

Footsteps of Faith

Five Day VBS Curriculum



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FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

LESSON OUTLINE

Lesson One: Elijah and the Ravens

1 Kings 17:1-7

When God is our guide, we can trust him to take care of us.

Lesson Two: Elijah and the Widow

1 Kings 17:8-16

God can be trusted, because He's been faithful before.

Lesson Three: Rahab and the Rope

Joshua 2:1-21

When we trust God, sometimes we have to do things totally different.

Lesson Four: Daniel and the Lion's Den

Daniel 1:1-21, 6:1-9

God takes care of people who believe in Him.

Lesson Five: Peter and the Waves

Matthew 14:22-23

God doesn't give up on us, even when we mess up.

Read This Before You Teach!!!

Welcome to Footsteps of Faith!

Hebrews 11:6 tells us "...without faith it is impossible to please (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that (God) is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him..."(KJV)

Faith is a lost art in our cities. Our kids on our streets trust only what they see. They still believe in God, but they doubt that He can do specific things in their life. The only resources they have for figuring out things in life are themselves, and maybe their friends from church. Having faith in an unseen, mysterious God, and leaving a situation in His hand to work out, is a mind-blowing concept. It's too extreme, in most cases, for them to grasp. They'd rather go out and beat up their nemesis than trust God to deal with their foe in His time.

Our title "Footsteps of Faith" was chosen for a specific reason. Faith is not going to be learned overnight. Learning it is going to be a life-long journey; but as we all know, every journey we start begins with one footstep. This week you have the opportunity to introduce young people to the first steps of that journey.

As you lead your students into this journey, there's something I want you to remember. The best leader is someone who is out in front leading. Are you out walking the pathway of faith that you are instructing your students about? Are you relying on God to solve your problems, or merely telling your students to? If you are not practicing what you are preaching, your students will smell it out right away. They will see it is not real in you. And they will ignore the whole thing.

In the weeks leading up to your VBS, as you prepare your lessons, prepare yourself. Examine your faithwalk. Are you walking in faith? Are you giving God space to work? Are you looking to Him for solutions instead of manufacturing your own? Look into your life. Learn these lessons for yourself. Make them part of your story. If you do, I'll guarantee that your students will come away with a better understanding of how a life of faith is to be lived.

LESSON ONE:
ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

Background Scripture: I Kings 17:1-7
Object Lesson: Faith Obstacle
Course
Crafts: Craft Bag Raven



When God is our guide, we can trust Him to take care of us.

Faith Obstacle Course

This will serve as an ice-breaker game and also serve as an object lesson. Have the students each choose a friend to guide them through it. When they get to the other side, switch the guides around. Try to pair the students up with students they haven't been interacting with before. (It would be wise to watch the students as they come into class, so this goes easier) Have them come back through again.

Questions to Ask

*Which time was it easier?
What made the second time easier?
What made it harder?
Do you think that doing it before (experience) made it easier?
Which guide was easier to follow?
Did having a different guide, whom you didn't know, make it easier or harder? Why?
One more question, who would you rather have for a guide, Me - the teacher who figured out this game and set up the course, or Franky who has no clue what's going on? Why?*

Application:

Our lessons this week are going to be about faith. What is faith? Faith is what you had in the person that was leading you through the obstacle course. When your guide was telling you which way to go, what did you do? You turned in that direction? Why? How did you know that was the right way to go? You didn't. You had no clue where you were going.

When your guide told you to turn, you had to believe your guide. That is what faith is. Faith is believing in something that you can't prove. You couldn't prove that your guide was right. Instead, you just had to believe that what he was saying was right. You had to have faith that what he was saying was right. Does that make sense?

Now, when you were going through, which time was easier? The first or the second? Why? So you had an idea what was going to happen the second time? So how much faith did you have to have? More, or less? Now some of you, when you went through the first time, you thought your guide was going to run you off a cliff and kill you. On the second time, you weren't as scared of that happening, why do you think that was? You learned, after the first time, that there were no cliffs to fall off. Faith is scary like that sometimes. We don't know what is going to happen next. But the more often we have faith, the more we learn that it can be okay to have faith.

Of course, when we talk about faith, there is one more big part about having faith- the guides. Which guide did you like better for a guide? Why? So, some of you liked a guide who gave good directions and some liked a guide who you

LESSON ONE: ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

BIBLE STORY: 1 KINGS 17:1-7

One of my favorite stories about how God was a good guide is about a guy named Elijah.

