

4th-5th Lesson

Unit 13, Session 1

Elijah and the Widow

1 Kings 17

Story Point: God provided in miraculous ways.



Open your Bible and read aloud 1 Kings 17, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

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

WELCOME TIME

[Intro Music](#)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share ways that God provides. How does He provide for our church, for our families, for us as individuals? Encourage the kids to thank God for what He does and who He is.

Large Group

[Video: Countdown](#)

Large Group Game

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

Sing "God is For Us" and "The River".

[Song: God is For Us](#)
[Song: The River](#)



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Today's story is about Elijah, a prophet of God to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. A prophet is someone who shares a message from God. God had a message for Elijah to share with the king.

Read 1 Kings 17.

- What does this story teach us about God?

[CG: Question 1](#)

God's special plan for the widow brought Him glory. Through the widow's 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 provides in miraculous ways.**

- How is Jesus greater than Elijah?

[CG: Question 2](#)

Because Elijah believed God's words and obeyed, his miracles proved that he was a prophet of the one true God. **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.

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.



Big Picture Question

CG: Big Picture Question

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

PRAY

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word so we can know the truth. Help us remember that You know what's best for us. Help us to trust You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



Big Picture Question

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Everything we have comes from God—from riches and honor to greatness and strength. God wants us to praise Him alone because only He loves us perfectly and provides all we need.

- Does God still do miracles today?
- What can you do to help your friends believe the miracle of salvation in Jesus.

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 17. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 17:13-14. Review that the people of Israel were experiencing a drought. God held back the rain so there was no water and no food. This is exactly what God warned would happen if the people disobeyed God's commands by worshiping idols instead of Him. Yet God provided in miraculous ways.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 17:13-14 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What did Elijah's miracles prove to the widow?

The widow responded to God's raising her son, saying, "Now I know you are a man of God." Lead kids to recognize that miracles are amazing things only God can do, so Elijah's miracles were proof that God was working through him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 77:14.)

2. Do you believe God's Word is true? Why or why not?

Invite kids to share their thoughts. Explain that the Bible is accurate, is supported by historical records, has unity from beginning to end, contains accurate prophecy, and endures forever.

God's Word is simple enough for little children to learn from and deep enough for the wisest teachers to study their whole life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 4:4.)

3. How can being generous teach others about Jesus?

Lead kids to consider that we can be generous when we believe everything we have is from God and we trust God to provide everything we need. Point out that the widow shared her food with Elijah and trusted God to provide. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 8:3-4.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: Bibles

Lead kids in reading together Isaiah 42:8. Then form two groups, assigning each group half of the key passage. Give them a few minutes to create motions for their half of the verse.

Then invite each group to teach their motions to the other group. Combine the motions and challenge the class say the key passage a few times together with the motions. Consider incorporating sign language into the motions.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God that He never forgets us. He knows our needs and we can trust Him to provide for us.

Favorite foods

Supplies: dry erase board or large sheet of paper, marker

Ask for a volunteer to come to the front and think of his or her favorite food, but don't say it out loud. Instruct kids to draw blanks on the board for each letter, spelling out their favorite food. Encourage the kids to suggest letters.

The volunteer fills in the blanks with the correct letters guessed. The first kid to correctly answer the favorite food gets to be the next volunteer. Continue with several kids as time allows. Explain that today we heard a story about a woman and her son who were running out of food to eat. ***God provides in miraculous ways.***

- What is the most surprising way God has provided for you?