



PUZZLE PIECES | WEEK 3 | NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Elijah and the Widow

Bible Story: *Elijah and the Widow* • I can trust God no matter what • *1 Kings 17:1-16*

Memory Verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5, NIV

Key Question: Who's got it?

Bottom Line: God's got it.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Puzzles are a lot of fun. Who doesn't love a good peg puzzle? The cow goes in the cow shape. The pig goes in the pig shape. Easy, peasy! But as we get older, puzzles can become a lot more difficult, and it can be hard to know where each piece goes. We all face difficult circumstances that are way bigger than what we can handle. It's in those times that God wants us to trust Him with all our hearts and say, "God's got it!"

We don't have to have all the pieces or know where they all go. All we need to know is that God sees the big picture and God's got it. Our job is to trust God and take it one piece at a time. So, whether it's needing help with a big job, knowing which way to go, not having what we need, or talking to God about anything . . . God can handle it, because God's got it!

Story Focus: I can trust God no matter what. Elijah trusts God. But it hasn't rained in a really long time and there is no food to eat. God tells Elijah to go to a town and find a woman there who has food for him. Elijah finds the woman, but she only has enough flour and oil to make bread for her and her son. Elijah tells the woman that God says her flour and oil will not run out. The woman trusts God no matter what. And just like God said, Elijah, the woman, and her son had food every day because the flour and oil did not run out. Once again, God's got it!

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? *(Kids respond.)* Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘Trust *(tug a pretend rope)*
in the Lord *(point up)*
with all your heart,’ *(tap heart twice)*
Proverbs 3:5.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Ok, now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: GOD’S GOT IT, JESUS NO MATTER WHAT)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(2-Piece Puzzle for Current Week (W1 Moses, W2 Israelites, W3 Elijah, W4 King Hezekiah), Plastic Page Protector, Beginner’s Bible and Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room. You should have a 2-piece puzzle for the current week’s story. Ensure the bottom (feet) half of the puzzle is already inserted in the plastic page protector. Keep the top (head) half of the puzzle in the story box until after the story video.

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here…”

Pull out the Bible

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it’s the Bible! The Bible is God’s word and God’s word is always true. The Bible has many stories that make one BIG story, and we (you and me) are part of that story. Let’s see what else is in our story box today.

Pull out the page protect with the bottom (feet) puzzle piece .

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, it’s a puzzle or a piece of a puzzle. What do you see on



this puzzle piece? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, that's what I see too. I see feet! I see one, two feet. How many people do you think are on this puzzle if there are two feet? *(Pause for responses.)* You are right, two feet mean there is just one person. I wonder who it is. Do you think our story will tell us? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, I think it will too. Let's get our eyes and ears ready so we can listen to our story and find out who is on our puzzle.

Let's click on our listening ears (tug on each ear, one at a time, as you make a click, click sound), let's put on our looking eyes (bring your hands, one at a time, to your eyes like binoculars as you say shook, shook) and let's put our hands that have been move and praising Jesus quietly in our laps.

Now we are ready. Let's watch today's true Bible story."

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Wow! That was an amazing story! Who do you think is on our puzzle? *(Pause for responses.)* Let's put the top piece on our puzzle *(Pull out the 2nd piece of the puzzle from the story and match it to the bottom puzzle piece in the page protector.)* It's Elijah! Elijah, the woman, and her son had food every day because the flour and oil did not run out. The woman always had enough flour and oil to make bread because *[Bottom Line]* God's got it!"

When I ask, 'Who's got it?' I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'God's got it!' Are you ready? *(Pause for responses.)* 'Who's got it?' *[Bottom Line]* 'God's got it!' YES! *[Bottom Line]* God's got it!"

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me. Just like Elijan, the woman and her son trusted God. We can trust God too.

PRAY

"Let's get our hands ready to pray. *Open them close them, open them close them, give a little clap. Open them, close them, open them, close them, fold them in your lap.*

God, thank You for reminding us how much You care about us through the story of Elijah, the woman, and her son. You took care of what they needed in the same way You take care for all of us. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Elijah and the Widow* • I can trust God no matter what • *1 Kings 17:1-16*

Memory Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5, NIV

Key Question: Who’s got it?

Bottom Line: God’s got it.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

HIDDEN STORY

(“Hidden Story Stickers” Activity Page – 1 set per group, (5) 5-ounce paper ice cream cups per group, (100) pom-poms per group – 20 per cup, Small Shoebox Bin or Bucket – 1 per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Hidden Story Stickers” on label paper, one set of five per Small Group. Place one sticker inside on the bottom of five paper ice cream cups. Fill each ice cream cup with pom-poms. Place the ice cream cups inside a shoebox bin or bucket.

