

Jesse Tree

KIDS' DAILY DEVOTIONAL



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS POINT IN GOD'S STORY?

The past couple of days, we've talked about how God chose David to be King of his people because He could see David's heart. David was a shepherd king for his people, and yet David knew that God was his shepherd. We know that God sent His only Son, Jesus to be OUR shepherd king! We know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, that we are His sheep. And we know that He laid down His life for us, just as he said a good shepherd would!

By the time our story for today happens, David is dead. There have been several other kings since him. Some of them have been good and followed God, but most of them have been bad kings. At the time our story takes place, God's people are being led by King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel are definitely "bad guys" and they are leading God's people to worship false gods and idols. One of those false gods is called Baal.

God, is not pleased that his people are being led to Baal instead of Him. So, God sends His loyal prophet, Elijah to challenge the prophets of Baal.

BIBLE READING

1 Kings 18:19-39

WHAT DO THOSE VERSES TELL US ABOUT GOD?

So King Ahab, the prophets of Baal, and all the people think that Elijah had a great idea. The prophets of Baal built their altar and prepared their sacrifice on it. Then, they prayed for Baal to start the fire in the altar. And nothing happened. So, they danced around the altar and shouted louder. And, nothing happened. Elijah poked fun at them and told them to shout louder! He said that Baal might be deep in thought, or busy, or traveling or asleep. So, they shouted louder! Then they got out knives and actually cut themselves trying to get Baal's attention! And, nothing happened.

At this point, hours have passed, and nothing has happened. Elijah calls the people to him. He builds an altar. His altar is made up of 12 stones. One stone for each of Jacob's 12 sons. He is reminding the people that they are God's people! He is reminding them of all of the promises that God has made and kept to them! He is reminding them that God is always with them! Elijah prepares his sacrifice. Then, he does something different than the prophets of Baal - he digs a trench around his altar. And then, of

all the crazy things to do, he pours water all over everything! He had 12 large jars of water poured all over the altar and the sacrifice. It was enough to soak everything and even enough to fill the trench!

Then, Elijah didn't shout, or dance or do anything really loud to get God's attention. He prayed! And, God burned it ALL up! Not just the wood and the sacrifice, but the water and the stones and the dirt!

God doesn't always do big and showy things, but when he does . . . wow. Wow! In the New Testament, when God brings Jesus, He brings Him quietly in a manger. But then He does something BIG and showy – He sent a whole assembly of angels to tell the shepherds that Jesus had arrived. Can you imagine being shepherds out in a quiet field and suddenly having a whole bunch of angels appear out of nowhere praising God? That is big and showy!

God really wants us to listen and pay attention! Sometimes, he does BIG things to make that happen. After He burned up the altar and everything with it, the people who were there with Elijah fell down and praised God. And after the shepherds heard and saw the angels, the Bible says that they hurried to see Jesus! And once they had seen Jesus, they told others about Him and everything they had seen!

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for being so amazing God! Help our lives to be about praising you and telling others about you so they can know how amazing you are, too! In Jesus' name, amen.



