

# 义人的祈祷

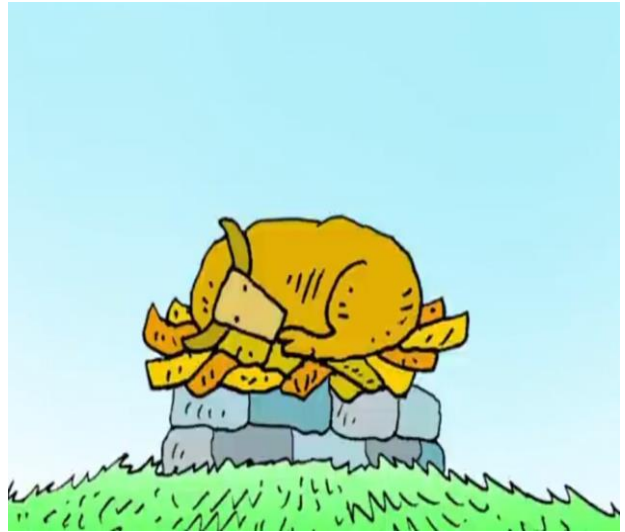
义人祈祷所发的力量是大有功效的。——雅各书 5:16

嗨，孩子们，看这只鸭妈妈和她的孩子正在散步。他们不在公园里，也不在池塘边。你觉得他们在哪儿呢？他们可是在一条交通拥挤的马路上。糟糕，快停下来，鸭妈妈，转回去，在你的小鸭子在被撞之前赶快离开公路。快！需要有人做点事来阻止悲剧发生。哦，不要，我看不下去了！

