



Coalition for  
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**MILWAUKEE**  
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## A Note from the Editor

This issue of the *Professional Jewish Educator* is dedicated to the Prophet Elijah, It contains stories and activities both for classroom use and for families written by Joan Philosophos and Sherry Glassman while they were staff at the Creativity Center many years ago. The annotated bibliography in this issue contains a listing of materials geared both for adults and children.

Elijah was one of the important Biblical prophets, who lived in the 9th century BCE during the times of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Elijah is regarded as a healer, a miracle maker, and a great hero who stood

against the might of evil kings and false prophets.

Elijah operated in the area of the Carmel and the northern parts of Israel, and left his name and memory of events in many Biblical and ancient places.

Visit <http://www.biblewalks.com/info/Elijah.html> to find a summary of the sites where Elijah operated.

This issue of the *Professional Jewish Educator* is only available online. Please email me (alicej@milwaukeejewish.org) if you would like notification when our next issue appears online.

*Alice Jacobson*

## Elijah the Prophet: Background Information

By Joan Philosophos

Many of us have ideas of Elijah as one person in the biblical text and another in the post-biblical times.

When we look at the biblical text we seemingly find Elijah to be a stern prophet who was very much a loner. He is a man who wandered from place to place, often in the wilderness, wore animal skins, and didn't cut his hair. He was a prophet of anger. He was fierce and uncompromising, and he responded with rage to the least provocation.

The stories we heard as children have created in our minds an altogether different Elijah—one who is an angelic, gentle, caring Super-Jew capable of miracles. In addition to the usual expectations that Elijah will be the forerunner of the Messiah, we believe he comes to each brit, and is present at the leaving of Shabbat and at the seder. He helps the poor and the lost; he rights the wrongs of the oppressors; in brief, he intervenes at the eleventh hour to help those in need. When he comes before the Messiah, it is believed he will answer all unanswered questions and get people to agree so there will be peace between all Jewish people. Many stories/legends support this vision of Elijah.

How did Elijah change so much? It has been suggested by Maurice Samuel in *Certain People of the Book*, that Elijah had only one opportunity to reveal his essentially kind nature and that was with the widow of Zarephath and her son. Otherwise, his life was one long, cruel

frustration. Samuel says that Ahab, Jezebel and the Israelites of the time made him what he did not want to be. He endured with infinite suffering.

Elie Wiesel, in *Five Biblical Portraits*, sees no contradiction between the biblical and post-biblical Elijah. He was kind and charitable to widows, orphans and the poor; he was severe only with kings, rulers and tyrants. During the drought he was sad, and hid his face in sadness. Not being able to bear the pain of his people, he caused the rain to come. He was cruel with Jezebel and her prophets, and tender with the sick child. In the post-biblical legends, his likes and dislikes remain strong. When he approves, he really approves; when he objects, he really objects with his whole being.

Elijah led a wandering existence, moving from place to place, often as a fugitive. We don't know of his family or origins.

Elijah was upright and fearless in his pursuit of righteousness and service to G-d. He was an outspoken critic of Jezebel for introducing the worship of Baal in Israel. Elijah denounced Ahab for having caused the death of Naboth in order to take possession of the latter's vineyard. Elijah's encounter with the priest of Baal on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18) is the dramatic highlight of his prophetic career. He was so zealous that G-d had to administer a gentle rebuke to him in a vision (I Kings 19:13).

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Once, when Elijah was forced to flee from the vengeance of Jezebel, he took refuge on Mount Horeb where he rested and heard G-d in a "still, small voice." (I Kings 19:11-12). Elijah was fed by the ravens, and sustained by a widow. He performed miraculous deeds by causing her

barrel of meal and cruse of oil to last through 3 ½ years of famine; and when her son died, Elijah restored him to life. Elijah departed from his earthly life in a chariot of fire and was carried up to heaven. He flung down his mantle to be taken up by his disciple Elisha (II Kings 2:13).

## A Man of G-d: A Story of Elijah

### For Primary Grades

Adapted by Joan Philosophos

I have a story to tell. It is my story. I want you to imagine that you are children who lived a very long time ago – at the time the prophet Elijah lived. I am a lady who lived then, too.

It was an awful time. There was no rain for three years. Everything outside was brown. No one could grow anything because we barely had water to drink. We had to buy it! Water!

One day I was out gathering up some sticks to build a fire with when a strange man came up to me. I had never seen him before. He wore sheepskins for clothes. He had long hair, and he was different. In a nice way he asked me to get him a drink of water. I thought he was a traveler, so I decided that since I had enough water, I would give him a drink.

When I turned to go, he also asked me to give him some bread. I told him, "I have no baked bread. In fact, I have only a handful of flour in a jar and a little bit of oil so I can make a small loaf for my son and myself. After we have eaten that, we will surely die as we have no more food."

"Fear not," he said. "Go and bake a small loaf for me and a loaf for you and your son. My G-d, the Almighty G-d of Israel, says that your jar of flour will not be empty, and your bottle of oil will not be empty until the rains come to the earth."

I must tell you that he spoke it in such a way that I really believed him. And just as he said, it was a miracle. Every day when I went to bake, there was always flour in the jar and oil in the bottle.

The man stayed with us for three years. He told me his name was Elijah. He had said that

the famine was going to happen so the king wanted to kill him. That is why he traveled up north to stay with us. He was waiting to see what G-d wanted him to do next.

One day my son got sick. Lots of children had gotten sick and died. There were no fruits and vegetables to eat to keep them healthy. My son was thin even though we had bread every day. We had no eggs, cheese or meat. My son started with a fever. His body got hotter and hotter, and he stopped breathing. Oh, how awful I felt! I wanted to scream and cry and die. Oh, I had never hurt so much or felt so bad. So I yelled at Elijah. I blamed him. I said this wouldn't have happened if he hadn't come to live with us.

Elijah felt very bad. I could see it in his face. He couldn't believe such a thing had happened. He couldn't understand it either. Very quietly he said, "Give me our son."

