

LESSON 8: ELIJAH THE PROPHET

Biblical Passages: 1 Kings 17:1,18:1,17-40

Do you remember the Christmas movie *Jingle All the Way*? In the movie, the father (Arnold Schwarzenegger) promised to get his son a special action figure for Christmas. However, when he went to the store, he found out that all of the figures had been sold. The rest of the movie is about his journey around town looking to score the toy for his son, while trying to survive against all the other parents looking for the same thing.

Read 1 Kings 17:1, 18:1,17-40. King Ahab led the Northern Kingdom of Israel to abandon the worship of the Lord in favor of worship for the pagan god Baal. In answer, God sent Elijah the Tishbite to warn Ahab of the coming drought that would devastate the land. Three years later, God called Elijah out of hiding to confront King Ahab a second time, and this time, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown. Verses 17-40 document the details of that showdown. Imagine . . . 450 prophets of Baal crying, dancing, cutting themselves, all in an attempt to get the attention of their god. And Elijah, who calls upon the Lord to send down fire to consume the sacrificed bull he offered.

Elijah warned Ahab of the coming struggle of survival the nation of Israel would face. And, then Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to the ultimate survival challenge . . . they would live or die based on what they believed in. In the end, only those who recognized the one and only God would survive.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does *survival* mean to your family? Have you ever felt like you had to struggle to survive? Why?
2. How did Elijah show his understanding that his survival depended upon God?
3. Are there things, people, or ideas that pull you away from God? What are they?
4. How can you show that your survival is based upon your belief in and provision from God?