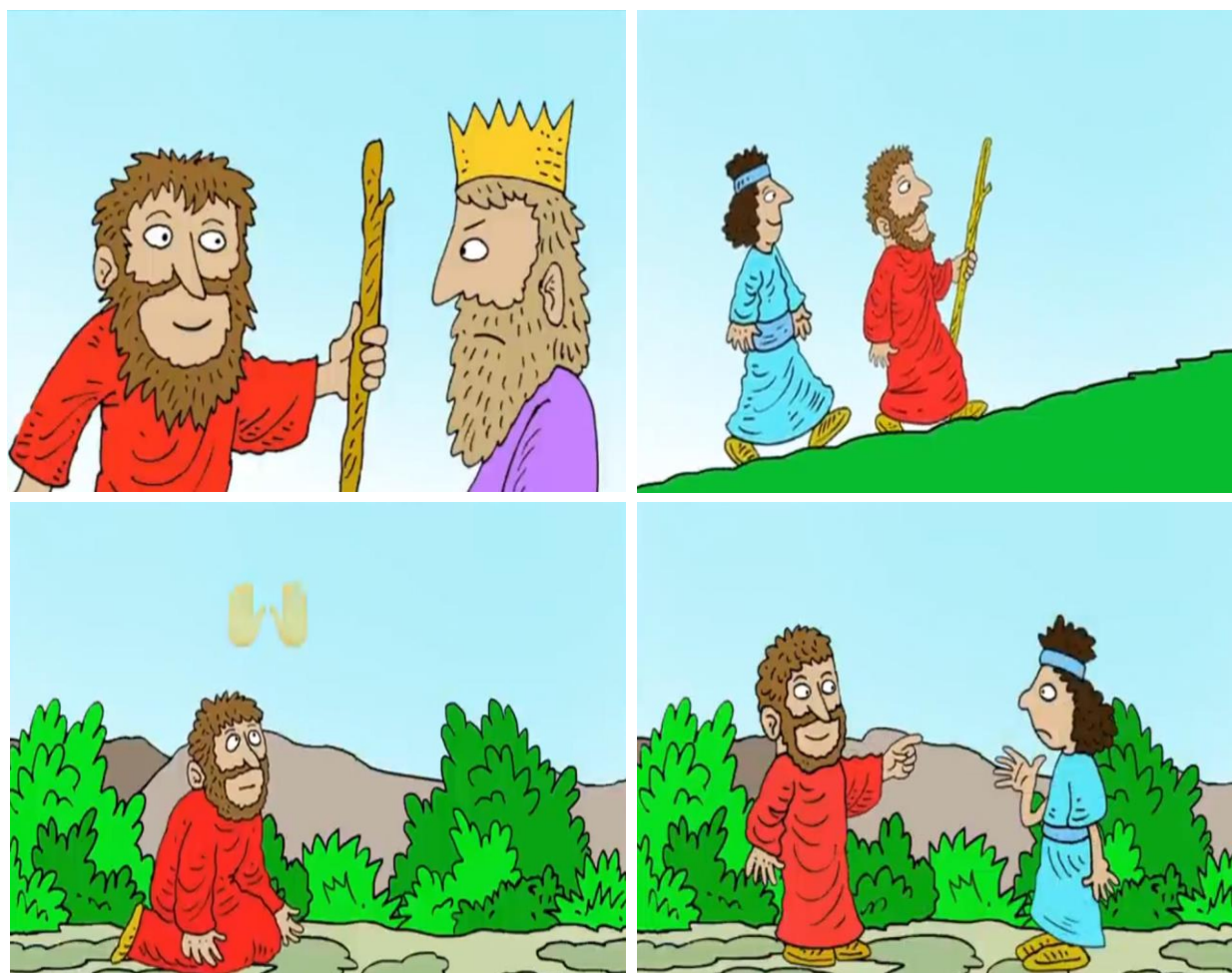


这时，有个人走到马路上，举起他的手，就这样，所有的车都停了下来，鸭子们得救了！这个人是谁？他的力量能促成如此大的改变？是警察叔叔！当一个警察举起他的手让你停下时——你得停下来。为什么？因为他比你高大强壮吗？不是的，因为他的警徽让他有权力告诉你该怎么做。当警察叫你停车时，你就得停下来。当他让你向左或向右转时，你要照他说的去做。他的警徽给了他指挥的权柄。

今天的圣经故事是关于圣经中的一个人，他也有指挥事情发生的能力。他是警察吗？不是的，他是个先知，名叫以利亚。圣经里有很多关于先知以利亚的故事。在圣经列王纪上 17-18 章有记载。比如有一次，以利亚对一个快要饿死的寡妇说：“只要先为我作一个小饼，，你的面和油就必不会减少。”果然，无论这位寡妇用多少，她的面和油都没有减少。又有一次，以利亚求神把火从天上降下来的故事，以利亚一开口说就发生了，火就从天而降。