Story outline:

I. Chosen People

- A. Israel: a nation that was to be an example of how to serve God.
- B. People stopped serving God, and started serving idols.

II. A Wicked King

- A. He did more evil than all the other kings before him.
- B. He made other bad kings look good.
- C. He taught people how to do baby-sacrifices.

III. A Prophet

- A. Reminded the King about God in Heaven
- B. Prayed that it would not rain (James 5:17)
 - 1. *God answered his prayer*
 - 2. *It did not rain for three years.*
- C. God told him to go hide in the desert.
 - 1. *Ravens brought him his food.*
 - 2. *He got his water from a stream.*

MEMORY VERSE

Commit
Your way to
the LORD; trust in
Him and He will do
this.
Psalm 37:5

Explain the verse:

Elijah was worried he wouldn't have enough food; we often worry about things like that. What are some things we worry about? Do we worry about passing a test? Getting a ride somewhere? Having people like us? Some things I might worry about: rain on VBS night; being hurt in an accident, moving to China.

Memorize Verse:

Divide class into teams and have them compete to see who can put the verse together first. (Have sections of verse cut up; do several copies and separate the copies into bags; have a bag available for each team)

Personalize the Verse:

Have the students fill out a personalized verse: I will commit *moving to China* unto the LORD; I will trust in Him; and He shall *keep me safe and help me learn the language.*

Application (continued)

knew, and some liked a guide who didn't yell at you. Those are all good answers. And they are the key to having faith. In this game that we did, if we didn't have guides, do you think we could have had faith? Absolutely not. The only faith we could have had was faith in ourselves. We would have had to make a guess about what we were supposed to do, and we would have had to believe that our guess was right. We'd have probably ended up tripping over a chair.

Now, we had to have faith to play this game. Do you think that there are other times that we have to have faith? What about when your math teacher teaches you how to do equations? Do you think that you might have to have faith that she knows what she is doing? Actually you do. You believe that your math teacher knows what she is talking about, so you do it the way she says.

Where else do you think we have to have faith? How about in God? How does God talk to us? You're right; He talks to us in the Bible. What kind of guide do you think God is? Do you think He's a good guide? I think He is. And that's what we're going to learn about this week. We have a whole bunch of stories about how God was a good guide.

--- Tell Bible Story Here---

Do you think Elijah thought God was crazy when God told him to go live in the desert? Do you think Elijah worried about where he would get his food? In a desert, it's hard to find food. All that is out there is sand and tumbleweed and cacti. However, Elijah did what God said. He trusted his guide. What happened? Did Elijah starve? Did his guide take care of him? Sure He did. Here is the thing to remember from tonight, "When God is our guide, we can trust Him to take care of us."

LESSON ONE: ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

YOUNGER BIBLE STORY

Long ago God sent prophets to tell His people what He wanted them to do. Elijah was one of these prophets.

At the time when Elijah was living, Israel (God's nation) had a very wicked king named Ahab. King Ahab did not care what God thought or said. He did many things that displeased God. He married a very wicked woman. He did not lead the people to worship and obey God. Instead, he built altars and worshiped an idol named Baal. He was the worst king the people of Israel ever had.

God was not at all happy with King Ahab. He was not happy about all the wicked things King Ahab was doing. So one day He sent the prophet Elijah to warn King Ahab. Elijah said, "As surely as the God of Israel whom I worship and serve is alive, there will not be any rain or dew for the next several years. There will be no rain until I say so."

What happens when it doesn't rain for a long time? Grass dries up. Trees lose their leaves. Food does not grow in the gardens and fields. The store shelves begin to get empty, because there is not enough food to fill them. After awhile food and water get almost completely used up. There is not enough food and water to keep people alive. Some people may even die because of hunger and thirst. When that happens, we say there is a famine. *You may be able to find pictures of famine-stricken lands and people.*

Of course Elijah's message from God made King Ahab very angry. He did not like God's message at all. He didn't want a famine in the land of Israel. But neither was he sorry that he was not obeying God. God wanted Elijah to be safe from King Ahab during the famine, so He told Elijah, "Go east of here and hide near the brook Cherith. You can drink from the brook, and I will send ravens to feed you there."

