. Trust Him for the hard time you may be having right now. He will show you what to do. God is with you to take care of you. God wanted to help Elijah to see that he didn't need to be afraid of Queen Jezebel, so He spoke to Elijah. Elijah knew this was the voice of God. And Elijah answered as he had before, “All the people have forsaken you, God. I'm the only one left; and they want to kill me.”

IH Have children spread their arms to their sides.

Surely by now Elijah should have remembered how wonderfully God had taken care of him. He should have known that the queen could not kill him unless God permitted her to! But he had forgotten to be quiet and still before the Lord. He had forgotten the words of our memory verse, **“Be still, and know that I am God.”**

As Elijah listened, the Lord told him to return to Samaria. He gave him some special instructions to follow as he traveled.

(Remove figures.)

One of the things God told Elijah to do was to call a young man by the name of Elisha to work with him. God also let Elijah know he was not the only one who still trusted in Him. God said, “I have 7,000 people who have not bowed down to Baal.”

How encouraged Elijah must have felt!

Elijah obeyed God immediately and went to find Elisha. These two men have names that sound alike. Let's say them together. (Place printed names on flannelboard or hold up a flashcard with names, showing the difference in spelling. For older children, help them to see that the spelling of the names is a guide to who was first. In the alphabet the “j” in Elijah comes before the “s” in Elisha.)

IH Have children say the names “Elijah” and “Elisha”.

(Note: To help you remember who comes first in our Bible lesson about Elijah and Elisha prophetic ministry for God in Old Testament... in our alphabet J comes before S.)

D. SCENE 4

Do you know where Elijah found Elisha? He was plowing in his father's field. Eleven other men were in the field with him. Each of the men was plowing with a team of oxen. The Bible says Elisha drove the twelfth team with 12 yoke of oxen. Elisha was a farmer.

(Place Elijah and Elisha, figures 1 and 23.)

Elijah came to Elisha while he was working in the field and threw his own robe over Elisha's shoulders. Elisha knew this meant God was calling him to serve Him. Perhaps God had been quietly speaking to Elisha's heart about serving Him for this young man was ready and willing to follow. No questions asked! The Bible says, "Elisha arose and went after Elijah, and helped him."

(Remove figures.)

III. CLIMAX

Elisha was listening to God's voice, so he was at the right place at the right time.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

How do you think Elijah felt when he saw how willing Elisha was to obey God? He must have been happy and maybe a little surprised. What kind of prayer do you think Elijah might have prayed that day? "Forgive me, Lord for not listening to Your voice. I'm not the only one who wants to serve You. Thank You that You have been watching over me even when I didn't remember You were there."

B. BRIDGE

God has something special to say to you today from His Word. Are you listening to His voice?

C. INVITATION

L Revelation 3:20 says, "**Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door** (the door of your heart, not the heart that pumps your blood, but the part of you that will never die), **and knock: if any man** (man, woman, boy, or girl) **hear my voice** (if you know that you need Jesus), **and open the door** (ask Him to come into your heart), **I will come in ...**" If you want Jesus to be your Saviour, then you need to tell Him you know you have sinned. Also, you need to tell Him that you believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins and that He rose again the third day. Then ask Him to cleanse your heart of sin and come and live in your heart. Would you like to invite Jesus to come into your heart right now to be your Saviour? (Have the children bow their heads. Have those who want to receive Jesus look at you and come forward to be counseled.)

D. CHALLENGE**MT****Psa. 46:10**

If Jesus is your Saviour, God is with you everywhere, and He wants you to learn to trust Him to take care of you. God is Omnipresent. He is with you at home, at school, or wherever you are. (Review the 3 examples used in the PAS of God's care wherever you are, such as: when you are in the dark, when you are with those who make fun of God, when you are lost.) Whatever your problem is or wherever you are, always remember to stop and talk to God about it. Our memory verse for today says, **“Be still and know that I am God.”** Many times we forget that God is watching over us and can take care of us because we are rushing around doing what we want to do. Or, there is so much noise around us we can't even hear His still, small voice. Remember to find a quiet place where you can be alone with God -- in your room or in your yard or in a park. Each one of us needs to be still and remember that God is with us. (Hebrews 13:5). God is watching over you. Will you take time right now to tell God that you will trust Him to take care of you?

TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Find a quiet place this week and take your three memory verses with you. Think about each one of them for a while. Then thank God He is real.

