



M08

**Objectives:** To explain that:

- Solomon worshipped the gods of his foreign wives and turned his heart away from God. The people also disobeyed God's word and rejected God as their king.
- God sent prophets to warn the people. One of those prophets was Elijah.
- God's people were sent into exile and had to leave the land that God had given them because they would not have God as their king.

**"I Wonder" Questions:**

What do you see in this picture? (A king and a statue)

I wonder who this king is.

I wonder why he is lifting up his hands to the statue.

I wonder what the statue is.

Let's hear the story to find out more.

**Lesson Summary:**

Last week we learned how King Solomon built a beautiful temple for God. However, Solomon had many wives from foreign lands who worshipped **other** gods. They turned Solomon's heart away from God and **he** began worshipping these other gods too. Solomon even built statues of the false gods for his wives and worshipped at them. And to make it worse, the people of Israel followed Solomon and started worshipping false gods and idols as well. It was a very sad day.

Because of this, God sent a man named Elijah to warn the people to stop worshipping false gods. Elijah was God's prophet, a messenger to speak God's words. Through Elijah, God told his people to repent and turn back to Him, the one true God who loved them. He did not want his people to worship false gods and idols.

Elijah the prophet knew and trusted God. One day Elijah called the men of the false gods to a contest to prove if their god was real. The God of Israel won the contest by sending fire down from heaven. But, even though the people saw God's power, they did not turn back to Him. Soon, kings from other lands came and destroyed the temple that Solomon had built and captured the Israelite people. The people were taken into captivity, far away into a place called Babylon. It was a very sad day indeed!

**Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about God?** (God sends warnings to his people, he wants people to turn their hearts to him, he disciplines) **What does this story tell us about people?** (we are sinful and need our hearts to be changed to love and follow God)

- What did King Solomon and many people do that was bad? (worship idols)
- Who did God send to warn the people to stop disobeying Him and turn back to Him? (Elijah. He was a prophet sent by God.)
- Why did God send a prophet? (to warn the people) What does repent mean? (have a change of heart, turn from sin to God)
- What happened to the people and to the temple when they refused to repent and to turn back to God? (the people were taken into captivity and the temple destroyed)

**Bible Memory Verse:**

"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." (Romans 3:23 - NIRV)