So Elijah obeyed and went to the Brook Cherith. There he stayed for a long time. He drank water from the brook, and ravens (big black birds like crows) brought him food. *(Talk about how birds feed their babies, by carrying food to them in their beaks. Don't let the discussion get out of hand, however, in thinking of the bugs and worms mother birds feed their little ones.)*

Of course the ravens didn't bring bugs and worms to Elijah. The Bible tells us they brought him bread and meat. Every morning and every evening, the birds came with his breakfast and dinner. Every day there was water in the brook for him to drink. While the rest of Israel was suffering from lack of food and water, God was taking good care of Elijah, because he trusted and obeyed God.

But one day the brook dried up, because there still was no rain in the land. What was Elijah going to do now?

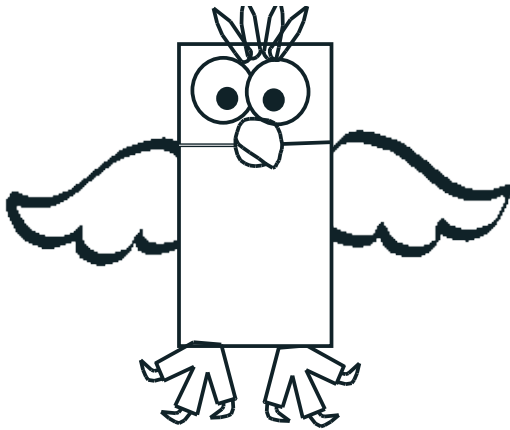
Come back tomorrow night and we'll find out what God told him to do and how God kept on taking care of him.

NOTES:

Song Suggestions:

Jesus Loves Me
Here I am to worship
I am a C
Jesus Love is Bubblin Over
Jesus Loves the little children
Love the Lord your God
Trust and Obey

CRAFT BAG RAVEN



You will need:

**Black Craft Bags
Black and Orange Construction Paper**

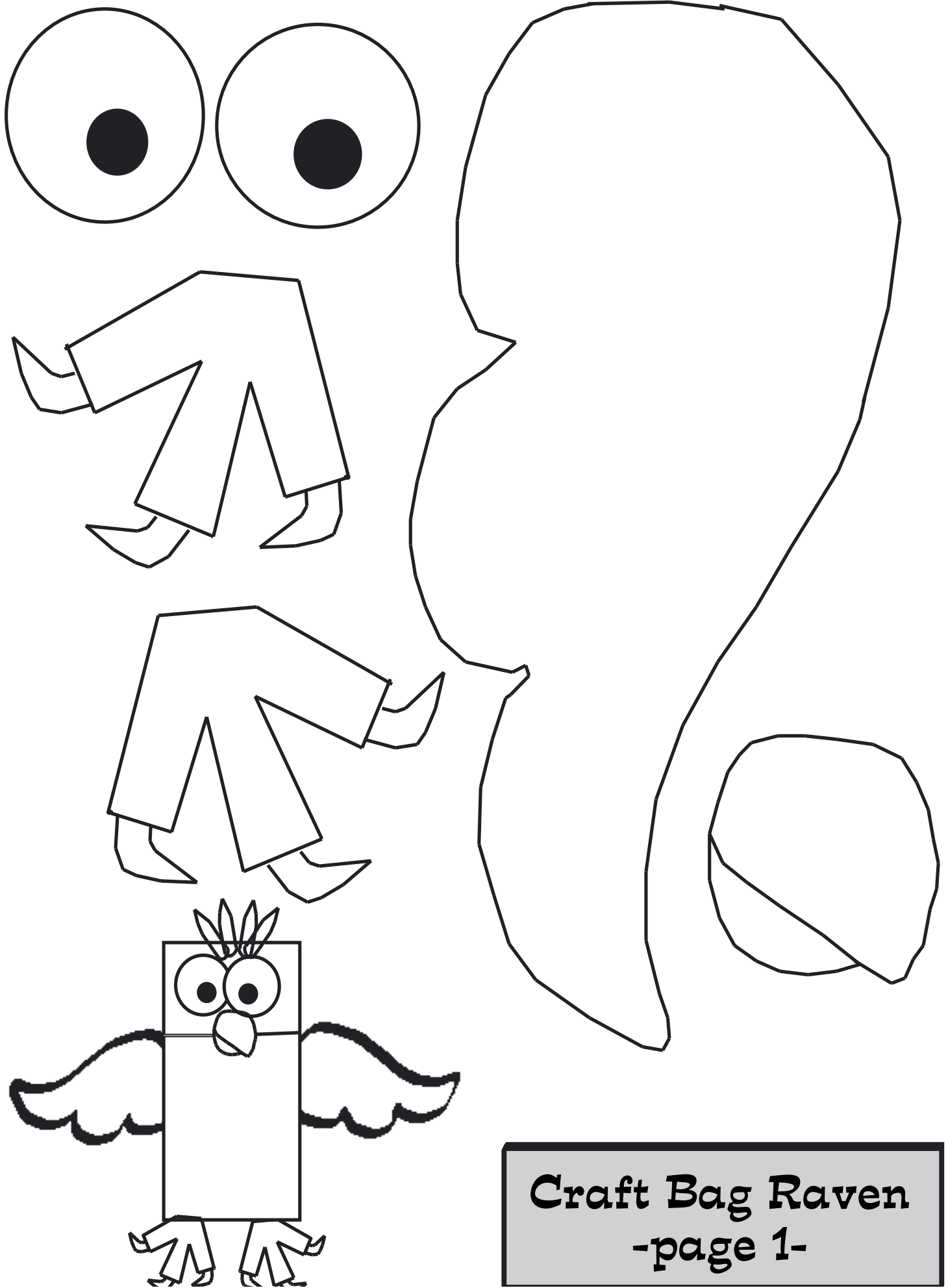
**Assemble your puppet:
Glue the feather tuft to the top of the HEAD**

