

The Prophet Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 - 17:24



God provided for all of Elijah's needs.



The Story

The people of Israel had a very bad king named Ahab. Ahab did not worship the true God. He worshiped false gods called Baal and Asherah. These were just statues made from stone or wood. His wicked wife, Queen Jezebel, even killed as many of God's prophets as she could find. Jezebel and Ahab wanted all the people of Israel to worship their false gods, Baal and Asherah.

God knew what King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were doing. God wanted the people of Israel to be saved from their sins. The only way to be saved is to believe in the true God, not false gods. God sent His prophet Elijah to warn King Ahab and the people of Israel to worship only the true God. Elijah told King Ahab, "The living God, whom I serve, the God of Israel will not send rain or dew unless I say so." Without any water, the plants would die and there would not be enough food to feed the people.

God knew King Ahab would try to kill Elijah, so He told Elijah to go away to the east and live by a brook. (A brook is a small stream of water.) "You will drink from the stream, and I've ordered the crows to feed you there."

Elijah obeyed the Lord. He went away and lived by the brook. God told the crows to bring bread and meat to Elijah every morning and evening, and Elijah drank water from the stream.

Meanwhile, with no rain for several years, many of the plants the farmers grew for food died, and there was very little food left for the people of Israel. The Lord wanted the people of Israel to get rid of their false gods and pray only to Him to send the rain and save them. But King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the people of Israel were very stubborn. They still prayed only to their false gods of wood and stone.

Do you think pieces of wood or stone can send rain?

God had His special ways to provide food for the very few people who still believed in Him, just as He had sent the crows to bring food to Elijah. Hadn't God sent the crows to feed Elijah?

After a while, the water in the brook where God sent Elijah dried up. God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath. "There I have ordered a widow to feed you." (A widow is a woman whose husband has died.) Certainly, she and her son needed God to provide them with what they needed.

Elijah obeyed God and went to Zarephath. At the gate of the town, Elijah saw the widow gathering wood. He called to her, "Please bring me a little water in a cup." As she was going to get it, he called to her again, "And please bring me a bite of bread."

"As the Lord your God lives," she answered, "I don't have anything baked; only a handful of flour in a jar and little oil in the jug. I'm gathering a few sticks. I will go and make some bread for myself and my boy so that we may eat it and then we will die." The widow was worried that she and her boy would die because their food would be all gone.

"Don't be afraid," Elijah told her. "Go and do as you said, but first make me a little cake of it, bring it to me, and after that prepare something for yourself and your boy. The Lord, the God of Israel, says this, 'The jar of flour will never get empty, and the jug will never run out of oil till the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

The widow did what Elijah told her, and so she, Elijah, and her family had food for a long while. It didn't matter how many times she took flour out of the jar, it never got empty, and it didn't matter how much

oil she poured out of the jug, it, too, was never empty. In this way, the Lord took care of Elijah, the widow, and her family, just as He had promised.

Later, the son of the widow became very sick and died. The widow told Elijah, "Leave me alone." She thought God was punishing her for her sins by killing the boy.

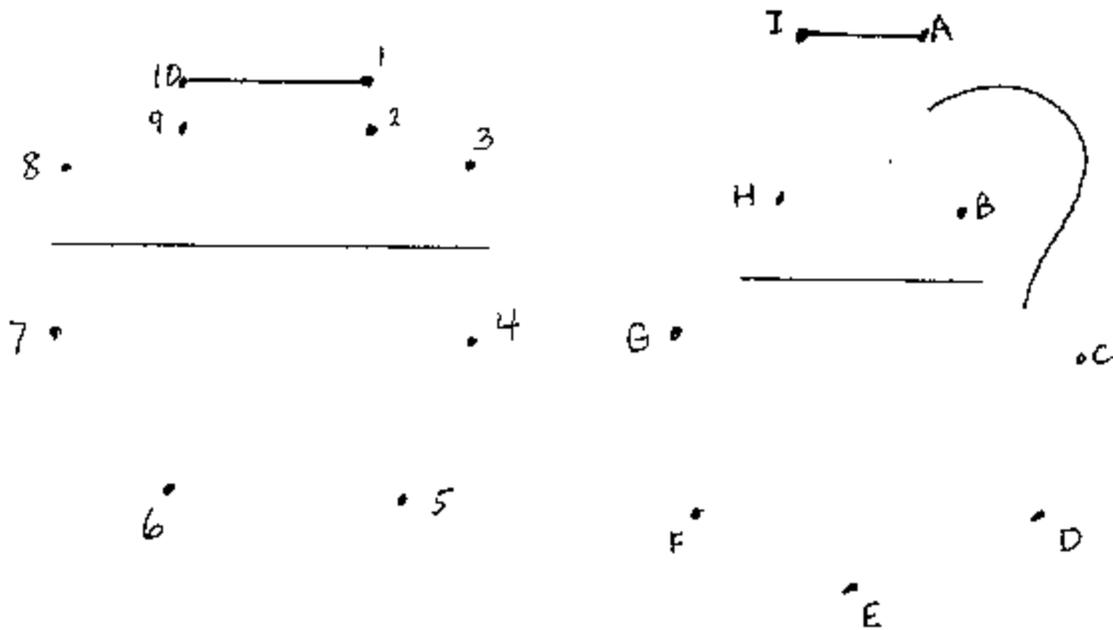
"Give me the boy," Elijah told her. Elijah took the dead boy and carried him to the room where he was staying and laid the dead boy on his bed. Elijah cried to the Lord in prayer, "Lord my God, why are you