ELIJAH - #4

ELIJAH AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD - The True and Living God is Holy

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 21:1-26

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 13:5

“Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

MAIN TRUTH: GOD HATES SIN, and He wants you to learn to confess your sins to Him.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS
 - B. TRANSITION

- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. SCENE 1
 - B. SCENE 2
 - C. SCENE 3
 - D. SCENE 4

- III. CLIMAX

- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. CLOSING STATEMENTS
 - B. BRIDGE
 - C. INVITATION

- D. CHALLENGE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS

What are some things a king owns? (Crown, horses, chariots, gold, palace, rich clothes, servants, land, boat, etc.) Do you think a king who has all these things would ever covet or want something very badly belonging to another person? If he did covet what someone else had, would the sin of coveting lead to something worse?

B. TRANSITION

Let's see if anything like this happened to a king named Ahab.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

King Ahab had a beautiful palace in Samaria. Close to the palace lived a man named Naboth. Naboth had a vineyard where large, luscious grapes grew. Ummm, did they look good!

Naboth's vineyard had belonged to his father before it belonged to him. And it had belonged to his grandfather before that. The vineyard was special to Naboth. It was God's plan for it to always be owned by their family (Numbers 36:7; Ezekiel 46:18).

S, PAU Rom. 6:23

But King Ahab looked at the beautiful vineyard and decided he wanted it for himself. In fact, King Ahab coveted the vineyard. Have you ever coveted something or some ability that your friends have? Perhaps they always seem to hit the ball and make a run, but you seldom hit it? (Share 3 examples of sin.) All of these things are sin. I'm sure you can think of some other things that you have done that are sin. God tells us that you and I are sinners and that sin separates us from Him. Romans 6:23 says, **“For the wages of sin is death”** This verse means that if you have not received Jesus as your Saviour from sin, you cannot go to heaven when you die. God can never let sin in His presence. Ahab had a heart full of sin. He wanted that vineyard so much that he would do just about anything to get it. He wasn't content with all he had as king. He wanted more, even though he was rich and had more than he needed.

The king did not love the true God. He didn't care that one of God's commands clearly said, “Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's” (Exodus 20:17). Coveting is disobeying God's Word.

King Ahab refused to listen to God's command not to covet. He was determined his way was right.

A. SCENE 1

(Place King Ahab and Naboth, figures 2 and 24.)

The king went right to Naboth one day and said in a commanding voice, “Give me your vineyard. I will make it a garden of herbs, ... it is near my house.” Since the king had many vineyards he offered Naboth another vineyard or money to purchase his.

I H Have children say “Give me your vineyard” in a stern voice.

Naboth said, “The Lord would not want me to give you the inheritance of my family.” Naboth loved God and he would not disobey Him, even to please the king.

When the king heard Naboth's firm answer, he was furious and turned quickly, leaving the vineyard.

(Remove figures.)

Gloomy and unhappy the king rushed to the palace and to his room. He threw himself on his bed and turned his face to the wall.

B. SCENE 2

(Place figures 25 and 26, king and queen.)

Why was the King of Israel pouting? Because he couldn't have his own way! Queen Jezebel followed him to his room. She quizzed him: “Why are you so sad? You're not eating. What's wrong?”

“It's because Naboth won't sell his vineyard to me. I offered him another vineyard or money for his, but he refused. He said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'”

It didn't take the wicked queen long to come up with a solution. Perhaps she turned the king's face toward her as she shouted, “Aren't you the king? You can have that vineyard if you want it. A king can have anything he wants. Rise, and eat. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth.”

G Jezebel didn't believe in the true God. Even though Jezebel refused to believe in God, God did not refuse to love her. The Bible tells us that God loves everyone. God loves you, and He loves me. He loved Jezebel even though she didn't believe in the true God. She still worshiped the false god Baal. We learned before that the king was wicked in the sight of the Lord and his wife caused him to do evil. Now the queen was plotting to steal Naboth's vineyard. In order to steal it, she must get rid of Naboth. She would have him killed.

Why do you think God gives us commands or rules? Let's see if we can answer this question from this story about King Ahab. When the king kept looking at those grapes and thinking about how much he wanted them, did this make him happy? (No, He became gloomy and pouted.) One reason God gives us special rules is because He knows what will make our lives happy. Being content with what we have makes us happy. Coveting makes us sad!

