

Use Week of: September 1, 2019

Unit 13 • Session 1

Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 17

4-5's Lesson

STORY POINT: God took care of the widow and her son.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How many gods are there? There is one true God.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
(30 MINUTES)

Opening Activities



TEACH THE STORY
(15 MINUTES)

Large Group



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(15 MINUTES)

Small Group



Opening Activities Supplies

No supplies needed

Large Group Supplies

Bible, Key Passage Marker
Bookmark
toy bread, flour & oil
pictures

Small Group Supplies

10-15 Craft sticks or straws per
group
1 plastic cup & water dropper
per group
Activity Page/Bible Story
Coloring Page, 1 per child, Bible
Story Picture/Story Point

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 preschoolers 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 was a prophet. He gave God's messages to His people. One day, he went to Ahab, the evil king of Israel, and said, "There will be no dew or rain for the next few years until I say so."

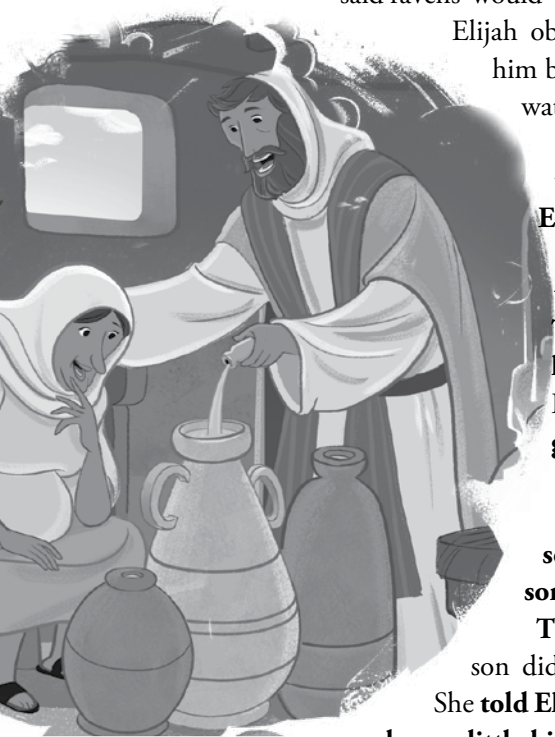
Then God told Elijah to go to a place near a stream. God said ravens would bring food for Elijah to eat. So Elijah obeyed God. The ravens brought him bread and meat, and Elijah drank water from the stream.

When the stream dried up and there was no water, **God told Elijah to go to a small village.**

God said a woman in the town would help Elijah. The woman was a widow; her husband had died. So Elijah obeyed God. **At the gate, Elijah saw the woman gathering wood. He said, "Please bring me some water so I can drink. Please bring me some bread too."**

The woman was sad. She and her son did not have enough food to eat. She told Elijah, "I don't have bread. I only have a little bit of flour and oil." She and her son were very hungry.

"Do not be afraid," Elijah said. "Bring me a small loaf of bread. Then make bread for yourself and your son. God says you will not run out of flour or oil until rain comes again."



So the woman made bread. 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.

One day, the woman's son got sick and he stopped breathing. The woman was very upset. **Elijah** laid the boy on the bed. He **cried out to God**, stretched himself out over the boy **three times**, and cried out to God again: **“God, please let this boy live again!”**

God listened to Elijah, and **the boy came back to life!** Elijah led the boy to **his mother**. She **said to Elijah**, **“Now I know you are a man of God, and the words you say from God are true.”**

Christ Connection: God sent Elijah to the widow to give her food and to bring life to her son. Many years later, God sent His own Son, Jesus, into the world. He came to free us from sin and give us life forever.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 17

STORY POINT: God took care of the widow and her son.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

Intro Music

Welcome time

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

This is an optional activity before worship

Feel your breath

Demonstrate to preschoolers how to lightly place one or two hands on your own stomach while taking deep breaths in and out. Guide preschoolers to take a few deep breaths with you. You may also explore other breathing patterns with the preschoolers, such as short breaths in and out or holding your breath in for a brief time.

SAY • Did you feel how your chest and stomach moved out and in when you took deep breaths? God made our bodies to breathe in and out in order to get oxygen. Oxygen is something God put in our air. We need it to live. In today's Bible story, a woman was sad because her son stopped breathing. A prophet named Elijah helped him. We will hear all about it in our Bible story.

Video: Countdown

Transition to teach the story

Show the countdown video.

TEACH the Story



Large Group

SESSION TITLE: Elijah and the Widow

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 17

STORY POINT: God took care of the widow and her son.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

Song: Only One

True God

Song: Isaiah 42:8

Bible
Bookmark

CG: Giant
Timeline

Video: "Elijah
and the Widow"

Flour & oil
pictures, toy
bread

CG: Bible Story
Picture

CG: Story Point

Worship

Welcome friends! It's great to see all of you today! We are going to stand up and sing songs to God now.

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 17 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • This book is the Bible. We call it *God's Word* because the words in this book are words from God! Today's Bible story is from a book called 1 Kings.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible Story video.

SAY • Wow! God showed His great power through His prophet Elijah! [*Hold up flour and oil pictures.*]

God made the small amount of food that the woman had last for many days! [*Show the toy bread.*]

Then, God used the prophet to make her sick son well again! **God took care of the widow and her son.** God takes care of us, too! He took care of our greatest need when Jesus died on the cross in our place for our sin.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 42:8. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • God is powerful and great! When people see how great God is, they want to praise Him. The widow saw how great God is when He healed her son. She saw God's glory! God is special because no one is like Him or greater than Him.

Bible
Key
Passage
Marker
[CG: Key
Passage](#)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *How many gods are there?* Does anyone know the answer? [*Allow responses.*] The correct answer is, *There is one true God.* The one true God helped the widow and her son, and He helps us today, too!

[CG: Big
Picture
Question](#)

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



SESSION TITLE: Elijah and the Widow

Small Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 17

STORY POINT: God took care of the widow and her son.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

LOW PREP

• Plastic straws or
craft sticks
(10-15 per group)

• Plastic cup, 1 per
group
• Water
• Water droppers, 1
per group

• Bible Story
Picture
Poster Big
Picture
Question
Poster

• Bible Story
Coloring Page
• Crayons

Gather sticks

Spread stick-like items such as plastic straws or craft sticks around your group for preschoolers to gather. Encourage children to gather sticks.

SAY • When Elijah first met the widow, she was gathering sticks. She was going to build a fire and use the last little bit of flour and oil she had to bake some bread for her and her son. **God took care of the widow and her son.** God sent Elijah to give them food and to bring life to her son. Many years later, God sent His own Son, Jesus, into the world. He came to save us from sin. Jesus wants to be our forever friend.

Make it rain

Fill a plastic cup with a few inches of water. Provide an water dropper for preschoolers to use. Show them how to suction water into the eyedropper and then squeeze the dropper again to release the water back into the cup. Suggest that the water falls back into the cup like rain.

SAY • Was it fun to make the water squirt out into the cup? It was like you were making it rain! In today's Bible story, God kept the rain from coming. Only the one true God can stop the rain. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.***

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage, or the big picture question.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool activity page for families.