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Grace
God helps us understand grace.

POWER TEXT

"Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (1 Kings 18:37).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 18:1-40
- *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 11, pp. 143-154
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 26-34
- student story on page 32 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 3, The Father
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God works through events to turn the hearts of His people to Him.
- **Feel** God working in their lives.
- **Respond** by allowing God every day to turn their hearts to Him.

First Fire, Then Rain

POWERPOINT

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends Elijah to meet with King Ahab. Elijah calls for a gathering of the people of Israel together on Mount Carmel with the false prophets of Baal and Asherah. They are to set up an altar of sacrifice and pray to their god to send down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice. The god who answers by fire is the true God. The prophets of Baal and of Asherah jump and shout and even cut themselves, but to no avail. No fire comes from heaven. Elijah gathers the people of Israel around the altar and prays to the Lord, asking Him to show His mighty power. Fire comes down from heaven and consumes the entire sacrifice and altar.

This is a lesson about grace.

God, through His grace, uses the circumstances of our lives to turn our hearts to Himself.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was because Elijah was a man of large faith that God could use him in this grave crisis in the history of Israel. As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him, but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favor. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God's service. . . .

"Faith such as this is needed in the world today—faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears. Faith such as this connects us closely with Heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness" (*Prophets and Kings,* pp. 156, 157).

What is on my heart today? Am I willing to persevere with my petitions? What events is God using to win my heart to Himself?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Putting the Puzzle Together* *B. Dot-to-Dot*	Bibles, puzzles of Jesus (see pp. 155, 156) Bibles, colored circles, balls of yarn
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 27. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, rainbow box (to collect offering), world map, pushpins, candles
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	large bowl, water, newspaper Bibles Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Share a Seed*	small pot/plastic cup, soil, seeds, water
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ puzzles of Jesus (see pp. 155, 156)

Putting the Puzzle Together

Photocopy pages 155 and 156 and glue them back to back with card stock between. Cut pieces apart. Make enough copies to give one complete puzzle to every five to seven students. Number the students in each group, and distribute the puzzle pieces among them. Then give the following instructions in your own words.

Number one is to find someone who has a piece that attaches to one of their pieces. They should then combine the pieces, place the two pieces on a flat surface in the center of the group, and see if anyone in the group can identify the picture.

Then number two is to find someone who has a piece that attaches to one of their pieces. Then that set of pieces is placed in the center. Go around until all the pieces are in the center. When a student has placed all their pieces in the center, at their next turn they try to attach two of the clusters of pieces in the center. Continue around the circle until the puzzle is complete (or until the picture is clearly recognizable).

Debriefing

Ask: **When you had only a couple pieces together how much of the picture could you see? When did the picture become clear?**

Say: **Events in our life can be like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Often God is trying to reveal Himself to us. Let's find and read our power text (1 Kings 18:37) together.** (Allow time for the students to find and read the text with you.)

"Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (1 Kings 18:37).

Say: **This week we are focusing on the fact that**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ colored circles
- ☐ balls of yarn

Dot-to-Dot

Beforehand, cut two sets of colored circles out of construction paper, enough for your expected students. Cut out the center of the circles to create a large hole in each of them. Number the circles in each set consecutively. Give out the circles in alternating colors as students arrive. Give two students balls of yarn.

Ask the students with circles to stand up and spread out around the room, each standing alone.

Have each student with a ball of yarn go to a number one circle, then the number two circle of that same color, etc., and connect them. Each student holding a circle takes hold of the yarn as the ball is brought to them. Ask the students holding the circles not to move from their original "scattered" position. When both sets of circles have been connected, debrief.

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you remember the dot-to-dot pictures you drew when you were children? What happened when you joined the dots?** (You could see the overall picture.)

Say: **Through events and circumstances in our lives, God is trying to turn our hearts back to Him. Let's find and read our power text together. It is found in 1 Kings 18:37.** (Allow time for the students to find and read the text with you.)

"Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (1 Kings 18:37).

Say: **This week we are focusing on the fact that**

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Prayer and Praise

Notes

Fellowship
Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given your permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
"He Is Our Peace" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 109)
"Lift Up Your Countenance" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 112)
"The Coloring Song" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 61)

Mission
YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering
YOU NEED:
- ☐ rainbow box

Continue to use the rainbow offering box from last week. Take a different color. Ask: **How does this color reflect God's grace?**

Prayer
YOU NEED:
- ☐ candles

Give each student a candle. Stand or sit in a circle. Light your candle. Share a blessing you have received this week with the person on your right, and light their candle. Continue around the group. Offer a prayer of thanks for God's blessings.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ large bowl
- ☐ water
- ☐ newspaper

Introducing the Bible Story

Bring in a page of crumbled newspaper in a large bowl. Pour 12 cups of water on top of it and, using a lighter, attempt to set the newspaper on fire.