MT What other kinds of sin came into Ahab's family after he started coveting the vineyard? (His wife became angry. She planned to steal Naboth's vineyard and even have Naboth killed.) God knows that coveting can bring other sins into our lives. God is Holy. God hates sin, and if Jesus is your Saviour, He wants you to learn to confess your sins to Him. God knows that sin can destroy our lives. Sin keeps us from being close friends with God. Sin hurts our lives and others.

C. SCENE 3

(Remove figures; place Jezebel and servant, figures 3 and 17.)

Jezebel wrote letters and signed the king's name to them. Then she sent for her messenger and asked him to deliver the letters to leaders in the city. In the letters, she ordered them to accuse Naboth of speaking against God and the king. Then she added, "Carry him out, and stone him, that he may die."

I H Have children pretend to write letters on hand and sign king's name.

When the leaders read the letters, they were afraid to disobey. They invited the people of the city to meet and set Naboth on a high place among the people.

D. SCENE 4

(Place crowd, Naboth and accusers, figures 11, 27-29.)

O They invited the people of the city to meet and set Naboth on a high place among the people. Two evil and wicked men came to accuse Naboth: "You have spoken evil against the name of God and King Ahab." The leaders did not allow Naboth to speak. And though the things Naboth was accused of were not true, no one was allowed to defend him. This reminds me of what they did to Jesus. Jesus is God's perfect Son. He never did anything wrong. Naboth had done many wrong things in his lifetime, but he didn't do what these men accused him of doing.

(Remove figures.)

P, E
Rev. 1:5b After the men accused Naboth, the leaders ordered him to be carried out of the city. There the angry crowd hurled stones at him until he died. This innocent man died because of the sinful queen. Naboth reminds me of the Lord Jesus who died in our place. Jesus died and shed His blood to pay for our sins. Rev. 1:5b says, "**Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.**" Jesus died for us, but He didn't stay dead. He arose from the dead. Although Jesus wasn't guilty of sin, he died for our sin. Naboth wasn't guilty, but he was stoned to death because of the sinful queen.

The city leaders sent word to the queen, "Naboth is dead."

(Place king and queen, figures 25 and 26.)

Queen Jezebel went quickly to her husband. “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth. He refused to sell it to you, but he is dead, so now you can have it.” As soon as the king heard the news, he went to the vineyard to claim it for his own.

I H Have children say, “Go and take the vineyard, Naboth is dead.”

(Remove figures.)

God knew the evil deeds of the king and queen. He knew just the moment the king would go to take possession of the vineyard.

So God had spoken to the prophet Elijah, “Arise, go down to meet Ahab ... behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, ... he has gone down to possess it.”

MT, PAS
1 John 1:9

Ahab surely didn't want to see the prophet of God! Why do you think the king wouldn't want to see Elijah? Ahab knew what he was doing was wrong. Seeing God's servant would remind him that God is holy. Ahab had not fooled God. God knew about Jezebel's wicked plan and the death of Naboth. God hates sin, and if Jesus is your Saviour He wants you to learn to confess your sins to Him. (Share 3 examples of sin in the life of a Christian.) God wants you and me to hate sin as He does. In I John we read, “**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just forgive us our sins ...**” (I John 1:9). When you sin, you need to agree with God that it is wrong. Confess your sin to God and ask Him to forgive you and help you obey Him. If you do this, what does God promise to do? He will forgive you. Will the Lord Jesus leave us when we sin? No, He promised, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**” But He tells us that we must confess our sin when we do something wrong. King Ahab knew he had done wrong. If only He would have stopped Jezebel from carrying out her dreadful plan. But he didn't. Now, Elijah would remind him of his sinful acts. He surely didn't want to see the prophet of God!

Perhaps Elijah thought. The king will surely kill me, too. But Elijah knew he must obey God. He went to meet the wicked king.

(Place Ahab and Elijah, figures 1 and 2.)

When Ahab saw the prophet, he cried, “Have you found me now, my enemy?”

Elijah answered, “I have found you: because you have done evil in the sight of the Lord. You have killed and now you've come to take possession of the vineyard. God will punish you and the queen. You will both die. God is angry because of your sin.”

What seemed so innocent in the beginning led from one to sin to another.

(Remove figures.)

III. CLIMAX

They coveted, were angry, pouted, lied, murdered, and stole, and God would not let them get away without being punished.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

Perhaps they thought that they wouldn't get caught in their sin, but God knew all the time what they had done.

B. BRIDGE

Sin is very serious to God. Only He can forgive you of your sin.