During the Activity: Pass one cup at a time around your group and guide children to take turns removing just **one pom-pom** at a time from the cup to reveal the story picture. Once the pom-poms have been removed from a cup, ask children to describe the picture they see. After all cups have been emptied, put the story pictures in order as you review the story.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Ooo . . . come look at these cups with me! They are filled with pom-poms!”

During the Activity: “Let’s take turns removing the pom-poms from the cups and see what’s on the bottom. We are going to pass one cup at a time around the circle. When it is your turn, take **just one pom-pom** out of the cup and place it in this container/bucket, then pass the cup to the next friend in our circle. How many pom-poms are you going to take out? (Pause.) Yes! **Just one.** Let’s see how many pom-poms we remove before we get to the bottom. [Child’s name] you start. Take just one pom-pom out of the cup and place it in the container/bucket. (Pause.) Excellent! Now pass the cup to [Child’s name]. It’s your turn to take one pom-pom out of the cup (keep passing the first cup around the circle until all the pom-poms are removed.) Turn the inside of the cup towards your group and ask them, “Look in the cup and tell me what you see.” (Pause.) It’s a picture of [picture] . . .” (Continue with each cup until you have removed pom-poms from all five cups and revealed the story picture.)

Say these story sentences with the pictures:

- **Elijah:** “Elijah trusted God and did what God told him to do.”
- **Woman and son:** “God sent Elijah to a woman who could share food with him.”
- **Loaf of bread:** “The woman trusted God and made bread for Elijah to eat.”

- Full jar of flour: “God made the woman’s flour not run out.”
- Full jug of oil: “God made the woman’s oil not run out.”

“Let’s put the pictures in order. Elijah trusted God and did what God told him to do. Do you see the picture of Elijah? Let’s make a line with the cups, and we’ll put him first. (Pause.) God sent Elijah to a woman who could share food with him. Put the picture of the woman and her son next in line. (Pause.) The woman only had a little flour and oil to make bread for her and her son. The woman trusted God and made bread for Elijah to eat. Put the picture of the loaf of bread next in line. (Pause.) God made the woman’s oil and flour not run out. Put the picture of the full jar of flour and the full jug of oil at the end of the line. (Pause.) Great job! Let’s refill the cups and do it again!” (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: “Elijah trusted that **[Bottom Line] God’s got it**. The woman made bread for Elijah because she trusted **[Bottom Line] God’s got it**. And God gave them what they needed! We can trust that **[Bottom Line] God’s got it**. **Who’s got it? [Bottom Line] God’s got it!**”

PLATE PUZZLES

(“Plate Puzzles” Activity Pages – 1 set per group of 10 or less, 2 sets per group of 10 or more, (4-8) Dinner Size Paper Plates per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Plate Puzzles” on copy paper and cut, one set per Small Group. Glue each story picture to a paper dinner plate. After the glue dries, cut each plate in half. Spread the plate puzzle pieces on the floor.

During the Activity: Ask children to help you put the plate puzzles together. Each time a plate puzzle is put together, you will say the story sentence that goes with it.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Look at all these puzzle pieces. Will you help me put them together?”

During the Activity:

- “Way to go! That’s Elijah! You put the Elijah puzzle together. Elijah trusted God to give him food.
- You found the pieces to the woman and son. The woman trusted God and used the last of her oil and flour to make bread for Elijah.
- Look! You put the oil and flour puzzle together. God made the woman’s oil and flour not run out!
- What’s the last puzzle? Bread! Yum! Elijah and the woman trusted **[Bottom Line] God’s got it**, and they always had enough bread to eat.”

(Repeat as long as time and interest allow.)

After the Activity: “Wow! God can do anything! That’s why we can trust God no matter what—just like Elijah and the woman did in our Bible Story today. Gods REALLY got it! Say it loud: **Who’s got it? [Bottom Line] God’s got it! Yay, God! [Bottom Line] God’s got it!**”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster - 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

'Trust *(tug a pretend rope)*
in the Lord *(point up)*
with all your heart,' *(tap heart twice)*
Proverbs 3:5." *(Open hands like a book.)*

PRAY

"Let's pray together. *(Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")*

God, thank You for helping us learn that we can trust You. There's nothing too hard for You, God. You've got it! Thank You for true stories from the Bible that teach us about how much You love us. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats and encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.