He took my son and went upstairs to the room where he slept. Through the door, I saw him put the body of my son down on his bed. Three times he placed himself over my son's body to force breath into his mouth. Then he looked up to heaven and prayed in a loud voice to G-d, "O Lord, my G-d, let this child's life come back to him!"

G-d heard Elijah's prayers because in a little while he brought my son back downstairs. He laid him on my bed, and my son opened his eyes! We couldn't believe it but how happy we were! I thanked Elijah and I told him that now I knew he really was a holy man of G-d. After that, whatever he said about G-d, I knew it was the truth.

# A Man of G-d: A Story of Elijah

## For Intermediate Grades

Adapted by Joan Philosophos

There was a famine in our land for some time. There wasn't a drop of rain anywhere all down the coast and in the hills—not anywhere from Tarsus to Gaza. You would have thought we would have been okay living by water, but even the fish went somewhere else. The wells began to go lower, and the salt began to drain back into them. We had to buy water and pay more for it than we do now for a bottle of wine!

It was an awful time with much suffering. You would see mothers trying to nurse their babies back to life. You could see men offering to sell you their daughters for half a loaf of bread. You could hear madmen preaching the end of the world and babbling about gods who had lost their temper with mankind and all such things.

One day I was out beyond the south gate of the city gathering a few bits of firewood when one of these madmen came striding up to me so directly that I thought at first he had a message for me. I kept thinking that my husband would turn up one day even though all the sailors on his ship had seen him washed overboard in a storm in the sea off Cyprus.

"Bring me some water to drink," the man said. There was something in his voice. I don't know what it was, but something made me turn to get him a drink of water. I had gotten enough firewood by then. As I was walking to get the water, he called out, "And bring me a piece of bread, too." That did it! I looked at him. He wore animal skins. His hair wasn't cut. He had a leather belt. But there was something different about his voice, and his eyes looked right through me.

I told him I was gathering wood so I could build a fire and bake just the handful of flour I had in the jar and a bit of oil in the bottle. My son and I were going to eat that little bread and then lie down, turn our faces to the wall and die. We had nothing else left, and he wanted us to share that little bit!

When I stopped to catch my breath, he nodded and looked as if that was just what he wanted to hear. "Do what I say," he said. "There is more flour and oil than you think—enough for a good loaf for you and your son, and a little one for me. And my G-d, the one G-d, says that your jar of flour shall not be emptied, and your bottle of oil shall not run short until the day that He ends rain upon the earth."

Well, I'm not soft in the head! I went home, and I didn't know what to think. I am not a fool to believe anything anyone tells me, but there was something about the way he said it. He followed me home. I thought, "This is crazy. Another mouth to feed, and we are hungry."

When I got home I started baking, and there was more flour in the jar than I had thought. There was more oil in the bottle than I had thought. My hands, without my telling them, seemed to pat out a little loaf for that man—a loaf besides the one I had meant to bake for my son and myself. When the bread came out of the oven, I told myself I was a fool, but I gave the small loaf and a cup of water to the man.

After about a week, I believed he was a Man of G-d, all right. There was always flour in the jar, and there was always oil in the bottle. I knew he wasn't filling the jar because once I

Continued on page 5

had just emptied the jar for baking when my husband's cousin came in off his ship. I went back to the jar, which I had just emptied, and there was enough there for another loaf—and I had been in the room all the time when it happened.

Once my son and his friend rolled the jar over. I think they were curious. Nothing came out of the jar, and they put it back. When I went to the jar to bake a little while later, there was the flour in it as usual.

This Man of G-d stayed almost three years with us. I gave him an upstairs room in our home. He didn't talk much. Mostly he sat and waited. Not for anything in particular that I could see. He did tell me that his king had wanted to kill him for prophesying the famine, and his G-d told him to come north to us, and now he was waiting for G-d's next set of orders.

Near the end of the second year of the famine, something dreadful happened to us. Children were dying all the time all over town by then. They were hungry and had no strength to throw off a little fever. They would be shivery at noon, coughing at nightfall, and dead by morning. It happened to adults too, especially to the old and those who had been sick for a long time. I had helped many people laying out the dead children for burial, having a little ritual before the burials. Each morning when the cock crowed, we would hear the wailing and mothers would wake and find their dead.

My son also got sick. He was after all a famine child like the others. There was no fruit to eat, no healthy vegetables, no eggs or meat. I knew he wasn't strong, but I hoped the Man of G-d would protect our house. I sat with my son, and he got hotter and hotter, and finally he stopped breathing. I knew he was dead. Hadn't I seen all the others? I still can't think about it without getting a knot in my heart

and a dry throat so I can hardly speak. I cried and wailed, and of course I blamed the Man of G-d.

I said to him, "Why did you come to our house and bring this trouble on us? Before you came, everyone thought I was a good, pious woman compared to the others. Now compared to you, I seem sinful. Have you come to remind heaven that I have sins, so my son should die?"

The Man of G-d was filled with deep sorrow. I could see him turn white. His eyes were hurt, and he looked helpless. But he pushed the neighbor women aside who were starting to wrap my son in grave cloths. He said, "Give me your son." He took my son in his arms and went upstairs to his room. We sat and waited. I don't know for how long. I couldn't think anyway. After awhile he came down the stairs again, as white as a living person could be. He was dripping with sweat, and he had my sleeping son in his arms. He laid my son on my bed, and my son opened his eyes!

I know what you might think—I had made a mistake, and my son had just fainted, but I saw too many not to know. He was dead, and now he was alive, and he still is.

I said to the man, "Now I know you truly are a holy man. When you speak the word of G-d, it is truth"

This holy man, Elijah, stayed waiting with us for another year until G-d told him to leave and go to the king. Even after he left, my jar always had flour and my bottle had oil—just as he said—until the rains came and the crops grew.