C. INVITATION

L
Rom 6:23 If you have never asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, perhaps you would like to do that today. The Bible says, **“For the wages of sin (the result of sin) is death (separation from God), but the gift of God is eternal life (life to live in heaven) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”** You can't buy forgiveness of sins, but God offers it to you as a free gift. But you must admit to God that you are a sinner and need Jesus to save you. Also, you must believe in your heart that Jesus died and rose again for you. Would you like to receive Jesus as your Saviour from sin right now? (Have the children bow their heads. Ask those who want to receive Jesus to meet you at a designated place for further counseling.)

D. CHALLENGE

MT
1 John 1:9 Perhaps you already have asked Jesus to be your Saviour. If so, remember God is holy. God hates sin, and if Jesus is your Saviour He wants you to learn to confess your sins to Him. (Review the 3 examples used in the PAS of sin in the life of a Christian.) God wants you and me to hate sin as He does. In I John we read, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just forgive us our sins ...”** (1 John 1:9). You need to tell God when you sin and ask Him to forgive you and help you obey Him. What does He promise to do? He will forgive you. Will the Lord Jesus leave us when we sin? No, He promised, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** Let's take a moment right now for you to quietly tell God about anything in your life that is sin. Remember, if you agree with God that it is wrong and confess it, He will forgive you.

ELIJAH - #5

“ELIJAH'S MINISTRY PASSED TO ELISHA” – The True and Living God is Sovereign

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: John 12:26

If any man serve me, let him follow me.”

MAIN TRUTH: GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE, and He wants you to learn to serve Him.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS
 - B. TRANSITION

- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. SCENE 1
 - B. SCENE 2
 - C. SCENE 3
 - D. SCENE 4

- III. CLIMAX

- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. CLOSING STATEMENTS
 - B. BRIDGE
 - C. INVITATION
 - D. CHALLENGE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS

God wants you to serve Him wherever you are. But He asks some people to make serving Him their life work. (Have children name some people they know who serve God as their full-time job--pastors, missionaries.)

B. TRANSITION

Do you remember the day Elijah called a young farmer to serve the Lord with him? The young man, Elisha, had been busy working in his father's field.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. SCENE 1

(Place figures 1 and 23, Elijah and Elisha with plow.)

Perhaps Elisha had been asking God how he should serve Him. Did God want him to stay on the farm and work for his father or did God have some other plan for his life? How would he know God's plan?

Until the day the prophet Elijah came, Elisha continued working for his father. But when Elijah, the man of God, placed his robe over Elisha's shoulders, Elisha knew right away that God was calling him to be a prophet, too. That was a special day for Elisha. He said goodbye to his parents and went with Elijah to learn how he could work for God.

MT Because God is Sovereign, (an attribute that only God has) that means God is the ruler of all things. He chooses and does whatever He wants with nature and people. If Jesus is your Saviour, God has a plan for your life, and He wants you to learn to serve Him. God had a plan for Elisha's life, and Elisha was willing to leave his parents and work for God.

(Remove figures.)

Elijah was a speaker for God. As a prophet he told God's message. Several years had passed since Elisha began working with Elijah.

B. SCENE 2

(Place Elijah and Elisha, figures 1 and 30.)

During that time the two men worked together in Bible schools--called schools of the prophets. Together Elijah and Elisha trained many young men known as sons of the prophets to serve God. The Bible tells of three different schools--Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. Elisha loved Elijah and tried to learn all he could about serving God from the older prophet.

S, PAU
Ez. 18:4

Elisha knew he would soon have to do God's work without Elijah's help. God was going to take Elijah to his heavenly home. Elijah was ready for heaven because he was trusting in God. Very soon his life on earth would be over. You and I do not know when our life here will be over, so we must be ready for heaven, too. The Bible tells you how to be ready for heaven. None of us are born ready for heaven. We are born with sinful hearts. Sin is anything that displeases God. Can you think of something that displeases God? (Let the children share several examples of sin.) God's Word says that every person in the world has sinned. Ezekiel 18:4 says, “... **the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**” Because of sin in the world, each one of us will die. That is the bad news. But the good news is you can go to be with Jesus in heaven if you have received Him as your Saviour. You must receive Jesus as your Saviour. Then you will be ready for heaven when it is your turn to go. Elijah was ready for heaven and very soon he would be with God.

