

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Elijah and Shrek

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

A Moment to Remember: **Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?**

Read this passage from the Bible (1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-18, 20, 26, 30, 33, 35-36, 38-39, 40 NRSV):

After many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year of the drought, saying, 'Go, present yourself to Ahab; I will send rain on the earth.' So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood,' so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water. At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.' In a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind; there was heavy rain. Ahab rode off and went to Jezreel.

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

SHREK

Elijah

A person.

Person-colored.

Eventually lives in a cave and is fed by crows before finding an apprentice and riding a chariot to heaven.

Curmudgeonly,
but good-hearted.

Up against a clueless ruler with
terrible intentions.

Stands with outcasts and
everyday people.

Brutally honest with everybody
except himself.

Shrek

An ogre.

Green.

Falls in love but his
donkey best friend has to
convince him that love is
worth the effort.

Theme in Scripture - The Truth Is Revealed:

King Ahab basically calls the prophet Elijah a troublemaker but Elijah is easily able to counter that the one who is truly more trouble for the people of Israel is Ahab. At that time the Israelites, led by their King Ahab and his ancestors, had been worshipping the Canaanite God of thunderstorms, Baal. Ironically the people were caught in a terrible draught. Baal was also trouble for the people of Israel. Elijah reveals the falsehood of worshipping Baal and humiliates Baal's prophets after they fail to start a simple fire and God sends a fireball that consumes a soaking wet altar upon Elijah's request. Soon after God sends rain to end the draught. Elijah's story doesn't stop there as he continues to, somewhat begrudgingly, follow God. **Have you ever trusted in someone or something that was not truly worthy of your trust?**

Theme on the Screen – The Truth is Revealed:

Shrek is anti-social to say the least. Like the Kingdom of Israel, where believers in God have been driven out, Duloc's magical creatures have been driven out, and into Shrek's swamp. Shrek begrudgingly takes on the task of clearing his swamp and overcoming Lord Farquaad's knights, then rescuing Fiona, then professing his love to Fiona. His actions lead to the fiery downfall of Farquaad whose rule over Duloc was really nothing but trouble. **What are the truths that Shrek had to realize in order save himself from a life of loneliness (and save Duloc too)?**

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of the truth revealed. Why? (Is it when Donkey helps Shrek discover the truth about himself, or when Fiona's true self and true beauty are revealed, or another scene?)

Bonus question: Do you know the Muffin Man? (What's your favorite fairytale or nursery rhyme reference in *Shrek*?)