

I will not give up even when I don't see results

Week 1:

The Big Point: I will not give up even when I don't see results

God's Word: The Story of Elijah (1 Kings 16: 29-33 17:1-6, 18, 19:1-18)

Memory Verse: Blessed is the person who keeps on going when times are hard. (James 1:12a)

Application: I will not give up even when I don't see results.

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Series Aim: To help kids learn what God and the Bible says about perseverance and how God much God values it.

Creative Video:  God's Story: Elijah

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY!

♥ CENTRE YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

Perseverance is choosing not to give up on what you need to do despite things being difficult and feeling down, despite a delay in getting success. The Bible has many stories where people need to persevere in what God called them to do. Through the next two weeks, we will journey together to learn together what God and the Bible says of perseverance and how God thinks highly of a persevering heart, a heart that chooses not to give up! We also hope and pray that this series will encourage the children to persevere on as some of the upper primary levels prepare for year-end exams.

Series Aim: To help kids learn what God and the Bible says about perseverance and how it can help us through tough times in our lives and our faith journey.

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- Kids learn that God wants us to persevere through, even when things are hard. In the process, God is growing us to be stronger and also to be more like Christ.
- Kids learn that it is worthwhile to keep persevering as God wants us to be finishers who will see things through in our lives - perseverance also helps us in our responsibilities!
- Kids learn that perseverance will train an inner strength of character.

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Perseverance: To be persevering is to not give up in doing something despite the difficulty or delay in achieving the wanted results one would hope for. To persevere is simply to not give up easily.

🔍 GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

Perseverance is a good characteristic we tend to hear a lot all around us. The fact is, throughout the course of life, and as we grow up, we will encounter many different struggles and challenges. There are plenty of hardships we encounter that will make us feel small and vulnerable, but it is important to keep going on and not give up - to persevere. Even when we don't see the results we want, even when we feel down and we cannot find a single reason to carry on.

However, life's hardships and difficulties will only keep coming and the only way to go is to persevere through. Thus, even from now, we need to learn to persevere through challenges and difficult times. To have a persevering spirit is not something you can develop overnight, but just like physical strength, it requires time for us to train, hone and work on repeatedly, till we are able to endure and sustain beyond the small daily difficulties, to life's challenges that come at us.

The Bible tells us in James 1:12a, **"Blessed is the person who keeps on going when times are hard."** and tells us that if we persevere through the challenges and keep holding on in our belief, trust and following Jesus, we "will receive a crown. The crown is life itself. The Lord has promised it to those who love him." When what we persevere on goes beyond just daily challenges to faith challenges, we will be absolutely sure to be with God forever.

This series will also show us how perseverance also follows the examples of many characters in the Bible. In this first week, we will look at the character of Elijah, the prophet.

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Watch: [The Story of Elijah](#) + **Read the following scripture**

Note: The following is for your reference and learning as you prepare your lesson/sermon. :)

The Life of Elijah (Till 1:59)

1 Kings 16:29-33, 2 Kings 17:1-6

Elijah was a prophet, which means that he is a representation of God to people, and also a representation of people to God. Elijah hears from God and speaks to the people what God wants to say. Elijah's name means "My God is Yahweh", a meaning He lived out throughout his life as a prophet of God.

Elijah lived his life as God's prophet during a difficult time for Israel. When Elijah was alive, the Israelite king then was King Ahab. King Ahab did many evil things in the eyes of God. (1 Kings 16:30-33) He married a foreign princess by the name of Jezebel. Together, King Ahab and Jezebel did many things that were evil in the eyes of God, influencing God's people to turn away from God to worship false gods. On top of that, since Elijah was a prophet and God's mouthpiece, they also made Elijah's life really difficult.

As the people of God, the King and all the people are meant to only worship and believe in God Himself. However, Jezebel brought in and spread the worship of her foreign nature god, Baal into the land, falsely leading and teaching the people that Baal too, is worthy of worship and is of equal standing ground as Yahweh, the God of Israel. The people did not realise that Baal was a false god, an idol.