I thank the Almighty it happened when I was younger. I couldn't take such a happening now. And my son, he is a good boy, a good man. He visits me often. Just yesterday, he brought me a nice tomato from his garden.

# A Man of G-d: A Story of Elijah

## Game to Review the Story

### Directions for making game

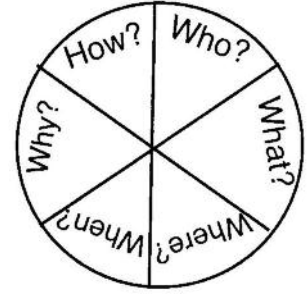
Take a pizza wheel and divide it into 6 parts.

Label each of the parts: Who? What? Where? How? When? and Why?

Then color each part a different color.

Use index cards of the same color for the questions starting with the same question. In other words, if you color the How? section of the wheel yellow, put the How? questions on yellow index cards.

Cut out the questions, paste them onto the index cards and you are ready to play.



### Directions for playing game

Put the question cards out in 6 piles according to color. The child whose turn it is, spins the wheel and takes the top card from the pile that matches where the spinner points.

This game can be as competitive or non-competitive as you want it to be.

### Questions

**Who** kept flour in the woman's jar?

**Who** was out gathering firewood?

**Who** followed the woman home?

**Who** in this story was hungry?

**Who** in this story suffered from the famine?

**Who** asked for bread?

**Who** looked different from most of the people?

**Who** was Elijah?

**Who** asked for a drink of water?

**Who** wore animal skins?

**Who** did Elijah say would keep flour in the woman's jar?

**Who** brought the woman's son back to life?

**Who** did the woman blame for her son's death?

**What** is a famine?

**What** were the people dying from?

**What** was Elijah waiting for?

**What** did Elijah ask the woman for?

**What** did the woman find when she went to bake her bread?

**What** did the woman find when she went to bake her bread?

**What** does this story teach us about Elijah?

**When** did Elijah say, "Give me your son."?

**When** did the woman say, "Now I know you truly are a holy man."?

**When** did Elijah say, "Bring me some water to drink."?

**When** did the woman say, "When you speak the word of G-d, it is the truth."?

**When** did Elijah say, "O Lord, my G-d, let this child's life come back to him."?

**Why** did the woman think she and her son would be "safe" from the famine?

**Why** did they have to buy water?

**Why** were men trying to sell their daughters?

**Why** did the woman obey Elijah?

**Why** did the woman say that she and her son were going to turn their faces to the wall and die?

**Why** did Elijah say the king wanted to kill him?

**Why** did the woman think her son had died?

**Why** did Elijah stay with the woman and her son?

**Why** did the woman let Elijah stay for almost three years?

**Where** was the famine?

**Where** did Elijah take the dead boy?

**Where** did Elijah stay for almost 3 years?

**Where** was there suffering from the famine?

**Where** did the miracles happen?

**Where** did Elijah go when he left the woman?

**How** long was the famine?

**How** long did Elijah say the woman would have flour and oil in her jars?

**How** long did Elijah stay with the woman and her son?

**How** did the woman know Elijah was not filling the jars?

**How** did Elijah bring the woman's son back to life?

**How** long did the woman have flour and oil in her jars?

## **Elijah: The Great Test**

### **For Primary Grades**

Adapted by Sherry Glassman

Once there was a Jewish king named Ahab (1). He did lots of things that G-d didn't like. One of these things was marrying a wicked queen, named Jezebel (2). She worshiped idols, instead of G-d. Her favorite idol was Baal (3). Ahab built a big Temple (4) for Baal so that everyone would come and pray to it. This made Jezebel very happy.

Some of the Jewish people (5,6) came to pray to Baal at the Temple. They thought they could pray to Baal and G-d at the same time. The Jewish prophet said, "STOP! Jews must only pray to G-d." (7) Prophets are G-d's messengers and tell people what is right and wrong. One of the prophets was Elijah (8). He decided to prove to the people who the real G-d was.

Elijah gathered all the people together. The Jewish people stood on one side and the priests of Baal stood on the other side. Elijah stood between the two groups. He told the priests to build an altar (9). Then they put sticks (10) on the altar. And on top of the sticks they put a bull (11). Elijah did the same thing. He build an altar (12), he put sticks (13) on it and placed a bull (14) on top.

Then Elijah told everyone that there would be a test between G-d and Baal to see who would bring fire to burn the bull.

The priests of Baal prayed and prayed to their idol but nothing happened. Then Elijah prayed to G-d. And all of a sudden, fire (15,16,17) came down from the heavens and burned Elijah's bull, the sticks and the altar.

The people now knew who the real G-d was, and they said, "Shema Yisrael (18), Adonai Eloheinu (19) Adonai Echad (20) – Hear, Oh Israel the Lord is our G-d, the Lord is One."

### **Follow-Up Activities**

Tell the story, using the magnetic aids (see patterns) as they appear. Upon completion of the story, distribute the 20 visual aids to the children, one per child. Have the child come up with his/her prop as you retell the story. Repeat with redistribution of props for reinforcement. If possible, leave this story and the aids out for the children to manipulate in their free time.



# Elijah: The Great Test

## For Intermediate Grades

Adapted by Sherry Glassman

- 1 Once there was a Jewish king named Ahab. He did lots of things that G-d didn't like. One of these things was marrying Jezebel. She worshipped idols. Her favorite was Baal. "Husband" she said one day, "build me a Temple to worship Baal." And so Ahab built the Temple of Baal to please his queen.

Many Jews thought they could pray to G-d and Baal. But the prophets said, "STOP! Do not go up to the Temple of Baal. Pray only to G-d." A prophet is a messenger of G-d. He is a man of truth, who tells people things they do not always want to hear.

- 2 Queen Jezebel became very angry with the prophets and put an order out to have them killed. Several managed to escape. One of these was Elijah, the prophet of hope, who lived in Gilead, across the Jordan River. His hair was long, and he wore a rough sheepskin cloak. He wouldn't keep silent, even though most of the prophets had been killed already.

