CORAM DEO KIDS

GOD PROTECTS ELIJAH

1 KINGS 19:1-8, 21:13-16, 22:34-35

LEARN THE WORD

Philippians 3:13-14

. . . but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

- Elijah fled from Jezebel, but God protected him and gave him food, drink, and encouragement when he needed it.
- King Ahab and Queen Jezebel committed many sins against God, and God destroyed them and their family as punishment.

OUTWORD

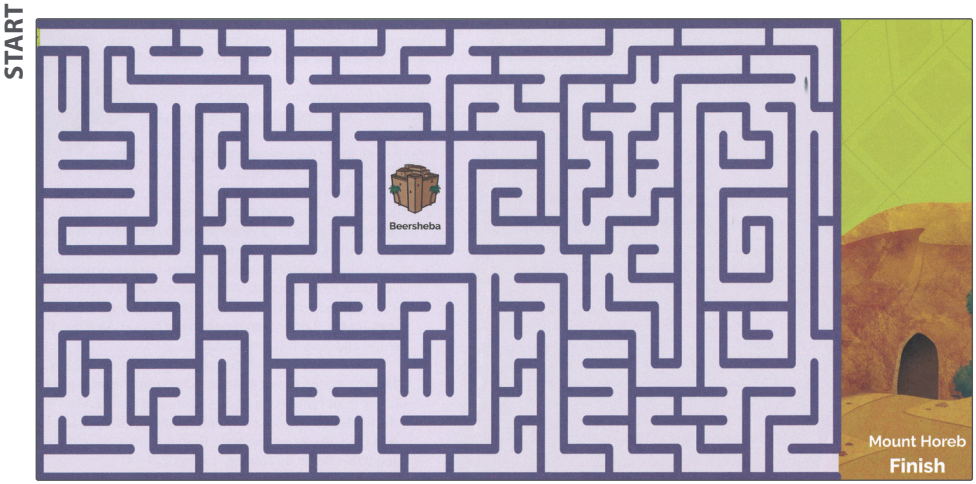
FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you hear someone say, "I don't think I'm responsible for my sin because I'm just a kid."

What could you say?

Sin fills every human heart and separates us from God. You're aware of your sin and know that you do bad things, so it isn't a good idea to ignore it just because you're a kid. God must punish all sin. If you're old enough to know you sin, you're old enough to know about the cure for sin. God sent His Son, Jesus. He lived a perfect life and was the only one who could take the punishment we deserve because of our sin. Those who believe in Jesus and repent of their sins no longer need to worry about God's punishment because they'll be forgiven and promised a home in heaven with God.

Activity: Elijah ran for his life after Jezebel threatened to kill him, but God kept him safe. Follow the path to help Elijah reach Mount Horeb, where God spoke to him.



HOMEWORD
FOR PARENTS

After God displayed His power through fire from heaven on Mount Carmel, Elijah and Ahab traveled to Jezreel. But Ahab did not repent and stop the worship of Baal. Instead, he told his wife Jezebel how Elijah killed the prophets of Baal. Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah, and Elijah fled into the wilderness, where he asked God to end his life because he was so discouraged. God sent an angel with food and drink to strengthen Elijah, who then journeyed 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai). On the mountain, God sent three great signs of His presence (wind, earthquake, fire) before speaking to Elijah in a whisper (1 Kings 19:11-12). Elijah felt discouraged and alone, but God gave him new instructions and reminded him that there were still people in Israel faithful to God. Elijah left the mountain with renewed courage and purpose.

Meanwhile, Ahab was embroiled in wars against King Ben-hadad of Syria, but he continued to disobey God's instructions even when God gave him victories. Ahab refused to kill Ben-hadad (1 Kings 20:31-34) and received word of God's judgment through a prophet (1 Kings 20:42). Rather than repenting of his sin, Ahab went to his house "vexed and sullen" (1 Kings 20:43).

Ahab's next sin would be coveting the vineyard of Naboth. When Naboth refused to sell it, Ahab sulked until his wife Jezebel promised to get it for him. Using Ahab's name and seal, Jezebel sent letters to the leaders in Naboth's city and commanded them to proclaim a fast and then falsely accuse Naboth of cursing God and the king, which led to his death by stoning (1 Kings 21:1-14).

All that Ahab and Jezebel did to introduce idolatry and to kill innocent people would be punished by God. Ahab died in battle against the Syrians, and Jezebel was thrown out of her house and trampled by horses. Both their deaths were associated with dogs, as God said through Elijah. Even during the dark days of Ahab and Jezebel's reign in Israel, God preserved a remnant of faithful followers and protected and encouraged His prophet Elijah.