bringing sadness to this widow I'm staying with by causing her boy to die?" Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, "O Lord my God, please make this boy live again."

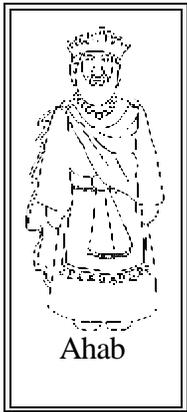
The Lord did what Elijah asked, and the boy became alive again! Elijah took the boy to his mother and said, "Look, your boy is alive."

"Now I believe," the woman told Elijah, "that you are a man of the true God, and the Lord's Word you speak is the truth."

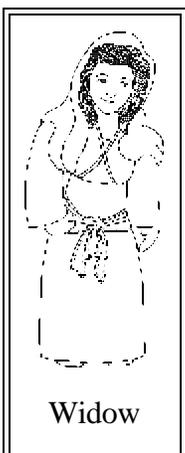
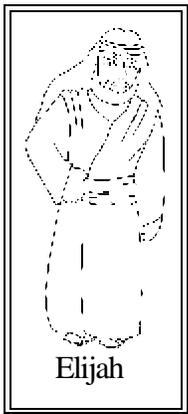
Activity One - Show how God provided for the widow, her family and Elijah. Connect the dots. Color the oil in the jug yellow.



Activity Two - Listen to the following sentences. Draw a line to the correct person the sentence is about. There will be more than one answer for some.



GOD



- I worshiped false gods
- I warned King Ahab there would be no rain.
- I sent no rain for 3 years.
- I sent the crows to feed Elijah.
- I told the widow to take care of Elijah
- I promised the widow that the flour and oil would not run out.
- I was sad when my son died.
- I prayed to God about the widow's boy.
- I raised the boy to life from death.
- I believed God's promises.

**We can trust God to provide all of our needs
because He is all powerful.**

Activity Three

- Plant some seeds to watch them grow over the next few weeks.

Passages

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 6:11 - Give us this day our daily bread.

Hymn

TLH #644

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TLH #648

I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
You are so kind and good to us. You give us everything that we need. Thank You for all the blessings You give us. Please help us to use them wisely and to share these blessings with others. Amen.

The Prophet Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 - 17:24



The Story

The people of Israel had a very bad king named Ahab. He did not worship the true God. He worshiped false gods called Baal and Ashtoreth. These were just statues made from stone or wood. His wicked queen, Jezebel, even killed as many of God's prophets (which are like pastors) as she could find. She and Ahab wanted all the people of Israel to worship their false gods, Baal and Ashtoreth.

God knew what King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were doing. God wanted the people of Israel to worship Him, because He is the only true God who can save people from their sins. God sent His prophet Elijah to warn King Ahab and the people of Israel to worship only the true God. Elijah told King Ahab, "The living God, whom I serve, the God of Israel will not send rain or dew unless I say so." Without rain, the plants would die and there would not be enough food to feed the people.

God knew King Ahab would try to kill Elijah so He told Elijah to go away to the east and live by a brook. (A brook is a small stream of water.) "You will drink from the stream, and I've ordered the crows to feed you there."

Elijah obeyed the Lord. He went away and lived by the brook. God told the crows to bring bread and meat to Elijah every morning and evening, and Elijah drank water from the stream.

Meanwhile, with no rain for several years, many of the plants the farmers grew for food died, and there was very little food left for the people of Israel. The Lord wanted the people of Israel to get rid of their false gods and pray only to Him to send the rain and save them. But King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the people of Israel were very stubborn. They still would pray only to their false gods of wood and

stone. Do you think pieces of wood or stone can send rain?

