

WEEK #5 (8-22-21) Means of Grace # 3 -Prayer

KEY WORDS: True, living God vs false god

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 46:9b "...I am God, and there is none like me."

Amazing Backstory:

- Read I Kings 18 (for the full graphic story)
- VIDEO: See on Superbook at https://youtu.be/k_kKBwG-hOQ
(ignore the ads to enjoy the Bible story)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19:1-13 "Elijah Flees from Jezebel"

19 Now King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all her (evil) prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more so, if by about this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them." (She is swearing to kill him like he killed her evil prophets.) ³And he was afraid, and got up and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; and he left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked for himself to die, and said, "Enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵Then he lay down and fell asleep under a broom tree; but behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat!" ⁶And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a round loaf of bread baked on hot coals, and a pitcher of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him, and said, "Arise, eat; because the journey is too long for you." ⁸So he arose and ate and drank, and he journeyed in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Elijah at Horeb

⁹Then he came there to a cave and spent the night there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life."

¹¹So He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

APPLICATION/MESSAGE

How do we know what God is like? Can we know without seeing Him what His traits are? Why don't we hear His voice loud and clear? In this story, Elijah has an opportunity to feel the full presence of God and be refreshed by His spirit. As Christians, it can be frustrating to feel as though God is far from us or doesn't answer things as we'd imagine, but in wonderful moments He comes to us.

God is not always what we expect, but He works in mysterious and marvelous ways to comfort and reassure us of His splendor.

After all the 450 false priests were shamed and then destroyed (*when Elijah prayed that God would show the priests of the false god Baal that there is only ONE God, and that was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...the ONE TRUE GOD.*), King Ahab was all the more intent on killing Elijah. So Elijah was suddenly afraid of what the evil queen would do to him. He was again forced to flee. At this point, the prophet was extremely discouraged and exhausted, and quite willing to just give up. Have you ever felt this way? Elijah wondered why he was the only prophet of God left. **But God hadn't abandoned Him...**

God sent an angel to help Elijah to eat and drink to keep his strength up. (*God made us with physical needs.*) He knew that Elijah could not continue without food and so God provided for his need with miraculous encouragement. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"** God had answered all Elijah's prayers when the evil prophets' false god couldn't. Yet God wanted Elijah to think about why he ran from the evil queen, why he was afraid and hiding.. God was asking Elijah to look at what had happened and to TRUST GOD even when he wasn't seeing God at work doing mighty miracles. God was asking Elijah to just TRUST. God was getting ready to do something wild for Elijah. We cannot experience God and walk away at the same time. Elijah had to prepare himself for meeting God, and must have wondered what was coming.

Was God teasing Elijah when He had a mighty storm with dangerous winds like a hurricane or tornado? Was He teasing Elijah when He sent the earthquake? The fire? Was God trying to show Elijah to look for and find God in LITTLE THINGS, not just big, easy to see miracles? Did He want to teach Elijah to pray and see answers to prayer with His being in a gentle wind, too? Maybe we are so busy looking for God's answer to our prayer in big things that we also fail to notice Him in the kind words, the help of, or the peace only God can give to our souls when we are in the midst of turmoil.

Life can be tough, but with God, the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, they can provide us with power, protection and life. Prayer is an important part of our life. This story shows that God will take care of his people at all times and we should pray and praise Him.

THANKFUL PRAYER: "All powerful God, you are mighty and in control of everything. Thank you for this story of your servant, Elijah, and Queen Jezebel that reminds us that even when life is scary, we can turn to you. You promise to protect us

from our enemies and we thank you for that. You sent angels, bread, a cave, and wind and whatever else Elijah needed to show the people that you are the true God. Help us to rely on you and look for you in all circumstances. Remind us that prayer is a powerful tool and that you hear us and will respond. Maybe not with wind, but if we watch and listen we can see you and feel you too. Thank you for fighting for us even when we don't realize You are there. We love you God! We pray all this in Your Son Jesus's mighty name. AMEN

SONG (*Contemporary with hand signs*)_“What a Mighty God we Serve”
at <https://youtu.be/tYe86hqPIIY>

CHILDREN AND/OR GROUP HANDS- ON ACTIVITY:

“Plug into God” Secretly unplug the microwave, toaster, or even the lamp. See if your children can determine why it isn't working. Then discuss how if we don't plug into God's power and wisdom, we don't have any power to resist Satan's lies. How can we “plug” into God? How did Elijah do it? He prayed and asked God for help. God can help us make wise choices.

Wind power reminds us of God's power Since today's tale involves wind, start out with a blowing race. Provide students with a **straw and a small item** such as a scrunched up paper wad or Ping-Pong ball (*or something that can be moved with blowing on it with a straw*). Two or three at a time (depending on space), have the students race to see who can maneuver the ball from one mark to another— using only the straw and aiming their air at the ball. For younger students, have them hold up a hand to feel the air coming through. Explain that we are going to talk a little about wind. Do we see wind? No, but we know it is there because we see the effects of it as trees bend and sway or hair blows about wildly. In this story, we get to witness Elijah's experience of God's presence and power. (Optional: If you have a fan attach paper streamers to it and watch it blow. (be safe) or watch a wind sock, whirly gigs or wind chimes blow in the wind... these show wind movement too. (They only move when the wind blows.)