Elijah was ready, but Elisha did not want to let the older prophet out of his sight, for he loved him very much. The two servants of God traveled together. In Gilgal, Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha answered firmly, “I will not leave you.” So the two men traveled on to Bethel.

I H Have children the children say “I will not leave you.”

In the town of Bethel they met young men from the school of the prophets.

C. SCENE 3

(Place sons of prophets, figure 11.)

The young men, too, seemed to know that Elijah was going home to heaven that day, for they said to Elisha, “Don't you know the Lord will take away your master today?”

Elisha answered, “Yes, I know it”. But he didn't want to talk about it.

Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here in Bethel, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.”

Again Elisha answered, “I will not leave you.”

I H Have the children say “I will not leave you.”

Now the sons of the prophets in Jericho came to Elisha and said, “Don't you know the Lord will take away your master today?”

Elisha answered as before, “Yes I know it.” Still he didn't want to talk about it! Why do you think Elisha wasn't saying much? (Perhaps it was because he enjoyed working with Elijah so much he didn't want to think of his leaving. Maybe he thought he wouldn't be able to do the work like Elijah.)

When Elijah and Elisha reached the Jordan River, Elijah took off his robe and rolled it up. Then with his robe he struck the Jordan River. At once the river divided and the two of them walked across on dry land! The sons of the prophets looked on from a distance.

Who did this miracle of dividing the river? Was it Elijah? We know Elijah had no power in himself, don't we? It was God who was giving him the power.

(Remove figure 11.)

O, G

When the two men reached the other side of the river Elijah knew that very soon he would go to heaven. I'm sure he must have been thinking of what it would be like in heaven. Have you ever wondered what heaven will be like? The Bible tells many things about heaven. It will be wonderful place. One of the things that will make it so wonderful is that God will be there. The Lord Jesus, God's perfect Son, will be there also. God loves you, and He has provide the way for you to come. God loved Elijah and it was His plan for Elijah to come very soon. I'm sure Elijah thought a lot about heaven and God. But he must have been thinking about Elisha also. He asked Elisha, "What shall I do for you, before I am taken?" Elisha thought of the work he needed to do as a prophet of God.

What do you think Elisha asked for? What would he want most as he stood there on the other side of the Jordan River, knowing Elijah was soon to leave him?

Elisha knew with all his heart what he wanted. He asked for power to serve the Lord as Elijah did. This was not a selfish wish. Elisha wanted to be his very best for God as Elijah had been.

Could Elijah give God's power to Elisha? No. Only God could do that. Elijah would have to leave the answer with God. And so Elijah told the younger prophet, "If you see me when I am taken from you, you will receive the power you asked for." Elisha would know if he had God's power to serve Him.

MT, PAS
John 12:26

Because God is Sovereign, He chooses and does whatever He wants with nature and people. If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, God has a plan for your life, and He wants you to learn to serve Him. Our memory verse says, "**If any man serve me, let him follow me.**" But how will you know what He wants you to do? Will someone come and place a robe over your shoulders? No, today God speaks to us through the Bible. You can learn what God's plan is for your life by asking Him to show you as you study His Word. (Share 3 examples of what God might have planned for their lives, such as: teacher, missionary, preacher, etc.) He has also given you others who can help you learn His plan. Can you think of some people He has given you? (Parents, pastor, Christian teachers, and friends.) God may help you know His plan, too, by the things you enjoy doing. What things do you do well which may help you serve God? (Art, reading, sports, computers, music, helping others, etc.) Yes, God has something special planned for you. Be sure to tell Him that you are willing to serve Him by doing whatever He has planned for you. He also had a special plan for Elisha and soon he would know if he had God's power to do His work.

As Elijah and Elisha walked on together, perhaps they talked about the wonderful ways God had given Elijah power to be His prophet. Elisha probably thanked Elijah for all the things he had taught him. Then suddenly it happened....

D. SCENE 4

(Remove figures, placing Elisha, figure 33, chariot and robe, figures 32 and 34.)

P,E
Heb. 9:22b

A chariot of fire and horses of fire came between them, and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind! This makes me think about the way the Lord Jesus went back to heaven. Remember, Jesus left heaven and came to earth to die for us. It was God's requirement that sin be punished, and the Lord Jesus was willing to take the punishment for you and me. Jesus gave His precious blood to pay for our sins when He died on the cross. The Bible says, “... **and without shedding of blood is no remission.**” Jesus died on the cross, but He didn't stay dead. God raised Him from the dead; He came back to life. Forty days after He rose again He went back to heaven. The Bible says a cloud received Him out of their sight. It was a very special day when Jesus went back to heaven. And it was a special day when Elijah went to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha cried out, “My father! My father!” Elisha saw his friend for the last time. In his grief and loneliness, he saw one thing that reminded him of Elijah. It was Elijah's robe which had fallen to the ground.

