

# The Life of Elijah

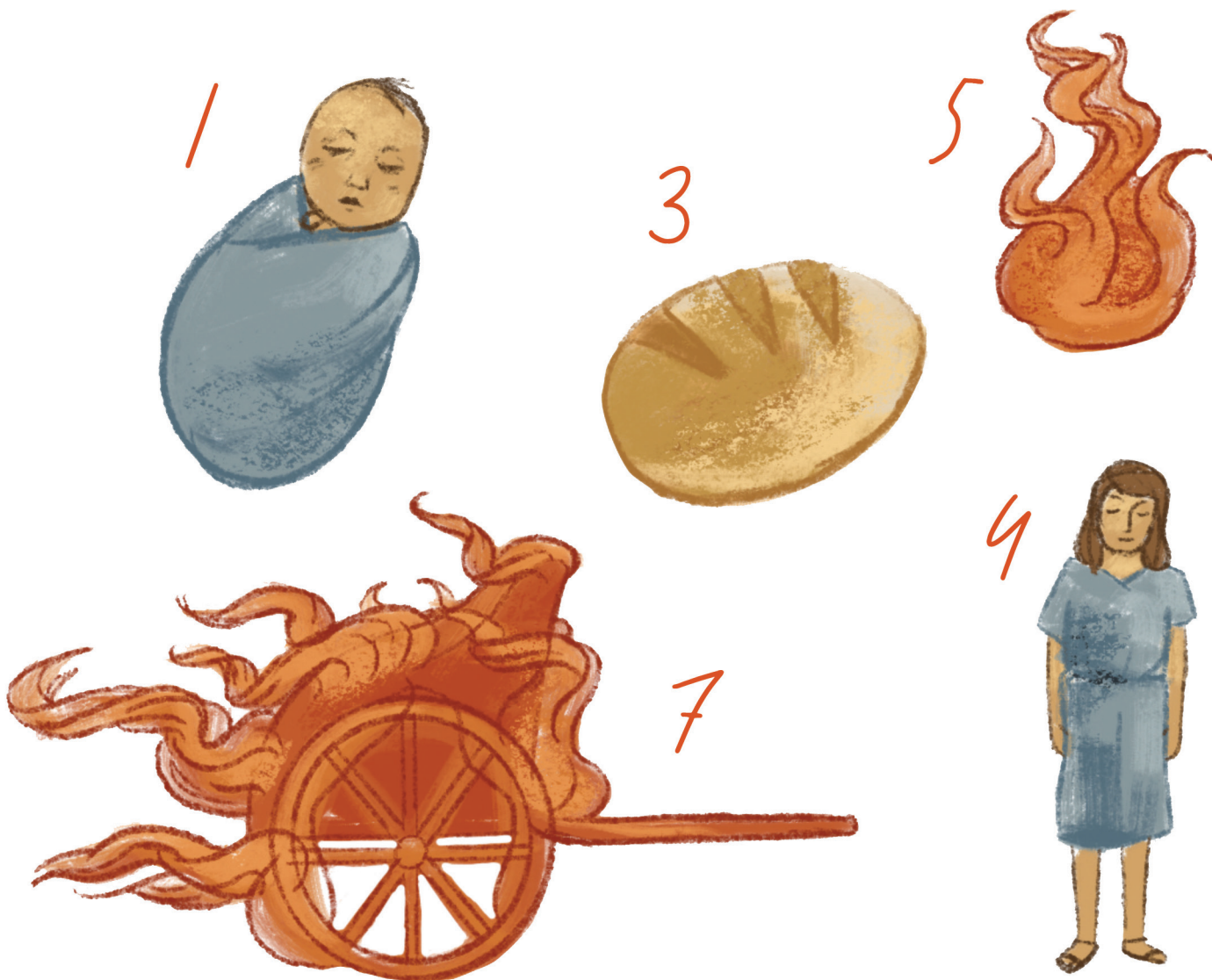
Mobile Craft:

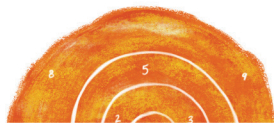
Lillian Baron for ByziKids © 2021



## INSTRUCTIONS:

- Photocopy the illustrations from this spread onto a sheet of cardstock.
- Carefully place the point of your scissors into the tip of the spiral by the number 1 and cut concentrically along the white line until you reach the other end. Be careful NOT to cut all the way through the outer circle! This "whirlwind" will become the base for your Elijah Mobile!
- Be sure to punch out 10 holes in your whirlwind base at the places designated by the numbers 1-10.
- You'll also need 10 lengths of yarn or string, each about 10-12 inches long.
- Read each story and cut out the graphic symbol that accompanies it.
- Tape one end of a piece of your string to the back of the image, then tie the other end of the string to the hole with the number that matches the story.
- When you have attached all seven graphics to your mobile, tie the remaining pieces of string to the holes numbered 8-10, then tie the other end of these three pieces of string together to make a knot for hanging your mobile.





# The Life of Elijah

Mobile Craft:

1. If we study bible history we know that in the ninth century before the coming of Christ the kingdom of Israel had separated into two distinct kingdoms during the time of Elijah, the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. In the north, the people of God were righteous, but those of the southern kingdom lived as pagans under King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel, who was a priestess of a false god of nature known as Baal. Worship of false gods such as these offended the One True God and there was much tension and fighting between the two nations. It was in this time, in the northern Kingdom of Israel, in the town of Tishbeh in Gilead, that little Elijah was born.