What would you do? Knowing Right and Wrong through God's eyes:

Share each scenario. Explain that making discerning choices in life is not always easy. Sometimes it's easy to tell right from wrong. Sometimes it isn't. When you have discussed the given scenarios, create your own. The youth may have incidents from their own experience to discuss.

#1 Imagine we are walking in an alley and a family we know from church approaches us and asks us to rob a bank. They offer to split the money saying, “You won't even be stealing. All you have to do is delay the police when they arrive by telling them your child is missing.”

What should you do? What would God want you to do?

#2 You are playing at the park with one of your friends. You see another kid you know approaching. Your friend whispers, “Don't let them play with us.”

What should you do? What would God want you to do?

#3 You are at a friend's house and the moms are chatting in the next room. You and your friend are in the kitchen and your friend suggests that you take some gummy worms from the treat drawer.

What should you do? What would God want you to do?

#4 You and your friends are playing at your house. You are all playing make-believe. One of the kids in the room begins to pretend their toy is using language that you know is not allowed in your home, like stupid, ugly, fat, and worse.

What should you do? What would God want you to do?

#5 One of your family or friends is angry or pouting. Your other family member or friend whispers that the pouter looks like a cartoon monkey they saw earlier that day.

What should you do? What would God want you to do?

General discussion questions :

- Why do you think kids do wrong, even when they know it's wrong?
- Would you rather be known for doing right or doing wrong?
- Is it easier for kids to talk each other into doing wrong, or doing right?
- How can you help another kid do what's right?
- If you are unsure if something is right or wrong, what should you do?
- What qualities do you think you should look for in a friend?

Key concepts to explain how God thinks differently than humans think:

Life can be like walking through an alley where other people are offering us tempting opportunities to sin. If someone chooses to hang out with others who are constantly encouraging them to do wrong, they could eventually get into trouble.

On the other hand, choosing wise friends helps us stay OUT of trouble. The Bible warns us about this, too. God says we become like the people we are friends with. (*Proverbs 13:20 "Walk with wise and you will become wise, for the companion of fools suffers harm."*) Given that fact, it makes sense to choose friends who will encourage us to do what is right.

The best way to tell the difference between right and wrong is to ask God. Parents can also help kids make wise choices, but an even better idea is to walk so close to God that you get to know God's voice well enough to avoid temptation and harm. If you are in a situation where you don't know what to do, you should stop and pray for God's guidance. Remember that your parents want your future to be wonderful and will stick by you. Your friends will not. They may even blame you for causing the trouble when it was their idea to start. Your friends aren't

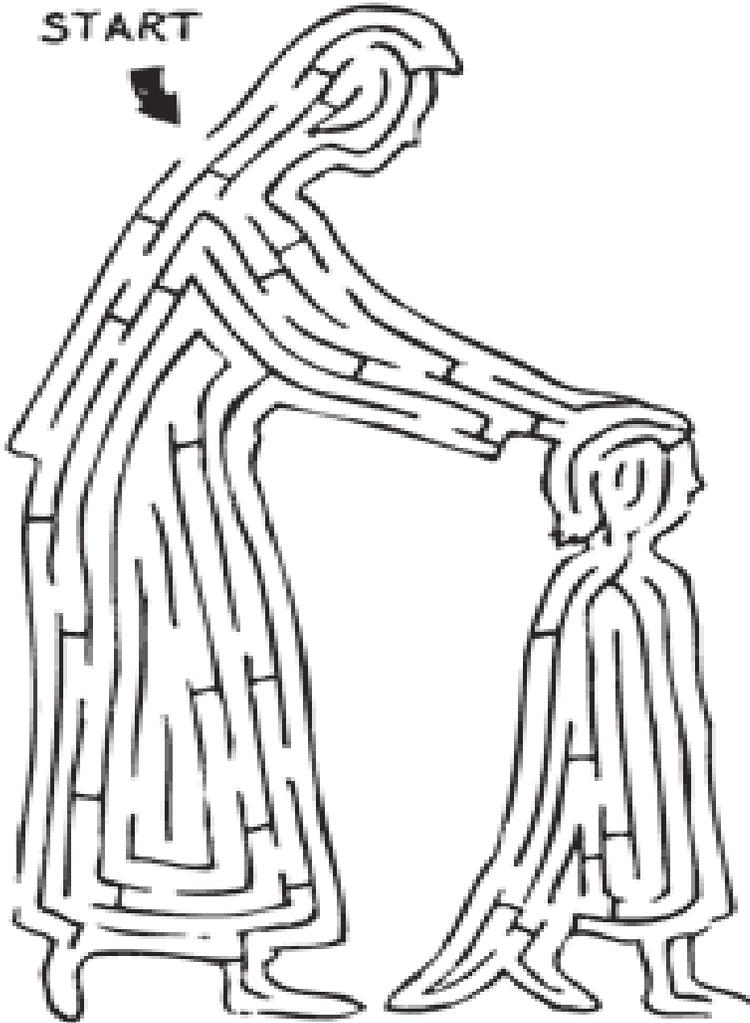
concerned with your future. They want to only control your NOW. Your parents and trusted adults have been in similar situations before, can see where certain actions could lead you, and are wiser and only want to guide you wisely toward a successful life. **Aim to be wise and not a fool, by following God's path of wisdom and truth.**

James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Pray for each other. God hears our prayers and wants us to listen for His guidance.

BibleWise

START



FINISH

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