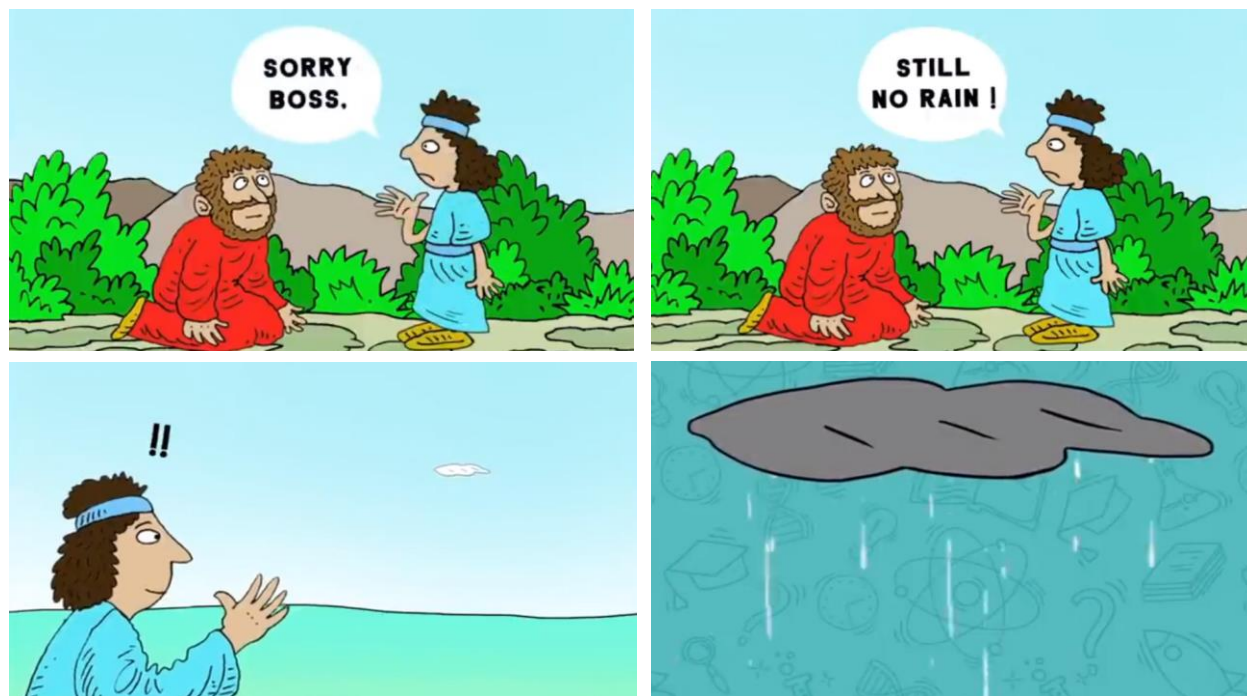


今天的故事是关于以利亚曾经祈求不降雨的故事。故事是发生在作恶多端的国王亚哈的时代。在列王纪上 17 章第一节告诉我们以利亚是怎样祷告不降雨的：“以利亚对国王亚哈说：‘我指着所侍奉永生耶和华以色列的神起誓，这几年我若不祷告，必不降露，不下雨。’”就这样，天不再降雨，一滴也没有，一切都乾涸了，以致那地发生了饥荒。猜猜这持续了多久？持续了三年多的时间。第三年，神让以利亚再去见亚哈王，这次是要告诉亚哈，神要降雨了。



这是以利亚怎样祷告下雨的经过——以利亚上了迦密山，俯伏在地，将脸伏在两膝之中祷告，于是对仆人说：“你去，向海观看。”仆人去观看，然后回到以利亚那里，对他说：“我什么也没看见。”以利亚叫他往返去看了七次。

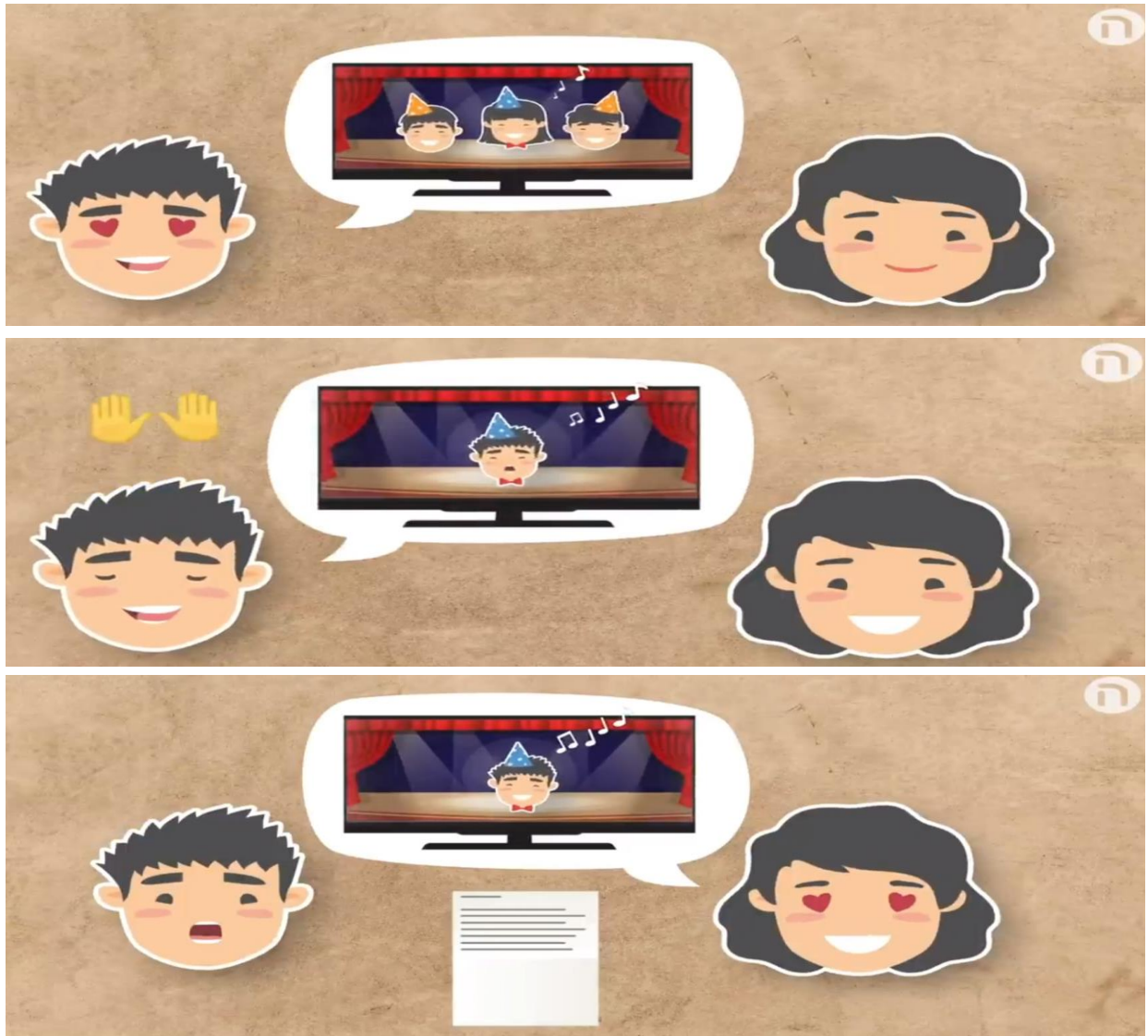
你看到了吗？以利亚先上了山，俯伏在地，脸伏在两膝中祷告。这样持续了很长一段时间，因为上面说他祷告了，让仆人去观看大海的气象变化，然后又祷告，这样连续七次。每一次，当以利亚的仆人回来对他说：“不好意思，主人，还是没有下雨！”，我想知道的是以利亚是不是听到仆人所说的，在接下来的祷告一次比一次更大声？在第七次时，仆人说：“我看见有一小片云，像手掌那么大的云从海上升起。”然后云越来越大，不一会儿，天空变黑了，开始刮风，开始下起雨来了。