To punish the people for their worship of Baal, God sent Elijah to tell King Ahab and Jezebel that there will be a drought where rain will not fall on the land for the next few years. (1 Kings 17:1) When rain doesn't fall, it means that plants and crops will not grow, and the people will grow hungry. King Ahab was very upset with Elijah. Sadly, this drought did not cause Ahab to stop his worship of Baal, instead, it caused him to want to kill Elijah. God knew this, and told Elijah to hide in the Kareth Valley (1 Kings 17:2-6).

Link to perseverance - There might have been times, when we think following God means God will always make things easy for us. But that is not true. God wants us to be strong in our hearts and in our trust and believe in him. It wasn't easy for Elijah to hold on to faith and to speak words that oppose the king. Yet, Elijah did not shun away, but instead courageously spoke against King Ahab despite potential serious consequences that may follow after by opposing a person of authority. Elijah stood his ground and kept his faith in God by seeing through what God has instructed him to do. We see that God too, is a God who loves us and he will His part to protect us, as long as we persevere and keep faith in Him. Elijah is an example of perseverance by continually preaching about God despite all obstacles.

The Life of Elijah (From 2:00 to 2:56)

2 Kings 18:1, 2, 4a

During the time when Elijah was in hiding, King Ahab and Jezebel continued in their worship of the false god, Baal, despite the continued drought. In fact, it had not rained for 3 whole years till God finally told Elijah that he is going to send rain down again on the

land, and to talk to King Ahab. (1 Kings 18:1-2) While Elijah was hiding from King Ahab and Jezebel, Jezebel had rounded up many of God's prophets and killed them for believing in God. (1 Kings 18:4a). Elijah on the other hand, while in hiding, did not do nothing. He had continued to follow and believe in God, telling the people he met how God was the only one true God and to worship God alone, and not Baal.

Link to perseverance - It was hard for God's followers to continue believing in God, but many of God's prophets, along with Elijah continued to do so because they knew God was the one true God and that Baal was a false god. Even when so many people continued to worship the false god Baal, Elijah, who was facing strong persecution by the authorities, did not give up following God and believing that the people will one day turn back to God. Elijah's unwavering commitment to God despite his life being put on the line highlights his persevering spirit!

1 Kings 18: 14-45 - Elijah at Mount Carmel

This is likely the most famous story of Elijah's life. Elijah met with King Ahab and challenged him to a showdown. They will meet at Mount Carmel, with King Ahab bringing all of his prophets of Baal. Elijah even told King Ahab to bring 450 of his prophets of Baal and even 400 female prophets of another false god, Asherah. (1 Kings 2:19). And they will each bring a sacrifice to their respective gods. The god who answers by sending fire down to consume the sacrifice is the one true, real and only God. (1 Kings 18:22-24)

King Ahab came with their horde of false god prophets, while Elijah came alone. There were many Israelite people too, who came to watch. Elijah's speech was bold and full of faith in the God who had kept him safe through the past three years, telling the people, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only god, worship him." (1 Kings 18:21)

The prophets of Baal prepared and offered their sacrifice, even dancing and doing various rituals, including cutting themselves with swords and spears till their blood flowed as an offering to Baal. However, since Baal is a false god, there was absolutely no answer. (1 Kings 18:28) They did this all the way till evening and yet, there was no answer. (1 Kings 18:29b)

Eventually Elijah too, prepared his offering and his altar to God, with 12 stones, each of which represented the 12 families and clans of the people of God. Elijah did this, with the people watching intently. Elijah even went so far as to get the wood, the offering and the altar to be wet and drenched with water, which makes it even harder for his offering to God to catch fire. But Elijah's faith and trust in God was certain after so many years of persevering in his faith in God. (1 Kings 18:33-35)

Elijah prayed to God, so that all will see that He is the one and only God. Even though the wood and the offering was dripping wet, the fire of God came down and burned up the sacrifice, and even the wood, stones and soil and all the water around it. The fire of God had come to consume the sacrifice given to him and showed everyone present that God is the one and only true God. (1 Kings 18:38). The people of Israel saw that they were wrong about worshipping Baal, and they turned their hearts to start believing in God and only God again. (1 Kings 18:39)

That day, all of the prophets of the false gods Baal and Asherah were killed, and people turned back to God, the one and only God. It was all because Elijah had persevered in His faith in God through the years.

