

Use Week of: September 1, 2019

Unit 13 • Session 1

Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 17

2nd-3rd Lesson

STORY POINT:

God provided in miraculous ways.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.



INTRODUCE THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

Opening Activities



TEACH THE STORY (30 MINUTES)

Large Group



APPLY THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

Small Group



Opening Activity Supplies

1 Large sheet of paper, 1 per class, markers

Large Group Supplies

Stage decorations, leader attire, Bible, bookmark, 2 pie pans, 20 m&m's, dairy free whipped cream, table

Small Group Supplies

Key Passage Poster, "Key Passage Words" Printable, Tape, 1 per group, "All From God" Activity Page, 1 per kid

LEADER Bible Study

After King Solomon died, the tribes of Israel split into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Jeroboam was the king of Israel, and Solomon's son Rehoboam was the king of Judah. These two kingdoms were frequently at war with each other, and they rotated through mostly evil kings for decades. Ahab was the king of Israel when the prophet Elijah came to him.

The name *Elijah* means “My God is Yahweh.” We don't know anything about Elijah's background or family, but God chose Elijah (and later the prophet Elisha) to warn the Israelites of their future destruction. For years, God sent prophets to warn His people about the consequences their sin would bring. He wanted them to turn back to Him, but they would not.

Three significant events occur in 1 Kings 17. First, Elijah announced a drought in the land of Israel. Evil King Ahab and his wife Jezebel encouraged Baal worship, so the drought was punishment for Israel's idolatry—according to the law of God. (Deut. 11:16-17) God provided for Elijah during the drought.

Second, Elijah visited a widow. God promised that the widow would provide for him. Lack of rain caused a famine in the land. God provided food for the widow and her son. Elijah stayed with the widow for two years.

Third, Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead. Elijah asked God to bring the boy back to life, and God did. The woman believed that Elijah was a man of God and that his words from God were true.

Help kids connect this story to Jesus. God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow's son. Many years later, God miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Elijah. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him.

The BIBLE Story

Elijah and the Widow

1 Kings 17

Elijah the prophet spoke to Ahab, the evil king of Israel, and gave him a message: **“There will be no dew or rain for the next few years unless I command it.** This will certainly happen.”

Then God told Elijah to go to a place near a stream.

God said the ravens would provide food for Elijah to eat. So Elijah obeyed God.

The ravens brought him bread and meat, and he drank water from the stream. After a while, the stream dried up because there was no rain in the land.

Then God told Elijah to go to a small village. God said a widow in the town would provide for Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. When Elijah got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering wood.

He called to her, **“Please bring me a little water** so I can drink.”

As she went to get it, he added, **“Please bring me a piece of bread too.”**

But the woman told Elijah, **“I don’t have bread. I only have a little bit of flour and oil.”** The woman and her son were planning to eat one more meal before they died from hunger.

“Don’t be afraid,” Elijah said. **“Go and prepare the meal, but first bring me a small loaf of bread. Then make some for yourself and your**



son. **God says you will not run out of flour or oil until rain comes again.**”

So the woman prepared the meal. She, Elijah, and everyone in her household had enough to eat, and **she did not run out of flour or oil just like the Lord had said.**

Some time later, the woman’s son got sick and he stopped breathing. Elijah took the boy upstairs and laid him on the bed. He **cried out to God, stretched himself out over the boy three times, and cried out to God again.** “**Lord my God, please let this boy live again!**” Elijah prayed.

The Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy’s life came into him again. He was alive! **Elijah led the boy to his mother.** She said to Elijah, “**Now I know you are a man of God,** and the Lord really does speak through you.”

Christ Connection: God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow’s son. Many years later, God miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Elijah. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 17

STORY POINT: God provided in miraculous ways.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Intro Music

Note: Be sensitive to any kids who may struggle with food insecurity.

Note: These optional activities are a way for you to connect with kids before worship.

• Large sheet of paper, 1 per class, markers

Welcome time

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about a time they were very hungry. What did they eat?

SAY • It is a sad truth that, even in some developed countries, many people go hungry sometimes. Christians can work together to meet the needs of those who are hungry. Today we will learn about a time a prophet of God helped a woman and her son when they were very, very hungry.

Optional Activity: Last meal

Set out a large sheet of paper on a table. Ask for a volunteer to think of his favorite food, but don't say it out loud. Instruct him to draw blanks on the paper for each letter, spelling out the favorite food. Encourage the rest of the kids to suggest letters. The volunteer fills in the blanks with the correct letters guessed. The first kid to correctly guess the favorite food gets to be the next volunteer. Repeat with additional volunteers as time allows.

SAY • It's fun to think of all our favorite foods and share them with the people we love. Today we will hear a story about a woman and her son who were running out of food to eat. Listen how God provided for them in a very unusual way.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



Large Group

SESSION TITLE: Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 17

STORY POINT: God provided in miraculous ways.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to the Large Group Game.

LEADER • Hey everyone! Let's play a fun game. For this game, I need 2 volunteers that aren't afraid of getting a little messy. *Choose 2 kids. Try to choose kids that haven't been chosen before. Bring them up on stage and give each of them a plastic poncho to put over their clothes.*

OK, have you guys ever heard of the game Pie Face? Of course you have! It's a super popular game where you could get slapped in the face with that plastic hand filled with whipped cream. Well, we are going to play our own version of pie face right here right now! But don't worry - you won't be slapped in the face today.

Show table with aluminum pie tins and have the 2 kids stand behind their pie tin. Take a look inside your pie tin and you will see 10 m&m's. What you have to do after I say "GO" is using only your mouth - not your hands at all - get out as many m&m's as possible. Whoever gets out the most m&m's before the buzzer sounds is the winner! Oh, and don't eat the m&m's! We have to be able to count them afterwards.

