**1. Motivate**

What is an example of courage you have observed?

A video introduction is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_o7131rio>

If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yskhtj6d>

* someone who jumped in to save someone drowning
* a person who continues on after a great loss
* kids who face a new experience at college
* someone recovering from a major health setback
* a sports team that comes back after being far behind
* when starting a new job with lots of challenges
* facing a new challenge in life
* giving a speech in front of a large crowd
* sending your child off to public school the first time
* missionaries who send their kids off to boarding school in another country

**2. Transition**

We have listed sports or job courage.

* It’s also true that serving God often calls for courage.
* Elijah demonstrated that kind of courage in the Bible passage we study today.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Recognize Opposition

Listen for style of leadership.

1 Kings 16:29-33 (NIV) In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. 30 Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. 31 He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. 32 He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. 33 Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him.

Who was Ahab? How did the writer assess his reign?

* King of Israel (Northern Kingdom during period of divided kingdoms)
* Son of Omri
* reigned in Israel 22 years
* most evil king yet

What things did he do that were acts of defiance or compromise toward the Lord?

* considered it trivial to sin the same way as evil King Jeroboam, stepped up sinning even more
* married a foreign princess from Sidonia
* began to serve and worship Baal
* set up an altar and temple for Baal worship
* set up Asherah poles

Who was his wife and what information about her suggests that she would not be a positive influence on Ahab?

* Jezebel, princess of Sidonian king
* brought practice of Baal worship into Israel

Why would God be angered or provoked at what Ahab and Jezebel were promoting?

* people were ignoring Jehovah
* they were worshiping false gods
* they were rejecting the One True God for phony substitutes

The passage speaks of pagan altars and Asherah poles where people worshiped false gods. What are some idols or false deities present in today’s culture?

* materialism … all our stuff
* popularity
* gaining personal power
* entertainment
* our jobs – earning power, gaining authority over other people
* money
* cars, boats, computers, beautiful homes
* sexuality, adultery
* hobbies, sports

In what ways has the church mirrored Israel’s downward spiritual spiral?

* we want to be popular
* we want to attract people by appearances and popular programs
* our music often mimics what is popular in culture
* we count success as numbers of people, size of facilities

Why does God take it so seriously when a person leads others into sin?

* it’s bad enough when we make the wrong choices for our own lives
* when we influence others for *evil*, that’s even worse
* Jesus said Matthew 18:6 (NIV) But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.
* the person who has negatively influence someone else carries the blame for those they have lead astray

3.2 Take A Stand

Listen for introduction of a prophet.

1 Kings 17:1 (NIV) Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "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."

What do we know about Elijah?

* a prophet
* God’s voice to the king
* from Tishbe in Gilead

What declaration did he make to Ahab?

* I serve Jehovah, the God of Israel
* there will be neither dew nor rain in the coming years
* it will stay that way until I say otherwise

Note that a drought is a significant element of judgment

* Jezebel has forced worship of Baal upon the people (who have gone along willingly)
* Baal is the deity of rain and storms – needed for agriculture
* If Jehovah is proved to be the one in control, Baal will be proved to have no power
* The drought is direct proof of Jehovah’s power and authority, Baal’s lack

What should the king and the people infer from Elijah’s message?

* Jehovah God is in control
* Baal has no real power over the elements
* you are going to find out who is sovereign, who can do as He pleases to do
* Jehovah is The God Who IS … not some phony deity who is not real
* worship, trust, serve a real God, THE real God

What kinds of issues influence us to be unwilling to confront or pronounce God’s judgment on evil we see?

* don’t want to “make waves”
* fear of what others will say or do
* don’t want to make enemies
* don’t want to be judgmental (Jesus said “judge not … condemn not … forgive”)
* we can get ourselves in trouble if you confront some people

How can we speak against the culture in ways that reflect Christ and glorify God?

* live by God’s standards, not the world’s standards
* speak out God’s Truth, God’s words
* confront the atheistic or agnostic world view with God’s Truth
* allow God’s Spirit to live out the Fruit of the Spirit before a world that has so little of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control
* demonstrate those qualities which draw people to God

3.3 Rely on God

Listen for a miracle of provision.

1 Kings 17:2-6 (NIV) Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

What does the fact that the Lord had a word for Elijah suggest about his relationship with the Lord?

* he was on speaking terms with God
* they communicated often
* Elijah was used to listening to what God had to say
* he paid attention to what God said to him
* he was “tuned in” to God

What mandate did the Lord give to Elijah?

* leave here, go east
* hid in the Kerith Ravine, east of Jordan

What promise did He give? How did Elijah respond?

* you’ll have good brook water to drink
* I’ve arranged for ravens to bring you food
* you’ll be safe and provided for
* “so he did with the Lord told him to do”

What is “just in time” inventory?

* the vendors who supply the parts for manufacture do not deliver large quantities
* They deliver only enough for one or two days of production at a time
* Thus the manufacturing facility does not need to provide warehousing for large quantities

This is what God is doing for Elijah – “just in time” provisions. Why do you think God provides in this way?

* it requires faith on our part
* our human nature likes to see the whole month or year’s supply stacked there in front of us
* He wants us to learn to trust Him, not our own cleverness or our own means of provision

What were some other situations where God supplied what was needed just in time?

* Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, God supplied a ram
* The widow who was asked to provide a meal for the prophet
* Jesus pulled Peter out of the water when he took his eyes of Jesus
* God rescued Joseph out of prison just in time

What are some situations when God provided for you … just in time?

* provided a job right after we prayed
* received a gift to pay a bill
* God opened the door to a new opportunity at the right time
* God gave physical strength, right when it was needed
* God gave the wisdom to solve a problem right when it was needed

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Look around.

* Approach your week with an eye to identify beliefs and practices around you that conflict with God’s authority.
* Pray, asking God to help you discern false beliefs and practices.

Speak up.

* Take a stand against ideas that attack God’s authority.
* Speak up in a discussion or write a letter.
* Be a voice for God’s truth, but do so with grace and love.

Sign up.

* Sign up for a mission trip to a place where God is not recognized as the One, true God.
* Represent Christ in a place that does not know Him.

Clues and words taken from 1 Kings 16:29 - 33 and
17:1 - 6. Solution and other fun Family Activities can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yskhtj6d>

Crossword Puzzle