以利亚的两次祷告分别求不降雨和求降雨都如实发生了。第一次祷告不降雨，他只是简单地说了他所想要发生的事情——“**我若不祷告，必不下雨**”。第二次祷告降雨，他是俯伏在地祷告了一次又一次。以利亚两次祷告的方式很不一样，你觉得哪个祷告更有力量？第一个还是第二个？雅各书 5 章 17 和 18 节告诉了我们答案：“**以利亚和我们一样是性情中人，但他恳切祷告(prayed earnestly)，求不要下雨，就三年半没有降雨。当他再次祷告的时候，天就降下雨来…**”圣经称以利亚简短的祷告为“**恳切的祷告(earnest prayer)**”。earnest 这个词的意思是“严肃的”或“坚定的”。当以利亚俯伏在地祷告的时候，圣经把这当作常规的祷告。你看到了吗？神称这个简短的祷告为有能力的祷告。以利亚只是说了他相信神会做的事，因为他是充满了勇气和信心地说出来，神就称他的祷告是“**有能力的**”。

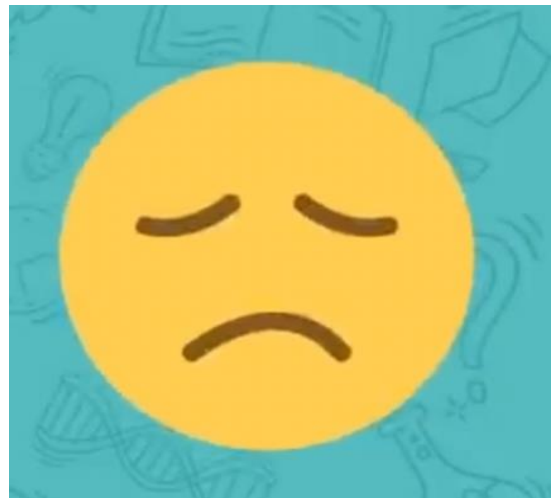
当我们满怀信心地祷告时，神听我们的祷告，祂会回答我们，神称这样的祷告为满带能力的祈祷！哇！这意味着我们不必担心我们的祈祷是否足够聪明或花哨，才能让上帝能听到我们；我们不需要用高深的词汇或复杂的句子来和上帝说话，我们只需要说出我们相信上帝会为我们做的事。这就意味着我们所有人都可以进行强有力的祷告，即使只是短暂的祷告，我们只要充满信心去祈祷，他就会听。因为神听我们的祷告，所以我们有这个能力对我们的生活说出好话！