Elijah told Ahab, "As the Lord lives there shall be no rain nor dew in the land until I give the word." Then he disappeared mysteriously.

Elijah went to live in a cave where no one could find him. The Lord commanded ravens to fly down morning and evening to feed him.

- 3 Three years passed, and the land became dryer and dryer and dryer. Ahab and his servant went out to look for some grass to keep the animals alive. Suddenly, Elijah appeared before the servant and asked to speak to the King.

Ahab blamed Elijah for the terrible drought and ordered him to end it immediately. Elijah answered, "I have not brought this trouble upon the land of Israel. *You* are responsible for these terrible times, for you have turned away from the commandments of G-d and gone over to Baal."

- 4 Then the priests of Baal prayed to Baal to bring down fire. They prayed and prayed and cried out and prayed again. Nothing happened. Elijah talked to the men of Israel. He told them to wet the altar, the sticks, and the bull. Elijah ordered them to keep pouring water until they filled the huge moat surrounding the offering. Then he prayed to G-d. And the fire came down from heaven and burnt up the offering, and licked up all the water!
- 5 Then Elijah and his servant went up the mountain. Elijah sent the boy to the sea, and he stayed on the mountain and prayed. He prayed on behalf of all the people of Israel, who now believed in G-d. The servant came back and reported that he had seen nothing at the sea. Elijah sent him back seven times and kept praying all the while. The seventh time, the boy excitedly declared that he had seen a small cloud rising out of the sea. Elijah and the servant ran down the mountain as the rains came down.

# Elijah: The Great Test

## Follow-Up Activities for Intermediate Grades

Tell the story. Divide the class into 5 groups, corresponding to the 5 parts of the story delineated in the margin. Distribute story props:

- Group 1 – Ahab, Jezebel, Baal, Temple, Jews (2) STOP sign
- Group 2 - Elijah, Ahab, Jordan River, Cave, Ravens (3)
- Group 3 - Year (3), Land (3), Ahab, Servant, Elijah
- Group 4 - Altar (2), Sticks (2), Bull (2), Watering Can, Fire (3)
- Group 5 - Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad, Mountain, Elijah, Servant, Raindrops

Begin with Group 1 and have the children tell their part of the story, using the props given them and the magnetic board. Redistribute props to familiarize children with other parts of the story and retell as often as desired. If possible, leave props out for children to manipulate in their free time.

Play the *Game of Categories* with the entire class. Children will fill in the missing answers on a graph. Suggested “answers” to the following categories are:

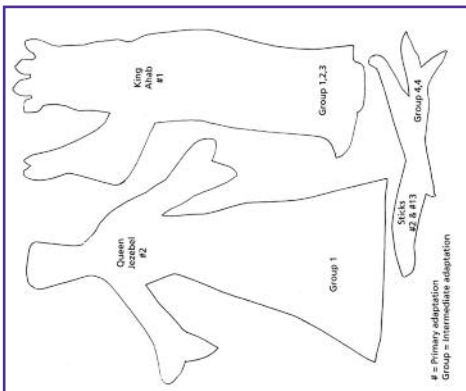
*People from the story:* Ahab, Jezebel, Elijah, Servant, Jews, Hebrews, Israelites, King, Queen, Priest

*Things in the story:* Cloak, Cloud, Idols, Temple, Rain, Dew, Land, Prayer, Cave, Ravens, Birds, Grass, Animals, Water, Drought, Bull, Altar, Sticks, Fire, Offering

*Qualities of a prophet:* Brave, Outrageous, Truthful, Messenger, Daring, Rebellious, Just, Loyal, Righteous, Peace-loving, G-d fearing, Lonely, Strong, Hopeful, Honorable, Admirable, Earnest, Involved

	P	A	L	S
People	Prophet	Ahab	Servant	
Things	Prayer	Altar	Land	Sticks
Qualities of a Prophet	Peace-loving	Admirable	Loyal	Strong

Change letters going across the top of the chart (J I L T works well.)



### Patterns for Elijah: The Great Test

Full size patterns are  
available for sale in  
the CJL Creativity  
Center.

#18, 319 & 320 (Primary) Use with Group 5 (Intermediate)