GRAPHIC: Baby



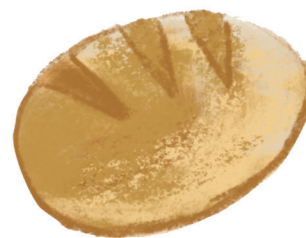
2. God tells Elijah to inform King Ahab that the people of Judah would be punished for their worship of Baal by enduring a severe drought for many years. This makes Ahab so angry that Elijah must flee for his life! God tells Elijah to run to the east of the Jordan River, near the brook known as Chorath where God would take care of him by sending ravens to bring him food. In the desert, he wears a coat of animal hair with a leather belt around his waist.

GRAPHIC: Raven



3. God continues to care for Elijah as he is in hiding for several years. Eventually, the brook begins to dry up and God tells Elijah to go into the town of Zerepath in Phoenecia where he will find a widow who will give him something to eat. When he finds the old woman she tells him sadly that she is about to make bread from the last of her provisions for her and her son. After this, they will have no more food because of the drought, but he is welcome to share their last meal with them. Elijah promises her that if she does this kindness for him, she will not run out of flour or oil until the Lord sends the rain again over the earth. So, she makes the bread and they all eat it, and are amazed to find that there is more flour and oil leftover!

GRAPHIC: Bread



4. Sadly, sometime later, the widow's son became so severely ill that he died and the widow began to mourn very loudly to Elijah saying that surely God sent him to cure her by taking the life of her only child. This touched Elijah and in an effort to defend himself and to defend the word God had spoken to him, Elijah prayed earnestly that God would restore this boy to his mother who needed him, and the boy was brought back to life. This is the very first resurrection from the dead recorded in scripture.

GRAPHIC: Boy



5. After three years in hiding, Elijah returns and confronts King Ahab, telling him again that their worship of the false god, Baal, is the reason for the terrible drought. He asks the King to consider renouncing Baal as the fake that he is and embracing the One True God as the only God. Elijah realizes that he is the only prophet of the One True God, while the King has over 850 prophets of Baal in his court alone.

Yet, knowing this, Elijah challenges the priests of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel! They will each set up their own fire-pit on the mountain as a means to offer sacrifice to their god, and each will pray to their god, asking him to show his power by sending fire upon it. So the priests of Baal began to set up their sacrifice. They prayed and danced around it all day, from morning until nightfall and nothing happened. By the afternoon, Elijah began to tease them, asking them if perhaps Baal was taking a nap? Was he away on vacation and didn't hear them? This made the priests of Baal very angry, yet they continued to dance and pray. Meanwhile, Elijah made a pit of 12 stones, dug a trench around it, loaded it with wood and the sacrifice, then ordered that four large jars of water be poured upon it, soaking the wood and filling the trench to the brim. This would make it extremely difficult to catch fire! Then, in the sight of them all, Elijah asked God to accept his sacrifice, and BAM! Lightning fell from the sky, striking the offering and lighting everything on fire so fast that nothing remained, not the sacrifice, not the wood, not the stones, not one drop of water...and then it began to rain. Everyone rejoiced and the priests of Baal were defeated.

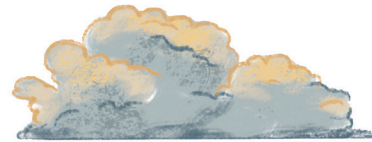
**GRAPHIC: Fire**



6. Queen Jezebel was so angry that her priests had been humiliated that she ordered that Elijah be captured, so once again he fled into the wilderness. He ran so far and so fast that he fell down exhausted under a bush and prayed that God would take his soul. Then he fell asleep there. An angel woke him and encouraged him to eat and drink something and keep moving since he had a long journey ahead. This happened to him several times as he walked for 40 days to Mount Horeb to the holy ground where Moses received the 10 commandments from God. He took rest in a cave there and began to dialogue with God, lamenting that the great work He began in him appeared to have been pointless, and asking God what to do. God then tells Elijah to step outside his cave and wait for Him there, and so he does. Suddenly, a powerful wind swept over the mountain and Elijah had to hang on, yet the Lord was not there.

Then a great earthquake shook the mountain and Elijah was afraid, yet God did not show himself to him. After this, a great fire passed over the land, yet God was not in the fire and Elijah was still waiting there for him. After all these things had passed, Elijah stood there in the stillness contemplating it all when heard a small, still voice ask him, "Elijah, what are you doing here"? You see, God wasn't to be found in all those powerful and mighty displays but in the stillness and quiet of Elijah's heart...but he didn't understand that. God then sends Elijah back to stand up to King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. In the end, King Ahab repents, but the queen and her son do not and die in their sinful state.

**GRAPHIC: Whispering Cloud/wind**



7. Elijah knows that he is old and so he asks God to send down a "double-portion" of his spirit upon his friend Elisha so that he might continue the work God began in him after he departs for eternal life. Elijah and Elisha both understand that God's plan for Elijah is not that he should die and be buried upon the earth like other people, but that somehow he should be "taken up" to meet God. So as the time drew near for this event, he and Elisha begin to walk toward the river Jordan where Elijah takes off his mantle and strikes the water with it so that the water parts exactly as Moses had parted the Red Sea! Together, the two men walk across the river bed as if it were dry land and when they arrive on the other side they are greeted by something in the sky that looks like a chariot of fire drawn by horses made of flames! Imagine how awestruck they must have been! Suddenly, there is a whirlwind that lifts Elijah up toward the chariot and just as he appears to enter the craft, his mantle falls to the ground where Elisha picks it up and puts it upon himself to assume the responsibility for the works God had begun in Elijah to be fulfilled in him.

**GRAPHIC: Flaming Chariot**



**-Written by Lynne Wardach**