

# SKY

Learning Obedience  
Series 1—Lesson 5

## StoryTime



### God Watches Over Me & You

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:

1 Kings 17:1–6

Lesson Aim:

To help students know that it is the Creator God who is our Provider and He will meet our every need.

Memory Verse:

“And my God shall supply all your need”  
(Philippians 4:19).

Words to Learn:

- Drought
- Wicked

Always Close in Prayer

### The Teacher's Bible Study

**K**ing Solomon married the daughters of foreign kings. The women he married brought their foreign gods with them. This resulted in the Israelites worshipping false gods and forgetting the one true God. Not only did many of the Israelites turn from God, but Solomon did as well.

When Solomon died, the kingdom divided into two kingdoms. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was ruled by the heirs of David and Solomon; the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was ruled by others. Both kingdoms had had many kings and most of them were evil.

About fifty-seven years after the death of Solomon, the evil king Ahab began to rule the Northern Kingdom. Ahab did more to anger God than all the kings of Israel before him. Ahab was the seventh king of Israel. He was a strong political as well as military leader who defeated Syria twice in battle, but was defeated and mortally wounded in the third. Ahab was the son of Omri. The Bible does not speak very much about the reign of Omri (1 Kings 16:23–27).

Jezebel, the Phoenician princess, was Ahab's wife. Jezebel was not an Israelite. She was evil. She brought the pagan gods of Baal and Ashtoreth to Israel and led the people and the king to worship them. She persecuted the prophets of God and killed all of them but the one hundred men that the devout Obadiah hid (1 Kings 18:4; 19:14). Obadiah was in charge of the king's palace but worshiped the God of Israel, not the false gods.

There is not too much said about the prophet Elijah's background in the Bible. We do know he was a settler in Gilead, which is east of the Jordan River near a community called Tishbe. His name means “Yahweh is God.” Elijah was a man of prayer and he had deep concern for his nation (James 5:17). He was a man of great faith and obeyed God, knowing it could cost his life. Read 1 Kings 17,18 and you can see the faith, courage, and determination of this

man and his total reliance on God's guidance.

He lived during the reign of King Ahab, his son Ahaziah, and his grandson Jehoram. Without warning Elijah would appear and deliver a message from God to the kings of Israel.

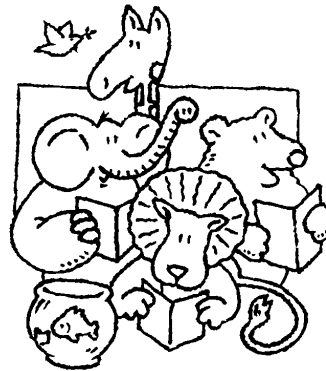
When Elijah spoke, kings would listen to what he had to say. They would listen because they knew he was a prophet sent by God. In their arrogance instead of being repentant, when God condemned their actions (as in King David's example) they became enraged and did worse things.

Ahab's character is summed up by these words: "There was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up" (1 Kings 21:25).

Elijah had the courage to face his fears and trust in God. This is the message you will want to convey to your students in this lesson. We see from this story that our God can control nature. We must be faithfully obedient to God and believe He will meet our every need.

As the examples of men and women of God throughout the Bible show, it is better to please God than man. □

## Simple as 1,2,3...



### Additional Reading for Teacher Study

1 Kings 17,18

#### Are You Listening?

*After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:*

1. What was the name of the wicked king and queen of Israel?—*AHAB and JEZEBEL*
2. Is it a serious thing to God if you worship other gods?—*YES*
3. Were the people afraid of Ahab and Jezebel?—*YES*
4. Did Jezebel kill ALL of the prophets of God?—*NO*
5. Did Elijah hesitate to go tell Ahab what God had said?—*NO*
6. *True or false:* Elijah was not sure God would take care of him—*FALSE*
7. *True or false:* God loves you and will provide for you—*TRUE*

#### Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

- **Drought**—a period of dry weather that is dangerous to crops and animals
- **Wicked**—morally bad; treacherous; mean spirited

# SKY Story Time

## God Watches Over Me & You

**T**here was a king named Ahab who ruled over the nation of Israel. King Ahab did evil in the sight of the Lord. He set up altars to worship the strange gods of his wife. He was the most wicked king Israel had ever seen.

His wife was named Jezebel, and like her husband she did evil things. She worshiped pagan gods called Baal and Ashtoreth. She told the people to worship them too. If someone refused to worship the idols, he or she was persecuted.

She hated the men of God who warned the people not to worship these imitation gods. This made Jezebel furious!

In her fury she ordered all the prophets of the Lord to be killed. They were all killed except one hundred men that a man named Obadiah hid. Not only was Jezebel guilty of idol worship, but she was guilty of murder as well.