让我来告诉你几年前发生在一位主日学孩子身上的事。当时这位男孩还很小，有一次他和妈妈一起看电视，突然他说：“我也想上电视，我想要像那些孩子一样在电视里唱歌跳舞。”他妈妈笑着回答：“嗯，好啊！你为什么不问问阿爸天父呢？”就在那时，他闭上眼睛说：“亲爱的阿爸天父，我想上电视。阿们！”



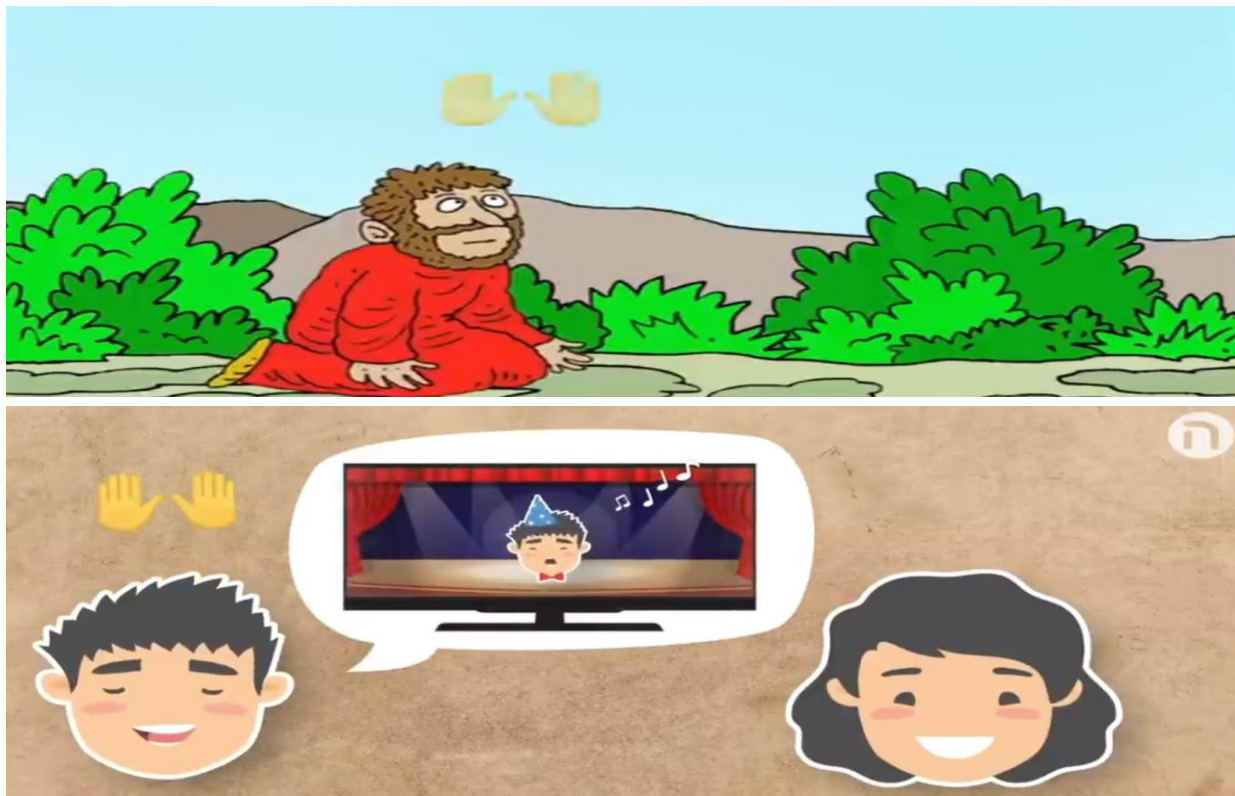
几个星期后，他的妈妈收到了学校的来信，是这样说的：“亲爱的家长，我们学校被选中参加一个儿童节目。你允许你的孩子在电视上表演吗？”他的妈妈给他读了信，然后说：“哇！阿爸天父应允了你的祷告！你还想上电视吗？”男孩笑着说：“是的，想！”