Glue the eyes onto the HEAD just under the feathers. If you like, you can use wiggly eyes instead of the paper template pieces.

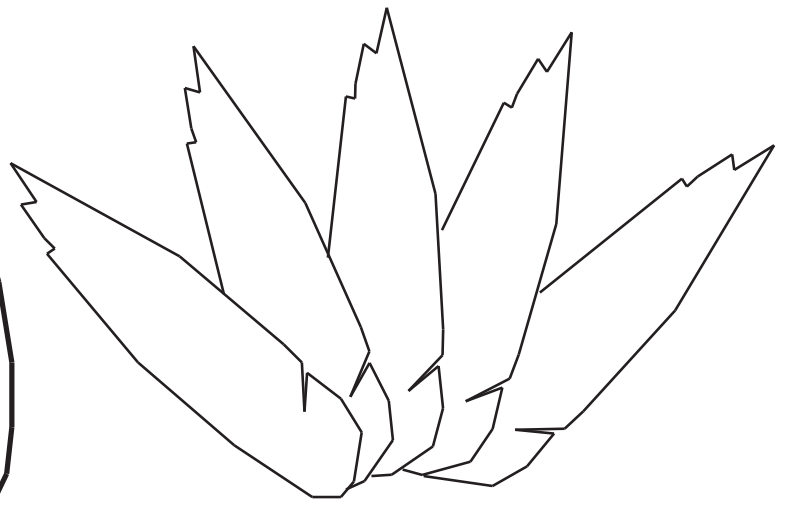
Glue the beak under the eyes. It will likely hang down over a little bit of the BODY. Make sure you just put glue on top of the beak (where it touches the HEAD) so you don't end up glueing the mouth shut.