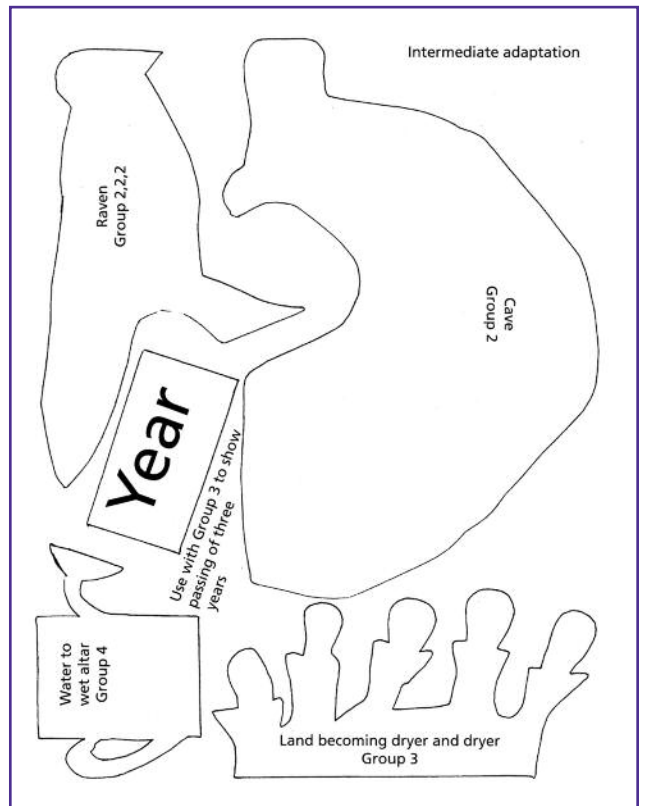
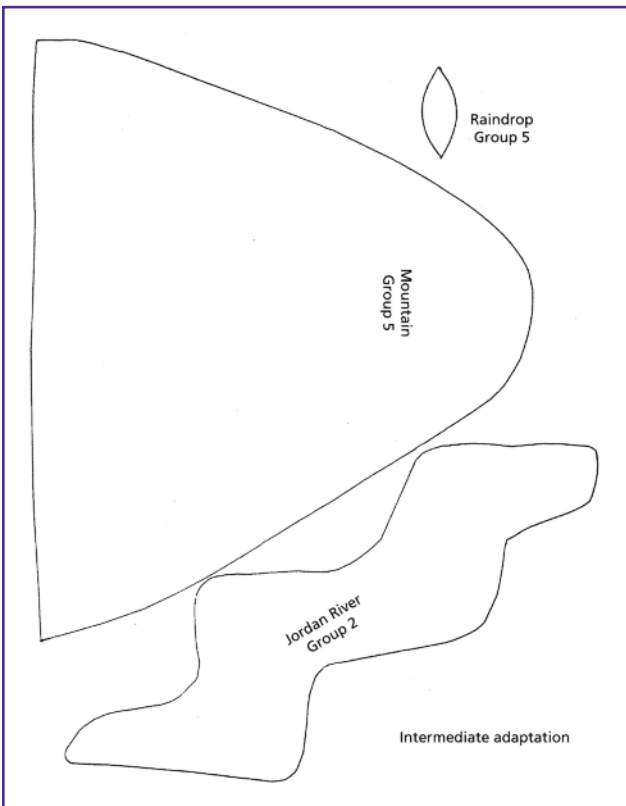
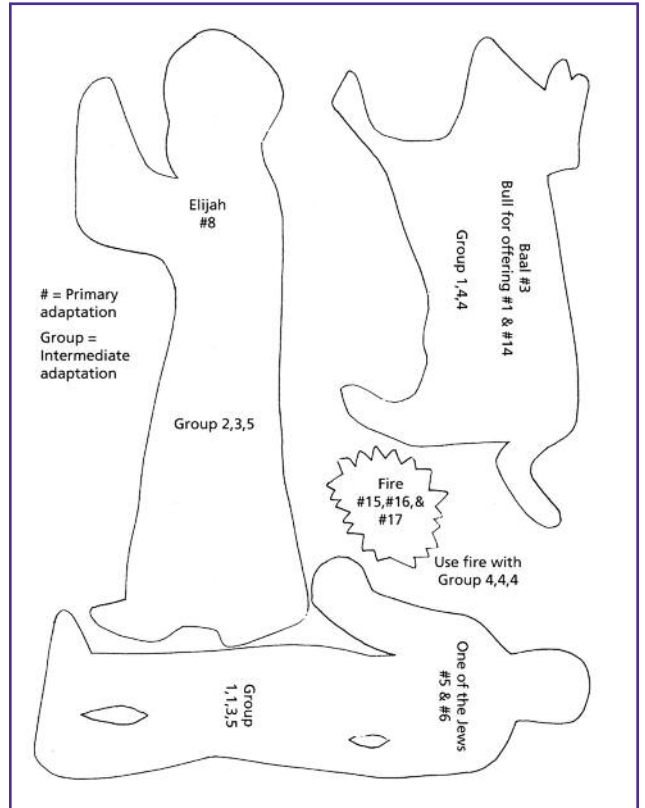
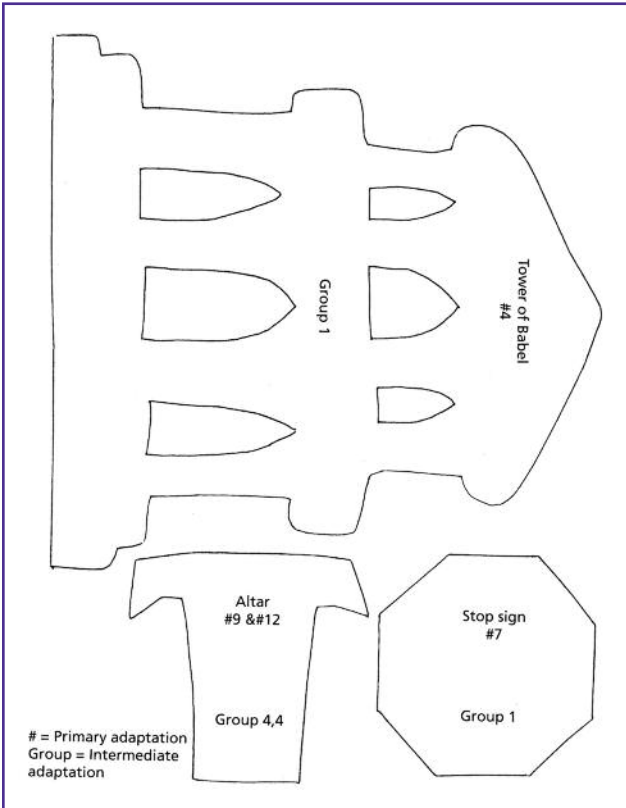
Shema Yisrael

Adonai Elohenu

Adonai Echad

# Patterns for Elijah: The Great Test

Full size patterns are available for sale in the CJL Creativity Center.



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# Elijah the Prophet

Retold by Joan Philosophos

A long time ago in a far away country, there was a big city. Like all big cities, this one had different parts to it. In one part lived rich merchants; in another area was the palace, buildings, and gardens of the king; in another part were the nice houses of rich merchants; and, of course, there was a part of the city where the streets were tiny and the homes small and poor and kind of falling down. The doorways were narrow, some windows were cracked, and roofs leaked. In one of these poor, and almost empty houses lived a poor and righteous man and his wife and children.

When people needed help, the man could sometimes get a little work. Then the family could buy bread. When the man couldn't work, he went to the shul and prayed and studied Torah. Times were bad, and there was no work for him. Things were so bad they had nothing to eat in their home.