The law of God forbids idol worship and the people knew it! But it appeared safer to do what the king and queen were doing than to stand up and say no. They were more afraid of the king and queen than God.

Finally God had seen enough! He sent a man to see King Ahab and tell him what was about to happen because of the king's wicked conduct.

This man did not cower in fear before the king. He boldly told him exactly what was going to happen, and the king didn't like it one bit!

But because the man loved and trusted the God of Israel, he did not hesitate to do what God sent him to do. He did not make excuses or ask God to send someone else. He had confidence in God. Elijah was the man's name and he was man of faith.

### **Ahab, You're a Bad Man**

God sent Elijah to give King Ahab this message: "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be NEITHER dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." God wanted Ahab to know WHO was going to punish him. He was going to send a drought.

A drought is when there is no rain and the plants dry up and food and water are hard to find. People and animals can suffer terribly. The drought would affect everybody, including Elijah.

Ahab was angry with Elijah and he wanted to kill him. But God wasn't going to allow that! After Elijah delivered this message to Ahab, God told Elijah to go and hide by the brook called Cherith. He assured him he would find water and food there. He would take care of him.

God told him he had ordered the ravens to feed him each morning and evening.

Elijah did exactly as God told him. He knew that the God of Israel could perform miracles—even with the birds of the sky. He was not afraid! He was God's servant!

### Even Birds Obey God's Instructions!

Elijah was thirsty and hungry by the time he arrived at the brook. Elijah drank from the brook. The water was cool and sweet, and felt so good in his hot, dry throat. Indeed Elijah was refreshed from drinking the water.

Elijah could hear the birds and small animals moving in the bushes and grass that grew on the banks of the brook. They needed the water, too!

Now Elijah was hungry, and he sat and let his feet rest from his long walk. He knew that God would send the ravens with his food and he would be safe. Elijah waited with patience, and thanked God for watching over him.

A raven is a large black bird. It is similar to a crow. Have you ever seen a raven or crow? They have a large beak and strong wings and body.

In the cool of the morning as the sun began to rise over the mountains, and as the sun dropped behind the mountains in the evening, Elijah could hear the beat of the ravens' wings as they brought him his food. The big

black birds would swoop down and drop bread and meat for Elijah to eat.

God will ALWAYS do what He promises He will do. NEVER DOUBT IT!

God never forgets. Every morning and every evening God sent ravens with bread and meat to feed Elijah. Elijah obeyed God and God took care of Elijah.

### Let's Talk About It

There were two things that Elijah needed. Do you know what they are? Yes, he needed food and protection. Did Elijah worry about how he was going to be safe or how he was going to eat? No, he didn't. Not knowing where his protection or food would come from, Elijah obediently went to the brook where God had sent him. What kind of needs do you have? You need food, clothing, and shelter. Some other needs may be love and security. Do you worry about these things? You shouldn't. God will watch over you and provide you with what you need just like Elijah!

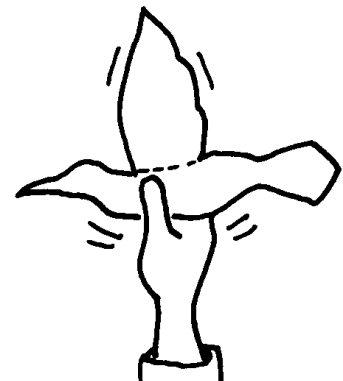
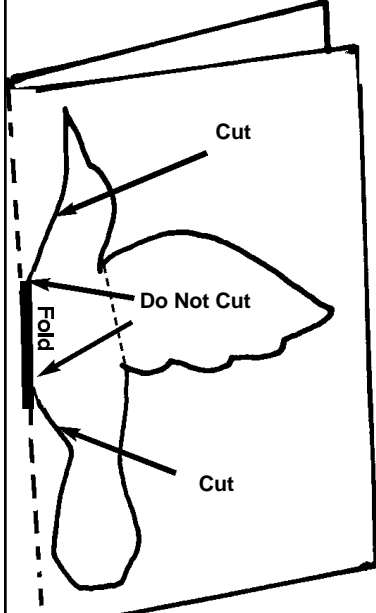
The End

## Crafty Idea

**F**old the sheet in half and cut out the raven for each child (place the fold at the belly of the bird—DO NOT cut along the bottom of body). Color an eye for the bird. Gently fold down the wings of the bird and, holding the bird by its belly, let the child move the bird up and down to move the wings. □

# Crafty Ideas

## Go Feed Elijah



**Materials to Use:**

- Back of dark blue construction paper.
- Scissors
- Glue