

HEROES OF FAITH

ELIJAH: THE PRAYER WARRIOR

What do you do when something bad happens? Some people panic. Others try to figure things out. Still others do something very important first...they pray. There are many things that challenge our faith in the world today, and sometimes we forget prayer or give up praying when something scary happens. Today's hero of faith has a lot to teach us about the power of prayer and trusting God. Let's jump into God's Word and learn about Elijah!

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-24

MEET ELIJAH

Elijah was a prophet who received messages from God for the people of Israel. He faced many challenges during his ministry, including persecution, famine and the threat of death. He was not perfect, but he always prayed with faith, trusting that God would answer him.



GOD PROVIDES

One time, there was a great famine in Israel, which means there was no rain and no food. God sent Elijah to a neighboring country to be cared for by a poor widow with a young son. God miraculously fed them all during the famine, but one day a tragedy happened.



FAITH & PRAYER

The widow's son suddenly got sick and died! The widow was upset at Elijah, but he didn't freeze in fear. He immediately began praying for the boy, and he didn't stop praying until the Lord answered him. God brought the boy back to life! We may not deal with something that serious, but God wants us to face every problem with faith and prayer.



DID YOU KNOW?



Clearly, Elijah had a special relationship with God. He was even caught up into heaven at the end of his life! (2 Kings 2:11) You could easily say, "I will never be like Elijah," but the Holy Spirit encourages us in the Bible that we can pray in faith like Elijah, and the prayers will be effective. (James 5:16-18) A faithful and powerful prayer life is something Jesus wants for every one of His followers, not just church leaders.

DISCUSSION TIME

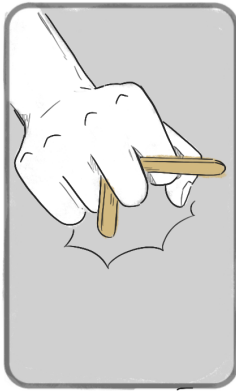
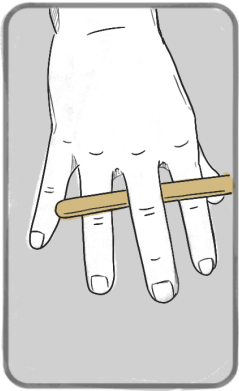
1. How did God take care of Elijah, the widow, and her son?
2. Do we always get what we ask for in prayer? Why or why not?
3. Name one thing you are praying for today.

GAME TIME

Resurrection Tag

Tag...you're alive! Play a classic game of freeze tag, but instead of "freezing" and "unfreezing", those tagged are "dead" and "alive". One player is selected to be "it". If they tag you, you must play dead until another player touches you and says, "Tag, you're alive!"

GOD'S WAY



The Bible makes it clear we should pray according to God's will instead of our own desires. (1 John 5:14-15) Select one volunteer and have them hold out their hand, fingers out straight and stiff. Weave a toothpick across their fingers...over the index finger, under the middle finger, and over the ring finger. Tell the volunteer to keep their fingers straight and try to break the stick. It should be virtually impossible. Then, tell them to just bend

their fingers and make a fist. The stick should break easily. This represents stubbornly asking God for our own will, versus bending to His will and praying His way.

PRAYER

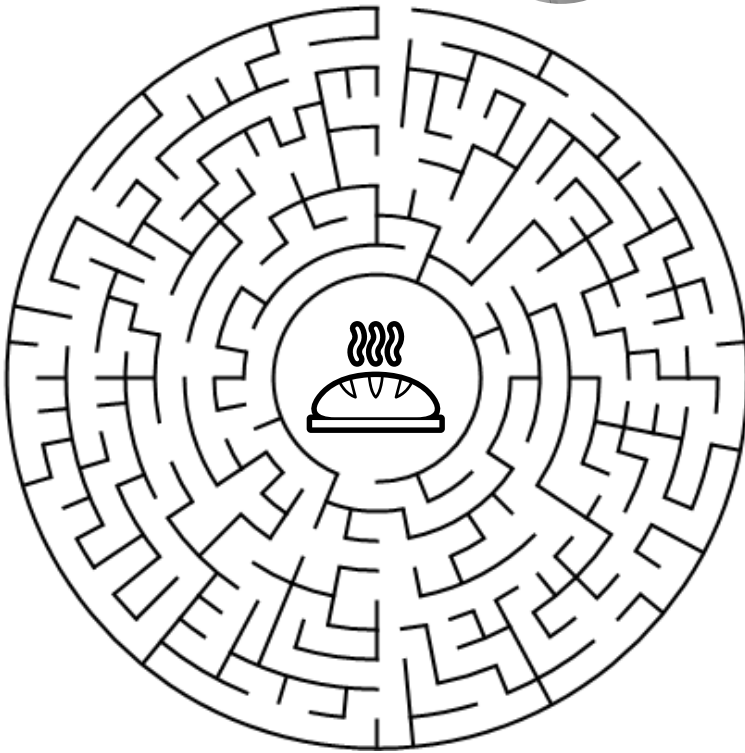
Thank God for the example of Elijah's life, and the encouragement to pray like he did. Ask Him to increase your faith and understanding of His Word, so you can pray according to His will (1 John 5:14). Ask Him to forgive any time you've given up praying or lacked faith in prayer. Thank Him for helping you believe and receive eternal life through Jesus Christ.



Help Elijah get to the bread.



START







Find the hidden words:



- | | |
|--------|--------------|
| Elijah | death |
| prayer | resurrection |
| famine | prophet |
| widow | Israel |
| bread | rain |

V B U Q V P E G
 X S V N R N M I
 S E G P I X R S
 O G L M L S C R
 E K A I D V N A
 C F P P J U S E
 U M R N O A M L
 R P O W W H H Y
 E R P I B G V Q
 S A H D D O N A
 U Y E O U B U U
 R E T W I D A V
 R R D M A F N C
 E B T E R I J X
 C A R N A J G P
 T B K R M T G X
 I O E V D C H W
 O O J S J V F Z
 N F O J Q M G L
 B E X M W S H Y
 J K U Y F C S U
 J A Q A L U S N

Can you figure out the secret message?



 -c0+i+
  -v+
  -se+t

c+  -r+
  r=s

Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



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