(Remove figures.)

Slowly Elisha picked up the robe and started back toward the Jordan River. He had come with his friend, but now he must return alone. But was he really alone? No, God who had taken Elijah to heaven was right there with Elisha.

Elisha had come to the river now. How was he to get across? Elijah was not with him to strike the Jordan. Then Elisha remembered. He had asked for the same power Elijah had. He didn't feel any different.

I H Have the children pretend to strike the river.

But as he came to the riverbank, he struck the water with Elijah's robe and asked, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” Immediately the river parted just as it had for Elijah!

(Place sons of the prophets and Elisha, figures 11 and 35.)

The sons of the prophets were watching from the other side of the river. They saw the miracle and said, “God who worked through Elijah is now working through Elisha.”

III. CLIMAX

Elisha's life work was to serve God as their new leader.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

These men came out to meet Elisha, and they bowed themselves to the ground before him. They knew God had appointed Elisha to do a special work for Him.

B. BRIDGE

God has a special plan for you, too.

C. INVITATION

L
Acts 16:31 First of all, God's plan is that you be saved from your sins. The Bible says, “... **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**” To be saved you must admit that you are a sinner. Also, you must believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross and that He rose again. Are you ready right now to tell the Lord Jesus that you will trust Him to be your Saviour? Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. (Have those who want Jesus to be their Saviour raise the hands and meet you after class to be counseled.)

D. CHALLENGE

MT
John 12:26 If the Lord Jesus is already your Saviour, God has a plan for your life, and He wants you to learn to serve Him. Our memory verse says, “**If any man serve me, let him follow me.**” Because God is Sovereign, He chooses and does whatever He wants with nature and people. Remember God will speak to you through the Bible. You can learn what God's plan is for your life by asking Him to show you as you study His Word. (Review the 3 examples used in the PAS of what God might have planned for their lives, such as: teacher, missionary, preacher, etc.) He has also given you others who can help you learn His plan. Can you think of some people He has given you? (Parents, pastor, Christian teachers, and friends.) God may help you know His plan, too, by the things you enjoy doing. What things do you do well which may help you serve God? (Art, reading, sports, computers, music, helping others, etc.) Yes, God has something special planned for you. Will you ask God to show you His plan for you as you study His Word? Be sure to tell Him that you are willing to serve Him by doing whatever He has planned for you. (Give children opportunity to pray quietly in their hearts. Then close in prayer.)

ELIJAH - #6

ELIJAH TALKS WITH THE LORD JESUS – The True and Living God is Faithful

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8,31

MEMORY VERSE: **1 Corinthians 15:3,4**

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

MAIN TRUTH: GOD IS ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN TO YOU, and He wants you to learn to talk with Him every day.

BASIC OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS
 - B. TRANSITION

- II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
 - A. SCENE 1
 - B. SCENE 2
 - C. SCENE 3
 - D. SCENE 4

- III. CLIMAX

- IV. CONCLUSION
 - A. CLOSING STATEMENTS
 - B. BRIDGE
 - C. INVITATION
 - D. CHALLENGE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS

How many of you boys would like to be a king? Does a king always wear velvet robes and live in a beautiful palace with many servants to wait on him? King Alfred of England did not. He had been king for four years when he was forced to flee for his life. His army was scattered and his country was in the hands of the enemy. King Alfred disguised himself so that he looked like a worker in the fields. He wandered homeless and friendless throughout the land.

One day King Alfred came to the door of a poor man's cottage and asked that he might have a place to rest. But the man and his wife did not recognize their king. They treated him badly. The wife ordered him to watch the cakes as they baked on the fire. She scolded him and called him an "idle dog" when he let them get too brown. Oh, how surprised she would have been if she had known that he was her king.

B. TRANSITION

When the Lord Jesus came to this earth, many people saw Him, but they did not know who He was.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

O The promised Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, had come from heaven where Elijah now lived. Jesus was the Son of God. Some people believed this, and some did not believe it. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son? Whether or not you believe it, Jesus is the perfect Son of God. He was born in a stable in Bethlehem. When Jesus grew to be a man, He taught the people about His Father in heaven. He made the blind see and the deaf hear. He even raised the dead. These were miracles that only God could do and so we know that Jesus is both God and man.