Ok ready?! 3-2-1... WAIT! I almost forgot. Silly me. We can't play Pie Face without a little whipped cream! Pull out non-dairy whipped cream canister and hold it up. And by little, I mean a lot! *To contestants* And don't worry kids, this is Non-Dairy whipped cream... so it's safe if you have a dairy allergy. Ok, let's cover up those m&m's!

Spray enough whipped cream into each pie tin so that every m&m is completely covered.

OK, now we are ready! 3-2-1 GO!

Worship

LEADER • In today's story, God provided in miraculous ways. Everything we have comes from God—from riches and honor to greatness and strength. Let's give Him thanks and praise His glorious name.

Video:
Countdown

2 pie pans, 20
m&m's, dairy
free whipped
cream
table

SFX: Game
Music

Song: God is
For Us

Song: The River

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

Leader enters wearing business casual attire. Leader is carrying a Bible and a microphone, and he or she is very excited to see the kids.

LEADER • Greetings, everyone! How is the weather down there? [*Laugh at the joke.*] That's one of my favorite meteorology jokes; you see, I'm up here and you're down there. Ha, it makes me laugh every time! But I'm not here just to laugh, though I do love laughing.

Thank you for inviting me to be your guest over the next few weeks to share my love of meteorology and the weather with you. When you think about it, knowing the weather impacts so much of our day: what we can and cannot do, what we should wear, where we should go, and so much more. In my line of work, we try hard to forecast the weather accurately, but sometimes it's simply unpredictable!

Atmospheric conditions are always changing. That's one reason I really treasure God's Word—it never changes! I want to share a Bible story with you today. It actually includes a detail about a weather phenomenon called a drought, or period of unusually low rainfall. Let's see what was going on. *Point to dry weather slide.* Yep, it's going to be hot and dry all week long.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • It's clear that only God controls the weather. Have you ever tried to make it rain? We can't start or stop the rain; we're not God. And that leads us directly to our big picture question and answer. We will think about this question and answer as we learn about our Bible story: **How many gods are there? The answer is, There is one true God who alone deserves worship.** That may seem obvious, but as you'll see today, many people did not believe this!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

LEADER • When we read the Bible, we need to know about the things that happened before the story to understand why things are happening in the story. Let's take a look at our timeline.

God's people, Israel, were divided into two kingdoms because they did not obey God's commands. Today's story is about Elijah, a prophet of God to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. God had a message for Elijah to share with the king.

• Stage decorations
CG: Theme Background

• Leader attire
• Bible

CG: Dry Weather Forecast

CG: Big Picture Question

CG: Giant Timeline

Video:
"Elijah
and the
Widow"

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video "Elijah and the Widow"

LEADER • During a drought, no rain means no water to drink for people or animals, and no water to grow crops. No rain means no food, especially for someone like the widow who likely didn't have money to buy food brought in from other countries. This was a very scary time. The widow explained to Elijah that she was preparing her last meal before she expected to die. But God had a special plan for her that would bring Him glory.

Through her willingness to obey Elijah's words and sacrifice part of her last meal for Elijah, God brought blessing beyond what she could ever imagine! God provided in miraculous ways. Throughout the drought, the widow's flour and oil never ran out. And when her son died, God worked through Elijah to bring him back to life.

Remember, Elijah and the widow were surrounded by suffering because the people did not obey God's commands; but Elijah, the widow, and her son experienced God's blessings. They were willing to obey. Don't you think people around them probably noticed a difference at their home? They were able to answer this question for all their neighbors: **How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.** Their very lives gave glory to God. Our obedience brings Him glory as well.

CG: Big
Picture
Question

Christ connection

LEADER • Elijah believed God's words and obeyed. Elijah's miracles proved that he was a prophet of the one true God. Jesus, however, is even greater than Elijah. Jesus' miracles proved that He is God the Son. All of God's promises come true in Jesus. We can trust that Jesus loves us and has a plan to use our lives to point other people to Him so they can know His love too.

Key passage (1minute)

Show the Key Passage slide and lead the kids to read Isaiah 42:8. Encourage the girls to read it aloud together. Then instruct the boys read it aloud. Lead everyone to read it together one more time .

LEADER • Though you may not realize it at first, our key passage reminds us how much God loves us. He knows that idols aren't real and can't do anything for us. He wants us to praise Him alone because only He loves us perfectly and provides everything we need.

CG: Key
Passage

Pray and dismiss to Small Groups

APPLY the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

• Key
Passage
Poster
• "Key
Passage
Words"
Printable
• Tape, 1
per group

Key passage activity

Hand each kid one (or more if you have a smaller group) key passage words. Instruct the kids to arrange themselves in the right order sitting in a line. Read the verse together, inviting each kid to raise their paper when his or her word is spoken. Mix up the papers and play again.

SAY • Great job with the key passage! Our verse teaches us that God that God does not allow anyone or anything to take away from His glory. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** We worship Him because of who He is and what He has done for us. We were all created to worship God, but often times we worship other things. We will never be satisfied when worship something other than God. What are some things that we worship other than God?

Wants and needs

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Say the names of different objects that kids might want or need. Instruct the kids to sit down if the item is a want and stay standing if it's a need. Some items may be both a want and a need. Allow kids to explain their reasoning.

Suggested items: TV, food, oxygen, love, school, video games, Jesus

SAY • In our story today, the widow and her son did not have the food they needed ***God provided in miraculous ways.*** What are some ways God has provided for you this week?

God provides for all of us because He loves us. Jesus provides salvation for us in a miraculous way. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again on the third day. The Bible tells us that in addition to needing Jesus, we can find joy in Him. That means that Jesus is more than our greatest need, He's our greatest "want" too! **If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Journal page provided with this session. Pray for your group.**

Send home
the "All From
God" Activity
Page