Say: **In our story today Elijah prayed to God to send fire from heaven to light his sacrifice, but before he prayed he soaked the sacrifice in water. It seems like an impossible situation, but**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have the students read 1 Kings 18:1-40. Then divide them into four groups and ask them to present the story to the rest of the group from one of the following viewpoints: (1) prophets of Baal, (2) Elijah, (3) King Ahab, or (4) Obadiah. Give time for planning and presentation.

Ask: **What do you think about Elijah's pouring all that water on the sacrifice? Where do you imagine he got that much water? What is your opinion of the people? Why do you think God did so much to win their hearts back to Himself? How do you think you would have reacted to this whole event? What events in your life is God using to win your heart to Himself?**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Beforehand, write the following questions and verses on a board. Say: **Water was key to the trial between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. There had been no rain for three years, and then Elijah had the altar drenched in 12 barrels of water. Let's look at some other events in the Bible and see how God used water to demonstrate His grace.** Divide the following verses among the students:

1. What did God do after the Flood to show His grace to humanity? Genesis 8:1-21, 9:12-17.

2. How did God demonstrate His grace to the children of Israel when they were trapped at the Red Sea? Exodus 15:1-31.

3. God's grace is not demonstrated just in the large events. How did an ax become a symbol of grace? 2 Kings 6:5-7.

4. In what practical way did Jesus demonstrate grace at a wedding? John 2:1-11.

5. To whom did Jesus offer grace via "living water," and what did He mean by that? John 4:4-30.

6. How did Peter experience instantaneous grace? Matthew 14:28-31.

Ask: **What do these experiences tell you about God's willingness to give you grace in the large and small things of life?**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

Accommodations for students with special needs: Students with impaired vision or with learning disabilities will benefit from having the list of questions and texts in front of them. Allow these students to sit near the board or prepare for them in advance handouts with the above list of questions and texts.

Scenarios

Discuss how you can experience God's grace in the following life events:

1. You have studied hard for an exam. It means a lot to you to pass. You always get very nervous before exams, and when you get into the exam you cannot remember a single thing.

2. You are unjustly accused of doing something wrong. It is just your word against another's, and there is nothing you can do to prove that you are right.

3. You have just been elected president of the graduating class. You are thrilled with the honor.

Ask students, in groups of two or three, to share a story of a time when some event in their lives helped them to understand God's grace better.

Ask: **When are we most aware of God's grace? In what kind of events do we discover God's grace?**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Share a Seed

YOU NEED:
- ☐ small pot OR plastic cup
- ☐ soil
- ☐ seeds
- ☐ water

Give each student a small pot or plastic cup, some soil, and seeds. Ask them to plant the seeds and give them some water. Discuss what the seeds need to grow. Say: **As the seeds need water and light to grow, so we need God's grace to grow in our Christian life. Divide in pairs and share a time when God's grace helped you to grow.**

Optional: You may have the students write the Bible memory verse and attach it to the pot/cup for a reminder during the week or they could offer it to a church member to remind them of God's grace during the week.

Debriefing

Say: **As you water the seeds and they begin to grow think of the way God's grace helps you grow spiritually. This week care for your seeds, and when you have a sprouting plant, give it to someone and share with them how God's grace has helped you to grow. Remember:**

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Father: Thank You that no matter what we have done, You still love us and want to surround us with Your grace. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www .juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **God keeps His promises. We can trust God to do what He says and promises.**

Notes

Student lesson

First Fire, Then Rain

Have you ever had questions about something and then had it proved to you beyond the shadow of a doubt? That's exactly what God did for the people of Israel, to turn their hearts back to worshipping Him.

In the third year of the drought, God spoke to Elijah once again:

"Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land" (1 Kings 18:1).

Again Elijah immediately obeyed God's command. He started the long walk back to Samaria and King Ahab's palace. How different the land looked now after three years of famine. The ground was hard and cracked. Elijah covered his mouth and nose against the swirling, blowing dust. He walked through villages in which fresh mounds of stones covered newly buried bodies. *Surely,* he thought, *surely now the people will be ready to return to God.*

King Ahab was personally searching the countryside for pasture for his royal animals. The famine had even reached the palace. Food and water had been rationed. One of Ahab's servants brought the message, "Elijah is back. He wants you to come and meet him."