Not only that, Elijah also prayed for rain and for the first time in 3 years, rain fell on the land. Even though Elijah was the one who prayed for rain, he didn't see the rain to come in the first attempt of his prayer. In fact, 1 Kings 18:43-44 tells us that Elijah had to pray up to 7 times till rain fell on the rain - another picture of Elijah's perseverance.

The Life of Elijah (From 2:56 to 4:22)

1 Kings 19:1-18

Even after this great victory with the prophets of Baal and many of the people turning back to God, King Ahab and Jezebel still did not realise that God is the one and only true God. In some sense, King Ahab and Jezebel too, had perseverance, but sadly, in the wrong thing - believing a false god. Jezebel was so upset and had such vengeance that she swore to kill Elijah by the next day.

Elijah, weary and tired from all his years of following God, grew scared, so he ran. He even told God that he had had enough. (1 Kings 19:4) But God is a good God, and God understands and God sees how much Elijah persevered to follow after Him and the ways of God through the years, even when he did not get to see great results that he might have wanted. King Ahab and Jezebel and all the nation of Israel may not have turned to God fully, but God still sees Elijah's work and perseverance and faith through the years. In God's kindness, He continued to provide for Elijah and even swept him away back to heaven. (2 Kings 2:11) Elijah has never experienced death.

Link to perseverance - Things were indeed not always easy for Elijah. Elijah's story tells us that it is okay to feel down and struggle at times. To struggle doesn't mean we are not persevering anymore, in fact, it shows us that we are still persevering to continue and hold on to do what is right despite the difficulties and the lack of results. Elijah's perseverance in proclaiming God and persuading people to come to repentance over many years is commendable.

While it may have seemed that Elijah had eventually given up after his many years of following and persevering God, God still honoured Elijah's spirit of persevering through the many years of challenging and disheartening circumstances by taking Elijah up to heaven by a chariot of fire and horses of fire. This highlights the goodness of God, where Elijah did not experience death, but was rewarded for his persevering spirit throughout the years for God values a spirit that does not give up despite how challenging circumstances may be. It also underscores that God is more concerned about the process rather than the eventual results - whether we have the persevering spirit of not giving up when things become challenging. It was because Elijah persevered in prayer and patiently waited upon the Lord throughout the years that pleased God.

Link to Gospel

Elijah persevered to follow the ways of God even when everyone around him in the nation turned away to worship a false god. To make it worse, all of the prophets of God were killed and he was the only one left alive. Even so, he did not give up but persevered on and told all the people he could meet about the one true God. Eventually, even though he wasn't able to see the nation turn back to God, he was able to stay true to God all the way till he was taken back to heaven. God saw his perseverance.

Jesus, too, persevered in loving God and teaching people about God, even if he did not get to see all people turn to God during his time on earth. Jesus persevered in his mission to save all people, even if it meant him dying on the cross and losing his life. We are all saved from sin and we can go back to God the Father, because Jesus persevered in loving God and loving us, till his last breath. Even after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus continued to love us and pointed us to God till he too, was taken back to heaven.



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Reflect and Challenge

Everyone of us would have come to certain points and circumstances of our lives where we long to give up, especially when there seems like there are no desired results. Yet we learnt from Elijah's life today, the importance of perseverance and not giving up, even when you are the only one left standing, even when you don't see the results you wished for, even in the face of threats. Indeed, James 1:12a tells us, **"Blessed is the person who keeps on going when times are hard."**

- Think of moments when you felt like giving up. What kind of circumstances were you in?
- If you were to be faced in such a circumstance again, how do you think you will react?

- Think of circumstances which you think will make you want to give up. Why do those things make you feel like giving up? Pray and ask God to give you strength to stick it out and persevere through.