His wife said to him, "Go out to the market. Perhaps you'll find some work so we can get some food. Otherwise, we shall die of hunger."

The poor man said, "Oh, whom shall I turn to? Where shall I go? I have no one but the Holy One Blessed be He."

So the wife stopped urging him to. But the children were hungry, and they shouted and cried out. So she spoke to him again, "If G-d intends to help us, it better be soon. But whatever He might do, for you to sit at home doesn't improve matters. You must go into the city. Even while waiting for a miracle, it is good to do something. Man must begin and G-d will help him."

The poor man said, "How can I go out without nice clothing?"

The wife said, "Your clothes are clean. That is what is important."

"Now go," she said, "and luck be with you." When he left, she told the children to pray that their father would not come home with empty hands.

When the pious man went outside, he stood perplexed not knowing where to turn. He walked a little way full of anxiety. He met a man who asked

him, "What is wrong? Why do you look so unhappy?" The man told him his story. Elijah said, "I am Elijah. Sell me and take the money, and life will be better for your family."

The man said, "How can I sell you? Everyone knows I have neither slaves nor servants. If you came from heaven, I am **your** slave. How can a slave sell his master?"

"Do not worry," said Elijah. "Follow my advice and everything will work out fine for you."

So the man went to the market place with Elijah. If anyone asked him if the man was his slave, he said, "Yes this is my slave." The slave looked so noble, so wise that merchants gathered around Elijah and the man. They asked Elijah if it was true he was a slave, and he said, "Yes, it is true."

Everyone liked the "slave," and he was sold to the highest bidder, a rich merchant. When the merchant paid for the slave, Elijah told the man to take the money and go care for his family.

The man went to the market and bought bread, meat, oil, cereals, and everything he needed and went home. His children were starving. They ate quickly and were satisfied. His wife said, "Tell me what happened."

He told her all that had happened to him. She was so happy she said, "If you had waited any longer, all of us would have perished." The man bought a lot of property, and they were never without money or food again. The man thanked G-d and gave some of their money to the poor.

Elijah went away with the merchant who bought him. The merchant had been thinking of building a mansion for some time. He had bought many slaves to carry stones and wood. He had bought all the tools required for building. The merchant asked Elijah if he had a trade. Elijah said, "I am a builder." The merchant said, "I want a mansion built." Elijah said, "I will do as you wish and even more so." The merchant said he would like the work done, and if it was completed in six months he promised to give his slave Elijah his freedom. Elijah asked the merchant to order his servants to bring all the tools, and they did so.

When night came, Elijah spoke to G-d and said, "I sold myself as a slave to save a poor man who is your servant. I pray you now help me build a mansion as the merchant wants."

G-d heard Elijah's prayer, and by dawn the mansion was complete—all built as the rich merchant had wanted, and gorgeous it was! Elijah left at once. The merchant was surprised and very pleased to see his wonderful mansion all built. He was also puzzled as he looked and looked for his slave and couldn't find him.

Some days later, the poor man (now not so poor) met Elijah. He asked, "What did you do for the merchant?"

Elijah said, "I could have left him at once, but I did not want to go back on my word. I made a promise so it was my duty to fulfill it. He told me that if I

built a mansion for him, he would set me free. So I built it and disappeared. I did better work than he expected."

The "poor" man thanked him and said, "Elijah, you have restored me to life."

Elijah said, "Thank G-d who did this for you."

With that, Elijah had helped the man all he needed, so he disappeared.

#### Source Materials:

*Elijah the Prophet, Part IV:* This story, an excerpt from Tales of Elijah the Prophet, is reprinted through the courtesy of Reb Yisroel Klapholtz.

*Elijah the Slave:* Adapted by permission of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, Inc from *The Slave* by Isaac Bashevis Singer. © 1962 by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

## Elijah the Prophet: Puppets

### Directions for use:

These puppets can be used to tell the story or to retell it after the first telling. Children can act out the story with the puppets. They can tell the story to someone else with the puppets. The puppets can also be used to review the story.

Using the puppets for review can be done in a variety of ways. If you are doing it with one child, place the puppets on the table in front of the child. The child then picks up the puppet that correctly answers the question. If two or more children are involved, they can take turns choosing the correct puppet. Or they can pick up the puppet, keep it until someone else answers another question involving that puppet, and then pass it to that person. Or two children may each have two puppets, and then pick up or raise their hand with the right puppet in it. The review is meant only to firm up details and events in the story. You may think of more questions than those listed below.

Who had a hard time finding work?

Who went to the shul when he couldn't find work?

Who said, "Go out to the market and look for

work"?

Who studied Torah when he couldn't find work?

Who said, "Perhaps you'll find some work so we can get some food"?

Who said, "Oh, whom shall I turn to? Where shall I go"?

Who said, "For you to just sit at home doesn't improve matters"?

Who said, "I have no one, but the Holy One. Blessed be He"?

Who said, "You must go out into the city. Even while waiting for a miracle, it is good to do something"?

Who said, "Your clothes are clean. That is what is important"?

Who left to look for work?

Who told the children to pray that their father would not come home with empty hands?

Who walked along looking worried and not knowing where to go?

Who said, "What is wrong? Why do you look so unhappy"?

Who said, "Sell me and take the money, and life will be better for our family"?

Who said, "How can I sell you? Everyone knows I have neither slaves nor servants"?

Who said, "If you came from heaven, I am **your** slave"?

Who said, "Do not worry. Follow my advice and everything will work out fine for you"?

Who went to the marketplace with Elijah?

Who did everyone in the marketplace think was the slave?

Who replied that it was true that he was a slave?

Who bought the slave?

Who told the poor man to take the money paid for him and go take care of his family?

Who went and bought bread, meat, oil, cereals, and everything he needed and went home?

Who said, "Tell me what happened"?

Who bought a lot of property?

Who said, "If you had waited any longer, all of us would have perished"?

Who was never without money or food again?