**Glue the wings into the FLAP.
Glue the feet onto the bottom of the BODY.**

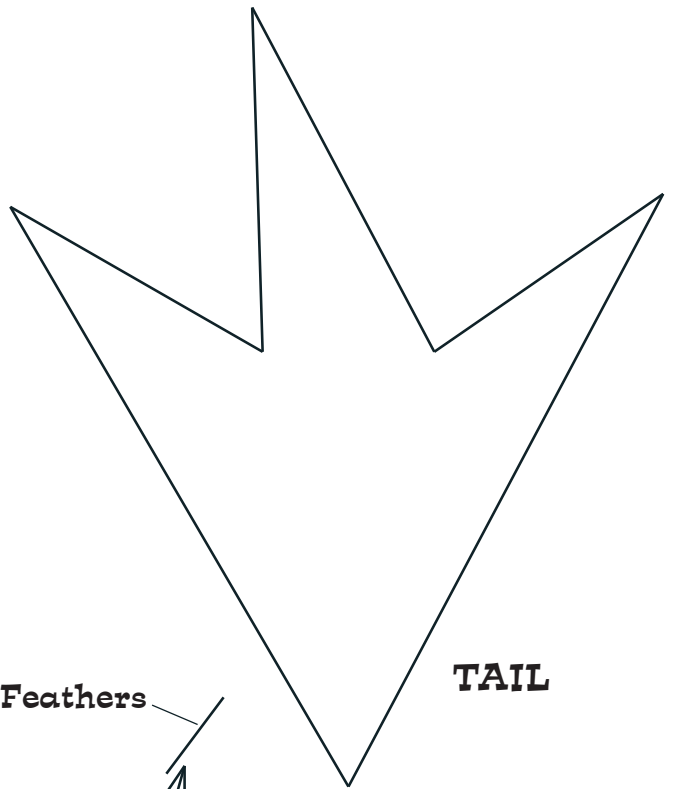
Glue the tail onto the BACK.



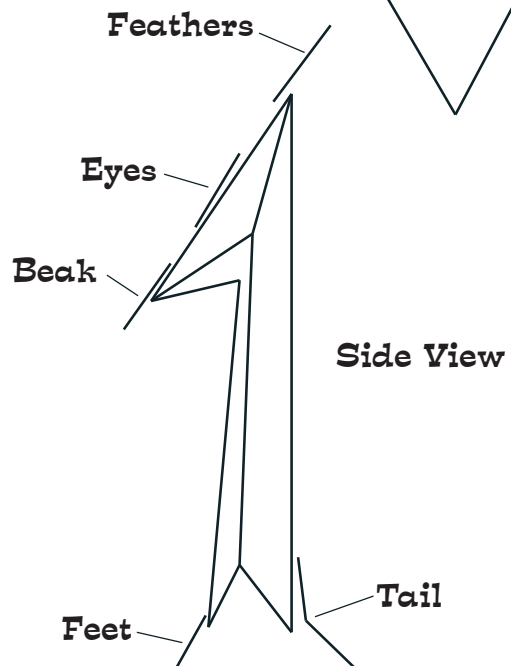
Craft Bag Raven
-page 1-



HEAD FEATHERS



TAIL



Feathers

Eyes

Beak

Side View

Feet

Tail

Craft Bag Raven
-page 2-

LESSON ONE: ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

Name _____

WORD BANK

baby
bread
hid
king
Israel
prayer
prophet
rain
ravens
three

Using the Word Bank write the answers to the following questions.

1. The nation of _____ was supposed to be an example of serving God.
2. The _____ of Israel was so wicked, he had _____ sacrifices.
3. Elijah was God's _____.
4. Elijah prayed that it would not _____.
5. God answered his _____.
6. The prophet _____ in the desert because the King wanted to kill him.
7. _____ brought Elijah food.
8. The food they brought was _____ and meat.
9. Because of the prayer Elijah prayed it did not rain for _____ years.

Write a short answer in the blanks below.

10. How did this man show faith in God? _____

Bonus Question: Has God ever answered one of your prayers? Write about it!

Fill in the missing words from the memory verse:

_____ your _____ to the LORD;

_____ in _____ and He _____

do this.

Psalm 37:5 (NIV)

Use the key to decode the following verses.

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14,
O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25 Z=26

8 5 18 5 16 12 9 5 4, “2 5 3 1 21 19 5 25 15 21 8 1 22 5 19 15 12 9 20 20 12 5 6 1 9 20 8.
-----”

9 20 5 12 12 25 15 21 20 8 5 20 18 21 20 8, 9 6 25 15 21 8 1 22 5 6 1 9 20 8 1 19

19 13 1 12 12 1 19 1 13 21 19 20 1 18 4 19 5 5 4, 25 15 21 3 1 14 19 1 25 20 15

20 8 9 19 13 15 21 14 20 1 9 14, ‘13 15 22 5 6 18 15 13 8 5 18 5 20 15 20 8 5 18 5’

1 14 4 9 20 23 9 12 12 13 15 22 5. 14 15 20 8 9 14 7 23 9 12 12 2 5

9 13 16 15 19 19 9 2 12 5 6 15 18 25 15 21.

Elijah..., ...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.

Memory Verse:

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this.

In the space below personalize the memory verse.

I will...