今天，我们听到了这么多好的消息，我们听到我们可以祈祷，更妙的是，我们听到我们还可以满带能力地祷告。当我们祈祷时，上帝会倾听。因为上帝倾听我们祷告，好事就会发生。还记得警察和鸭子过马路的情节吗？警察不必无助地站在一旁说：“噢，天啊！我看不下去了！”警察有权力做一些事情，他有能力帮助鸭子安全过马路。



同样，你是神的孩子。当你看到糟糕或悲伤的事情发生时，你不必无助地站在一旁说：“哦，天啊！噢，不要这样！”**你有能力去做一些事情——你可以祷告！**你可以用充满能力的祷告来改变现状。当你在路上看到车祸时，你可以这样祷告：“**亲爱的主，请保护这些人的安全，拯救他们。阿们！**”当你看到某人生病时，你可以这样祷告：“**亲爱的主啊，请保佑他们健康，治愈他们。阿们！**”当你看到你的朋友有困难的时候，你可以这样祷告：“**主啊，请赐给我的朋友智慧，让他知道该怎么做。奉耶稣的名，阿门！**”我们不需要眼睁睁地看着事情发生，我们可以祈祷，我们可以用充满能力的祷告让事情变好！

下面看看这节经文，你可能也需要标记强调一下。在雅各书 5 章 16 节告诉我们：“…义人祈祷所发的力量是大有功效的。”谁是义人！——是你们！你们相信耶稣，你们就是义人。当你祷告的时候，神称你的祷告是——大有功效的，“功效”是指他们能运作。让我们把今天的好消息付诸行动吧。想一想有哪些事情你想它向好的方向转变？它可以是简单的上学不再迟到，也可以是严重的事情——比如一种需要痊愈的疾病。孩子们，让我们一起祈祷吧。我想让你说出你想看到的事，然后让我们以“阿门”结尾。你准备好了吗？一、二、三，开始：“谢谢你，阿爸天父！谢谢你倾听我们的心声，谢谢你在我们所求的事上的作为。我们奉耶稣的名祷告，所有的孩子一起说‘阿门’！”



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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

## The Prayer Of The Righteousness

**...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. — James 5:16**

Hey Rock Kidz, look at this mother duck and her babies going for a walk. They are not at the park or by the pond. Where do you think they are? They are on a road – with heavy traffic! Stop, mother duck, turn around! Get your ducklings off the road before they get hit! Quick! Someone do something! Oh no, I can't look! Phew!

This man stepped on the road and held up his hand... and just like that, all the cars stopped, and the ducks are saved! Who is this man with the power to make such a difference? A policeman! When a policeman holds up his hand for you to stop – you stop! Why? Because he is bigger and stronger than you? No, because his badge gives him the power to tell you what to do. When a policeman tells you to stop, you stop. When he tells you to turn right or left, you do what he says. His badge gives him the power to make things happen.

Today's Bible story is about a man in the Bible who also had power to make things happen. Was he a policeman? No, he was a prophet, and his name was Elijah. There are many stories in the Bible about prophets Elijah – like the time when Elijah told a starving widow, "Feed me first, and your flour and oil will not run out"- and it didn't, no matter how much she used! Or in the story that Elijah asked God to send fire down from heaven. When Elijah spoke, things happened!

Today's story is about the time when Elijah prayed for there to be no rain in the land. This is during the time of wicked king Ahab. Here's how Elijah prayed for there to be rain: 1 Kings 17:1 tells us "Now Elijah... told King Ahab, 'As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives – the God I serve – there will be no dew or rain during the few years until I give the word!'" And just like that, there was no more rain. And just like that, there was no more rain. Not even a drop. Things dried up so much there was a famine in the land. Guess how long this lasted? More than three years! During the third year, God told Elijah to go and see King Ahab again. This time it was to tell Ahab that God will send rain again.