A. SCENE 1

(Place Jesus and three disciples, figures 36 and 37.)

I H Have the children count to 12.

The Lord Jesus called twelve men to be His disciples or followers. One day, He invited three of His disciples--Peter, James and John--to go with Him up Mount Hermon. Jesus loved the mountains, the flowers, the birds and all the wonderful things which He had created (John 1:3). Snow covered Mount Hermon most of the year. What a beautiful sight it was as the sunset turned it into glowing colors of pink, purple, and gold.

S, PAU
John 3:18

Jesus must have talked about His heavenly Father with Peter, James, and John as they made their way up the mountain path. This was a special time for them. Jesus had often told the disciples the reason for His coming to earth. Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. Yes, Jesus was going to die for your sins and my sins. What is sin to you? Is sin just things like murder, robbing a bank, or stealing a car? No, of course not. Other little things are sin, too. (Share 3 examples of sin.) One thing that many people do not think of as sin is not believing in Jesus. The Bible says, “... **he that believeth not is condemned already** (sentenced to go to the place of punishment), **because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**” Every person in the world has sinned in one way or another. That includes you and me. Yes, you and I are sinners, but Jesus came to earth to die for us. He told his disciples that He would die soon. Then His words would come true.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand. So, once again, He told them very carefully. “The Son of Man is going to be given into the hands of men and they will kill him. And He will rise the third day.” This did not make sense to the disciples and for some reason they were afraid to ask any questions. We understand what Jesus was saying because we know the end of the story!

MT

God's plan for Jesus to take our punishment for sin was a good one. But it was not going to be easy. Jesus had come to this quiet place to pray to His Heavenly Father. Because the Lord Jesus had taken on an earthly body He needed strength and encouragement. He needed to talk to God the Father about the most difficult day of His earthly life that was soon to come. He loved to talk to His heavenly Father. He knew that God is faithful. That means when we come to God in prayer, He is always there. If Jesus is your Saviour, God is always ready to listen to you, and He wants you to learn to talk with Him every day. Are you taking time each day to talk with your heavenly Father? Jesus did.

B. SCENE 2

(Remove standing figures; place praying Christ and sleeping disciples, figures 38 and 39.)

As the Lord Jesus prayed a great change took place. It was as though God permitted the shining brightness of His Son, which had been hidden, to shine forth.

As Jesus knelt in prayer, His clothes became white and glistening. They were white as snow, whiter than any bleach could make them. His face, which had been lined with care, shone as the brilliant sun! It was as though all the glory, the shining brightness of God, which had been hidden as He walked on earth, was not bursting from within Him.

Many people had not believed Jesus was the Son of God and they had treated Him cruelly. As He prayed there on the mountain, God was showing Him in all the radiant glory the Lord Jesus had left behind in heaven.

G Were Peter, James and John watching this majestic sight? Had they been praying with Jesus? No! The three men had fallen asleep! It is wonderful to know that the Lord Jesus was not angry with them. He still loved them. God loves you and me even though we don't always do what we should. Peter, James, and John were not doing what they should have been either, but Jesus was not angry with them.

I H Have the children pretend to be sleeping

MT, PAS
1Thess. 5:17 The Lord Jesus' face shown like the sun as He talked to His Father who was in heaven. God is faithful; He is always there when we come to Him in prayer. If Jesus is your Saviour, God is always ready to listen to you, and He wants you to learn to talk with Him every day. Are you taking time each day to talk with your heavenly Father? You should take time each day to get alone and be quiet with God. God wants you to study His word so He can speak to your mind and heart. Then He wants you to talk with Him in prayer and share all your problems and the things that make you happy. If you really love God, you will want to talk with Him every day. The Bible tells us to **“Pray without ceasing.”** You and I can talk to God at any time. (Share 3 examples of when we can talk to God, like: in the middle of the night, on vacation, in danger.) God is always there, but He is waiting for you to come him and talk to Him. Jesus talked to His Father, and when He did His face shown like the sun.

C. SCENE 3

(Substitute figure 40, Christ standing, for kneeling figure. Add Moses and Elijah, figures 41 and 42.)