Who thanked G-d for their good fortune?

Who gave some of their money to the poor?

Who went away with the merchant who bought him?

Who had been thinking of building a mansion for some time?

Who had bought many slaves to carry stones and wood?

Who asked Elijah if he had a trade?

Who said, "I want a mansion built"?

Who said, "I will do as you wish and even more"?

Who explained that if the work was finished in six months Elijah could go free?

Who asked that the servants be ordered to bring all the tools?

Who spoke to G-d and said, "I sold myself as a slave to save a poor man who is your servant. I pray you now help me build a mansion as the merchant wants"?

Whose prayer did G-d hear?

Who left at once when the palace was finished before dawn?

Who was surprised and pleased to see his wonderful mansion?

Who looked for his slave but couldn't find him?

Who asked Elijah, "What did you do for the merchant"?

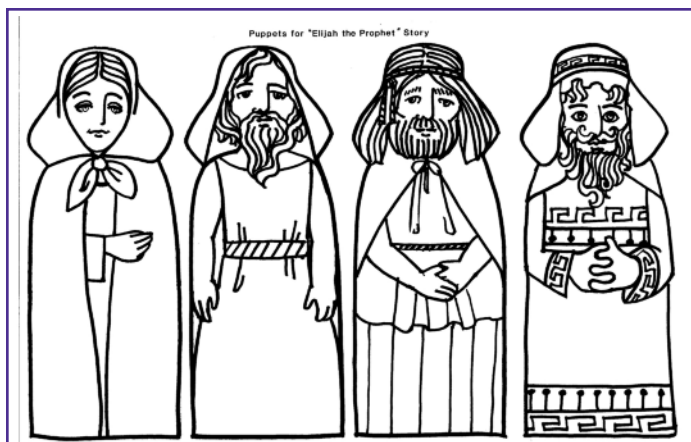
Who said, "I made a promise so it was my duty to fulfill it"?

Who said, "I could have left him at once, but I did not want to go back on my word"?

Who said, "Elijah, you have restored me to life"?

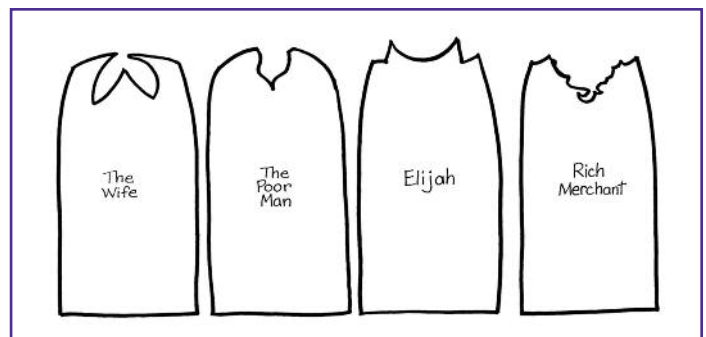
Who said, "Thank G-d who did this for you"?

Who helped the man all he needed and disappeared?



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Full size patterns are available for sale in the CJL Creativity Center.



# Bibliography of Materials about Elijah

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIALS ABOUT ELIJAH**

*from the CJL Library/Media Center*

Laurie Herman, Library/Media Center Director

### **Adult Books :**

#### ***Kings (1990) (Soncino Books of the Bible)***

Go to the actual text in Kings to read about the prophet Elijah, in both Hebrew and English translation.

#### ***The Prophets (1962) – by Abraham J. Heschel***

Respected rabbi and scholar Abraham Heschel wrote this classic about the prophets of the Hebrew bible in 1962. He discusses each of the prophets and identifies their primary themes. According to Heschel, the prophets are “the men whose image is our refuge in distress, and whose voice and vision sustain our faith”. *Note: The primary material on Elijah is found in Volume II of the paperback version.*

#### ***Stories of Eliyahu Hanavi (1971)– by Yisroel Yaakov Klapholz***

This collection of stories about Eliyahu Hanavi are gathered from the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmud, midrashim and the books of early and later sages. Topics include: “Elijah Feeds the Hungry”, “Elijah Enriches the Poor”, “Elijah Heals the Sick”, “Elijah Foretells the births of Sons”, and “Elijah Puts to the Test”. The treasury attempts to collect the entire range of stories about Elijah from both written and oral sources, Sephardic as well as Ashkenazic.

#### ***Tales of Elijah the Prophet (1991) – Retold by Peninnah Schram***

Well-known storyteller Peninnah Schram selected thirty-seven stories about Elijah the Prophet for this collection. Elijah uses a variety of disguises, offering guidance, bringing hope, rewarding goodness, punishing wickedness, and helping to bring about justice. An informative introduction provides background information on Elijah, and there are endnotes at the back of the book providing further information and sources for each tale.

### **Children’s Books about Elijah:**

#### ***Elijah’s Violin & Other Jewish Fairy Tales (1983) – by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith***

Contrary to the title, this book of Jewish fairy tales has only one story peripherally dealing with the prophet Elijah – and that is the first tale, “Elijah’s Violin”, about a princess who asks her father to bring her back Elijah’s violin when he goes off to war. In this story it is Elijah’s violin – rather than Elijah himself – that brings about miracles.

#### ***Elijah’s Tears: Stories for the Jewish Holidays (1996) – by Diane Levin Rauchwerger***

*Elijah’s Tears* contains five original stories, each featuring the prophet Elijah – known for appearing to those in need. Each story centers on a different Jewish holiday, including Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah and Passover. *Note: This is not a picture book, but would be suitable to read aloud to ages 4-8 (or for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to read alone).*

***Journeys with Elijah: Eight Tales of the Prophet* (1999)**– Retold by Barbara Diamond Goldin  
Beautifully illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, *Journeys with Elijah* includes eight tales of the elusive prophet. The stories are set in different times and different places – emphasizing that Elijah can appear at any time, anywhere – bringing about hope and goodness.