This is how Elijah prayed for the rain to come: "...But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees. Then he said to his servant, 'Go and look out towards the sea.' The servant went and look, then returned to Elijah and said, 'I didn't see anything.' Seven times Elijah told him to go and look."

Did you see that? First Elijah climbed up the mountain...bowed down low... and prayed – with his face between his knees. This went on for quite a while because it says he prayed, got his servant to look, and prayed again. This went on for seven times! I wonder if Elijah's prayer got louder each time when his servant came back and said, "Sorry boss, still no rain!"? Hmm... On the seventh time, the servant said, "I see a little cloud the size of a man's hand rising from the sea." The cloud grew and grew. And in a very short time, the sky became black, the wind started to blow, and it began to rain!



Both times Elijah prayed, things happened. The first time, he simply said what he wanted to happen. "There will be no rain until I say so." The second time, he bowed to the ground and prayed again and again. But both times, Elijah prayed very differently. Which prayer do you think was more powerful? The first or the second? James 5 gives us the answer: "Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky went down rain..." The bible calls Elijah's short and simple prayer an "earnest prayer". The word 'earnest' means 'serious' or 'determined'. Then when Elijah bowed on the ground and prayed and prayed, the bible treats this like a regular prayer. Did you see that? God called the short and simple prayer the powerful one! Elijah simply said what he believed God would do. And because he spoke with such boldness and confidence, God called his prayer 'powerful'.

When we pray confident that God hears us and will answer us, God calls us prayer powerful. Wow! This means we don't have to worry if our prayers are clever enough or fancy enough for God to hear us. We don't need big words or complicated sentences to talk to God. We only have to say what we believe our God will do for us. This means that all of us can pray powerful prayers. Even if it is just a short prayer, we pray confident that he will listen. And because God listens when we pray, we have the power to speak good into our lives!

Let me tell you what happened several years ago when a boy from Rock Kids was very little: He was watching TV with his Mom when he suddenly said, "I want to be on TV. I want to sing and dance like those children." His mother laughed and said, "Um, ok! Why don't you ask Daddy God!" Right there and then, he closed his eyes and said, "Dear daddy God, I want to be on TV. Amen."

A few weeks later, his Mom got a letter from his school. "Dear parent, our school has been chosen to take part in a children's show. Do you give permission for your child to perform on television?" His mom read him the letter and said, "Wow! Daddy God has answered your prayer! So, do you still want to be on TV?" The boy smiled and said, "Yes!"

What good news we have heard today. Today, we hear that we can pray. Even better, we hear that we can pray powerful prayers. When we pray, God listens. And because God listens when we pray, good happens. Remember the policeman and the ducks? The policeman does not have to stand helplessly by the side and go, "Oh no! I can't watch!" The policeman has the power to do something. He has the power to help the ducks get across safely. In the same way, you are a child of God. When you see bad – or sad – things happen, you don't have to stand helplessly by the side and go, "Oh no! Oh no!" You have the power to do something – you can pray.

You can pray powerful prayers that can make a real difference. When you see an accident on the road, you can pray. "Dear Lord, please keep these people safe and rescue them. Amen." When you see someone is sick, you can pray. "Dear Lord, please give them good health and heal them. Amen." When you see your friend having a problem, you can pray. "Lord, give my friend wisdom to know what to do. In Jesus's name, Amen." We don't have to just watch and let things happen. We can pray. We can pray powerful prayers that change things for the better.

Look at this verse. You might want to highlight this as well. In James 5: 16, it tells us: **...The prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective.** Who is the righteous person? You! You believe in Jesus, You are the righteous person. When you pray, God calls your prayer “powerful and effective.” ‘Effective’ means they work. Let’s put today’s good news into action. Think of something that you want to change for the good. It could be as simple as not being late for school anymore or it could be something serious – like an illness that needs to go away. Now Rock Kids, let’s pray. I want you to say what you want to see and let’s end it together with an ‘amen’. You ready? One, two, three. Thank you, Daddy God for listening to us and doing what we ask. In Jesus’ name we pray. And all the Rock Kids say, “Amen!”

**Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you’ve never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, “Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus’ name,” and everyone say, “Amen.”**