Suddenly, two other men stood talking with Him. One was the prophet Elijah! Elijah had been in heaven when God sent His Son to earth to be born as a baby. How thrilling for the prophet now to stand next to the man, Jesus Christ, on Mount Hermon.

(Place large figure “900” on flannelboard to draw attention.)

But how can that be? In our last lesson Elijah's life on earth ended. You are in for a surprise!

Nine hundred years (point to number) had passed since Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind (II Kings 2). Many kings and prophets had lived and died during those years. But here was Elijah talking to Jesus.

The other person was Moses. Do you remember anything special about Moses? (Hidden by his parents for three months, then became the son of the princess, led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea, received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.) Moses had lived 1400 years before Jesus came to earth. That was even before Elijah!

On this important day, both Elijah and Moses came to earth to visit Jesus on Mount Hermon.

What do you think the three men talked about? Did Moses tell about the time God opened the Red Sea so that he and all the Israelites could cross on dry land? Did Elijah talk about his exciting journey to heaven? Did they talk about the wonderful heavenly home they just left? No! They had something even more important to talk about. They talked about the most important event that would ever take place in this world. What was it?

P, E
1 Cor. 15:3,4 They talked about how Jesus was soon to die on a cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. They may have talked about the great victory He would have over sin and death. The Lord Jesus knew before He was born as a baby that His purpose in coming to earth was to die. That time was very near now. Yes, Jesus came to die on the cross for you. Let's say those wonderful words of our memory verse: **"...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."** Jesus gave His precious blood in payment for your sins and mine. I am so thankful that verse four says Jesus arose and lives today. It is wonderful what Jesus did for us. I'm sure Elijah and Moses must have been thrilled as the Lord Jesus Himself told them about it.

Although Elijah and Moses had lived many years before the Lord Jesus came to die, they believed the Savior would come. They believed He would pay for their sins. They believed before He came.

Elijah and Moses talked on with Jesus about God's plan to save us from our sins. After a time the three sleepy disciples awakened.

D. SCENE 4

(Remove sleeping disciples; place figure 43, standing disciples.)

Perhaps the bright light awakened them. They saw the two men and the Lord talking together. They saw the shining glory--something they had never seen before! Can you imagine how afraid they must have been? In his fear, Peter blurted out, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents; one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

I H Have the children shield eyes from a bright light.

While Peter spoke a cloud came and overshadowed them all. (Place a white cloud shape over your figures.) Out of the cloud, the disciples heard a voice. It was the voice of God from Heaven. He said, "This is my beloved Son: hear him." (Remove cloud shape and Moses and Elijah.)

When the cloud disappeared, the disciples looked and saw Jesus was alone. Moses and Elijah were not there any longer. It was quiet again on the mountain. Everything was the same as it had been before.

What do you think God was trying to teach the three disciples?

III. CLIMAX

God wanted everyone to recognize or know that the Lord Jesus is God.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

Moses and Elijah were men who had served God, but they were only men. They had made many mistakes. They often sinned. But the Lord Jesus is God. He is one of the persons of our great three-in-one God--the Trinity. The Lord Jesus is God, the Son.

B. BRIDGE

The Lord Jesus has something very important to say to you today. Will you listen to Him?

C. INVITATION

L
1 John 5:12 God says in 1 John 5:12, **“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”** Do you have the Son of God as your Saviour? Are you ready to admit to God that you are a sinner? If so, tell Him that you believe Jesus died for your sins on the cross and rose again. Then ask Him to be your Saviour and to take away your sin. God promises to give you eternal life so you can live in heaven with Him some day. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. If you are ready to ask Jesus to be your Saviour, will you look up at me right now? (Invite those children to come forward so you can counsel them.)

D. CHALLENGE

MT
1 Thess. 5:17 If Jesus is your Saviour, God is always ready to listen to you, and He wants you to learn to talk with Him every day. God is faithful; He is always there when we come to Him in prayer. He is waiting for you to take time each day to talk to Him. You should take time each day to get alone and be quiet with God. God wants you to study His word so He can speak to your mind and heart. Then He wants you to talk with Him in prayer and share all your problems and the things that make you happy. If you really love God, you will want to talk with Him very day. The Bible tells us to **“Pray without ceasing.”** You and I can talk to God at any time. (Review the 3 examples used in the PAS of when we can talk to God, like: in the middle of the night, on vacation, in danger.) God is always there, but He is waiting for you to come Him and talk to Him. Will you talk to Jesus each day this week? He loves you and wants you to talk to Him.