For the very few people who did still worship the true God, God had His special ways to provide them with food. Hadn't God sent the crows to feed Elijah?

After a while, the water in the brook dried up. Now how could Elijah get water? God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath. "There I have ordered a widow to feed you." A widow is a woman whose husband has died. Certainly she and her son needed God to provide them with what they needed.

Elijah obeyed God and went to Zarephath. At the gate of the town Elijah saw a widow gathering wood. He called to her, "Please bring me a jar of water to drink." As she was going to get it he called to her again, "And please bring me a bite of bread."

"As the Lord your God lives," she answered, "I don't have anything baked; only a handful of flour in the jar and little oil in the jug. I'm gathering a few sticks. I will go and make some bread for myself and my boy so that we may eat it and then we will die."

She was worried that she and her boy would then die because their food would be all gone.

"Don't be afraid," Elijah told her. "Go and do as you said, but first make me a little cake of it, bring it to me, and after that prepare something for yourself and your boy. The Lord, the God of Israel, says this, 'The jar of flour will never get empty, and the jug will never run out of oil till the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

She went and did what Elijah told her, and so she, Elijah, and her family had food for a long while. It didn't matter how many times she took flour out of the jar, it

never got empty, and it didn't matter how much oil she poured out of the jug, it, too, was never empty. In this way the Lord took care of Elijah, the widow, and her family, just as He had promised.

Later, the son of the woman got very sick and died. The woman told Elijah, "Leave me alone." She thought God was punishing her for her sins by killing the boy.

"Give me the boy," Elijah told her. Elijah took the dead boy and carried him to his room where he was staying and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried to the Lord in prayer, "Lord my God, why are you

bringing sadness to this widow I'm staying with by causing her boy to die?" Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, "O Lord my God, please make this boy live again."

The Lord did what Elijah asked, and the boy became alive again. Elijah took the boy to his mother and said, "Look, your boy is alive."

"Now I believe," the woman told Elijah, "that you are a man of the true God, and the Lord's Word you speak is the truth."

Activity One - Write the letter of the name that answers the question. You will use some names more than once.

1. ____ & ____ Who did King Ahab worship instead of God?
2. ____ Who warned King Ahab there would be no rain?
3. ____ How did God provide for Elijah by the brook?
4. ____ Who commanded a widow to take care of Elijah?
5. ____ Who promised the widow that her flour and oil would not run out?
6. ____ Who got sick and died?
7. ____ Who thought God was punishing her for her sins?
8. ____ Who prayed to God to raise the boy back to life?
9. ____ Who raised the boy from the dead?
10. ____ Who believed all of God's promises spoken through Elijah were true?

- | | |
|----|-------------|
| A. | The widow |
| B. | Widow's son |
| C. | Elijah |
| D. | Baal |
| E. | God |
| F. | Ashtoreth |
| G. | Crows |

God provided food for Elijah, the widow and her family.

Activity Two - Mark an X under the correct heading. BODILY NEED is something our body needs to stay alive. SPIRITUAL NEED is something our soul needs for eternal life. There are extra blanks for needs you may think of.

	BODILY NEED	SPIRITUAL NEED
the Word of God		
food		
clothes		
forgiveness of sins		
baptism		
air		
faith		
eternal life		
water		
love of God		
family		
home		
prayer		

God in His love provides us with all that we need for our body and soul.

Activity Three - Read the passages below and discuss the answers to the questions.

† † †

Acts 14:17 - Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

This passage shows the usual way God provides food for us. What is that?

Today's story shows another way God can supply food. How is that?

Can you think of any other Bible stories where God fed His people by a miracle?

How can we make the best use of our bodily blessings?

† † †

Acts 2:38 -Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Through whom does God supply what our souls need?

How does the Holy Spirit give us spiritual blessings?

Can you think of any Bible stories where God sent His Holy Spirit to provide for His people's spiritual needs?

How can we make the best use of our spiritual blessings?

Activity Four - Plant some seeds and watch them grow over the next few weeks.

Passages

Matthew 6:11 - G__v__ __s th__s d__y __r d__ly br__d.
(Fill in the missing vowels.)

Psalms 106:1 ...O__, __i__e __a____ __o __e __O__,
__o__ __e i__ __oo__! __o__ __i__ __e__y
e__ __u__e__ __o__e__e__.
(Fill in the missing consonants.)

Philippians 4:19 And my _____ shall _____ your
_____ according to His _____ in glory by

(Fill in the missing words.)