***The Mysterious Visitor: Stories of the Prophet Elijah* (1997)** – by Nina Jaffe  
Elijah, first appearing in the Book of Kings in the Bible, has been found in folklore throughout the ages as a comforter, healer and miracle maker. Stories passed from one generation to the next, from one culture to the next. Nina Jaffe chose eight of her favorite Elijah stories for this book, each containing one full color illustration. The end of the book contains a glossary and notes for each story

***Not Yet, Elijah!* (1988)** – by Harriet K. Feder

This humorous picture book for Passover depicts an impatient Elijah, waiting outside to enter a family's seder – but he's too early, and the young daughter has to keep telling him to wait. Told in rhyme, this is a great choice to use for young children before Passover.

### ***DVDs and Videos:***

***Prophets: Soul Catchers (Mysteries of the Bible series) (1994)***

Did these legendary figures exist – men who shared visions and prophecies that came directly from God – men such as Elijah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea and Isaiah? This video takes a closer look at these prophets and what became of their prophecies. 50 min. AGE: .13 to Adult.

### **“JEWS AROUND THE WORLD”**

#### **A FREE JEWISH FILM CLASS: Six Films Portraying International Jewry**

**2010-2011**

In the fourth CJL/JCC sponsored year-long film program, students will have the opportunity to explore Jewish films on a large screen in an informal classroom setting and to participate in educational discussions and presentations with Milwaukee Jewish educators. This year's programming includes some of the best new DVDs purchased in 2010 for the CJL/JCC Reading Room – all which deal with Jews of different cultural backgrounds. **The classes are free and open to the public.** Enjoy films while learning about Jewish life in other lands with our instructors. **Films are presented on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.** Each session is approximately 2 hours in length.

- **November 28** ***Srugim (Israel) (Season 1, Episodes 1-3) (2009)***  
Film Length: 1 hr. 30 min. Suitable for ages 14 and up
- **December 19** ***Hello Goodbye (France/Israel) (2008)***  
Film Length: 1 hrs. 39 minutes Suitable for ages 14 to Adult
- **January 23** ***The Wedding Song (Les Chant des Mariees) (Tunisia) (2008)***  
Film Length: 1 hr. 40 minutes. Suitable for ages 18 and up
- **March 6** ***My Mexican Shiva (Moirirse Esta en Hebreo) (Mexico) (2008)***  
Film Length: 1 hr. 38 minutes Suitable for ages 13 to Adult
- **April 3** ***Spring 1941 (Poland) (2003)***  
Co-sponsored by the Nathan & Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Center.  
Film Length: 2 hrs. Suitable for ages 17 to Adult
- **May 22** ***Love and Dance (Russian Jews in Israel) (2006)***  
Film Length: 1 hr. 35 minutes Suitable for ages 14 and up



# Save the Dates

*Please check our web site for more information about any of the programs below. ([www.cjlmilwaukee.org/Events/Events.htm](http://www.cjlmilwaukee.org/Events/Events.htm))*

## Grand Reopening of the CJL/JCC Library:

### 2010 Holocaust Education Series: The Cabaret Years and the Rise of Nazi Germany

- Monday, September 20 1:30 pm The Jewish Novel, *Berlin Stories*, led by Jody Hirsh JCC Judaica Director
- Monday, September 27 7:00 pm Film—*The White Ribbon*, JCC Community Hall
- Sunday, October 3 3:30 pm Keynote speaker, Peter Hayes, Ph.D, "The German Crisis, from Defeat to Depression, 1918-1933"
- Thursday, October 7 7:30 pm "Cabaret" Jewish Community Night at the Rep, Quadracci Powerhouse Theater
- Monday, October 18 7:00 pm Film—Paragraph 175, Jewish Museum Milwaukee
- Tuesday, October 26 7:30 pm "The Poisen Pen," A Panel Discussion about the Collection of Propaganda," Jewish Museum Milwaukee. Free for JMM members, \$5 for non-members.

### Holocaust Study Institute

- Opening Session Sunday, October 3, 2:30 pm. Lecturer, Peter Hayes, Ph.D, "The German Crises, from Defeat to Depression, 1918-1933"
- Semester I: October 19, November 2, 16, 30 & December 14
- Semester II: January 25, February 8 and 22, March 22, April 5 & 12

**Jewish Film Festival, "Berlin '36":** Wednesday, October 13 7:30 pm Marcus North Shore Cinemas

**Kristallnacht Commemoration:** Sunday, November 7, 2010

### Cutting Edge Israel: Contemporary Israeli Short Films

Join us for a special free class to view Israeli films never before seen in Milwaukee! In each session, participants will view a very contemporary independent short film (each just under 1 hour), designed to engage thinking audiences and trigger response – followed by a discussion led by our instructors. All films are in Hebrew with English subtitles (unless otherwise noted). This class is being co-sponsored by the Coalition for Jewish Learning, the JCC and the Israel Center of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The classes will be held four Thursday nights, 7:30-9:00 pm, and admission is free.

- **October 28**                      **FILM: *Black Over White* (2008)** Instructor: Paz Goldschmidt
- **November 18**                    **FILM: *Amos Oz* (2008)** Instructor: Jody Hirsh
- **Nov. Dec 9**                      **FILM: *Ida's Dance Club* (2008)** Instructor: Paz Goldschmidt
- **December 16**                    **FILM: *Leap of Faith* (2009)** Note: This program will be from 7:30-9:30.  
Instructor: Jody Hirsh



# Professional Jewish Educator

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Jennifer Saber, Chair

Alice Jacobson, PJE Editor

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### Programs and Resources

Congregational School Initiative • Consultation to Schools • Creativity Center • Day of Discovery •  
Day School Scholarship Allocation • Distance Learning Programs • Library/Media Center • Mentoring •  
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center • Synagogue Educator Council (SEC) •  
Teacher Preparation • Teacher Recognition and Incentive Program (TRIP) • Teen Enrichment Programs

### For further information about any items in this issue or our programs and resources, please contact:

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