As soon as Ahab saw Elijah he said, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

Elijah said, "I have not made trouble for Israel. But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals" (verses 17, 18). Then Elijah told Ahab there would be a contest, God versus Baal. He instructed Ahab to call a meeting of all the people, to bring all the priests of Baal for a showdown on Mount Carmel. Immediately the word went out to the people. When the appointed day came, they met on Mount Carmel.

King Ahab rode up surrounded by his officials and bodyguards. Four hundred fifty prophets of Baal walked boldly up the mountain and surrounded Elijah. They hoped a show of force would scare this prophet of Jehovah God.

Elijah laid down the ground rules. Two separate animals would be prepared as sacrifices on two separate altars. The priests of Baal would ask him to accept their offering by sending fire from heaven to consume it. Elijah would ask Jehovah God to accept his offering by sending fire from heaven to consume it. The god who answered by fire would be declared the true God.

The prophets of Baal prepared their animal sacrifice on the altar of Baal. Then they started calling to him. There was silence. They danced around the altar. There was silence. They screamed. There was silence. They begged Baal to answer with fire. There was silence.

The people watched and listened. After several hours Elijah started taunting them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened" (verse 27). So they yelled louder. The priests of Baal cut themselves with sharp knives until their blood flowed. Silence. Exhausted, the prophets and priests of Baal gave up. It was the time of the evening sacrifice.

Elijah walked to the broken-down altar of Jehovah. He fixed the altar that had been broken down. He took 12 stones, one for each tribe of Israel, and built the altar back. Then he dug a trench around the altar. He arranged the wood. He cut up the animal sacrifice and laid it on the wood. "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood," he commanded, and strong men brought the jars of water and soaked the sacrifice. Water ran into the trench.

"Do it again," he said. And four more jars of water soaked the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, and ran off into the trench.

"Do it a third time," Elijah commanded. And this time the water ran down and finished filling the trench.

Every eye watched Elijah as he knelt down beside the altar. Every ear strained to listen as he lifted his voice to God. "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel," prayed Elijah. "Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (verses 36, 37). There was no crying, nor shouting. Just a short simple prayer.

God's response was immediate. Fire like a giant tongue flashed down from the sky and licked up the wet sacrifice, the wet wood, the wet stones, and even the water in the trench. The people fell on their faces, covered their heads with their arms, and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" (verse 39). They had seen that day the powerful evidence of God, who was determined to win their hearts back to Him.

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 18:1-40
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 11, pp. 143-154
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 26-34
- Our Beliefs, nos. 3, 17, 18

POWER TEXT

"Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (1 Kings 18:37).

POWER POINT

God uses events in our lives to turn our hearts to Him.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Kings 18:37 and this week's story, "First Fire, Then Rain."

MAKE Create an altar from something around your house and write the power text, 1 Kings 18:37, on it.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Pray that God will help you to understand His will better.

Monday

READ Read 1 Kings 18:1-15.

THINK What would you do if your life, like Obadiah's, were in danger if you shared some news with someone?

COUNT For how many days was there no rain in Israel?

PRAY Thank God for the blessings of rain.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Kings 18:16-24.

REFLECT Focus on 1 Kings 18:21.

WRITE Summarize in your Bible study journal the meaning of this verse in your own words.

APPLY How does this text apply to us today? What things distract our attention and cause us to "waver" in our decision to follow God?

PRAY Pray that God will help you to make right choices.

Wednesday

FIND Read 1 Kings 18:25–40.

THINK What does this story teach about worship?

ASK Ask someone to share their experience about answered prayers.

PRAY Pray for those that are experiencing drought.

Thursday

FIND Discover at what time the evening sacrifice took place (see Exodus 29:39, 41).

REFLECT What made the difference between Elijah's prayers and the prayers of the people?

DISCUSS Ask someone about the prayer life of Elijah. Did he spend time with God rarely or often?

PRAY Pray that God will strengthen you to make time for Him at the start and close of each day.

Friday

READ Read 1 Kings 18:1–40 with your family.

DISCUSS Talk about what is the most amazing and miraculous part of this story to you.

SHARE Share with one another reasons you have to praise God for the evidence of His power in your life.

PRAY Thank God for turning your heart to Him.