Hymn - TLH 570 v. 1, 4, 7, 8

Praise, oh, praise, our God and King,
Hymns of adoration sing;
For His mercies still endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

And for richer food that this,
Pledge of everlasting bliss;
For His mercies still endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise Him that He gave the rain
To mature the swelling grain;
For His mercies still endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

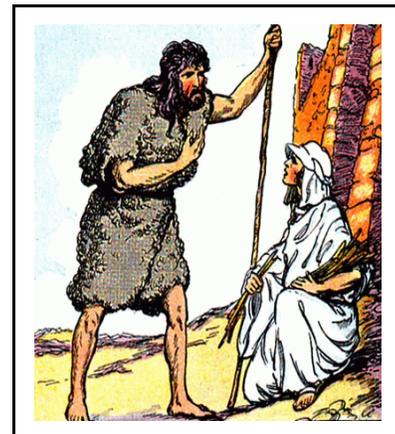
Glory to our bounteous King,
Glory let creation sing;
Glory to the Father, Son,
And the Spirit, Three in One!

Prayer - Write a prayer thanking God for giving you all that you need for your body and soul.

The Prophet Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 - 17:24

Have you ever thought, "I can't share what I have with you because then I won't have enough for myself"? Try to think of a situation where someone might feel this way. As you read this story, notice what Elijah shared with King Ahab and the widow and her family; what the widow shared with Elijah; and what the gracious hand of God shared with all of them.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us so freely of Your Son to take away our sins. Help us to give freely and generously to those in need and in our offerings at church. Help them to be gifts of love. Please give us the faith to trust that You will provide for all of our needs. Amen.

The Story

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. {30} Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. {31} And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. {32} Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. {33} And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

{34} In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

(1 Kings 17) And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the

LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

{2} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {3} "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {4} "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

{5} So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {6} The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

{7} And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. {8} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {9} "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." {10} So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said,



"Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." {11} And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

{12} So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

{13} And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son."

{14} "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'"

{15} So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. {16} The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

{17} Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.

{18} So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

{19} And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. {20} Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" {21} And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

{22} Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. {23} And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

{24} Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth."

Outer Aim – God provides for all of Elijah, the widow and her family's bodily and spiritual needs.

What the Story Tells Us - Give a short answer to the questions below.

1. Who needed to hear there would be a punishment from God for worshiping idols?
2. Who do you think sent Elijah to talk to King Ahab?
3. How did God provide for Elijah at the brook Cherith?
4. Whom did God send Elijah to live with after the stream dried up?
5. How did God provide the widow, her family, and Elijah with food?
6. God also wanted the widow and her family to be saved and go to heaven. Whom did they need to learn about in order to be saved?
7. What did Elijah share with the woman and her family? (v. 24)

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the questions below.

1. Elijah did not have earthly possessions to share. What treasure did he have that he shared with King Ahab, the widow, and her family?
2. Did King Ahab want to hear Elijah's message? Since he was king, what could Ahab have done to Elijah?
3. Did Elijah let fear stop him from preaching God's Word? Whom did He trust in to take care of him?
4. Why was the widow hesitant to share her food with Elijah?
5. Elijah promised her that the oil and flour would never be gone until God sent the rain. The widow must have believed him because she brought food for Elijah before she fed her son and herself. How did she know that Elijah was speaking the truth?
6. Who gave her faith to believe God's promise?
7. Matt. 25:40 says, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" So when we help people in need, to whom are we also giving a gift?
8. There is a similar story in Mark 12:41-44. Look it up. The widow gave all she had at the temple. Who would provide for all of her needs?
9. Who gave her the faith to believe that God would provide?
10. God has asked us to give to Him first. Look up 2 Cor. 9:7 and discuss. Why would we want to give offerings to the Lord?
11. But if we give to the Lord first, doesn't that mean we'll have less money to spend on ourselves? Look up Mal. 3:10-11 and discuss.
12. How do we know God will provide for all of our needs?
13. How has God provided for our spiritual needs?
14. What does this show us about God? Who gives us the faith to trust God to take care of us?

Inner Aim – We bring our first fruits to God out of love, trusting that He will provide for all of our future needs.

Your Turn - Put an X in front of each person who is giving God his or her first fruits and is trusting God to provide.

_____ Joey spent his time and money on Saturday with his friends seeing a movie and going out to eat. He only had a little change left to put in the collection plate on Sunday.

_____ Carl is saving his money for a new bike. Each week he sets some of his allowance aside for church and saves the rest for his bike.

_____ Mr. and Mrs. Jones aren't sure how they'll pay all their bills this month, but they write out a check to the church first for their offering.

_____ Katie has a classmate named Sue. Sue's family lost their home in a fire. Katie decides to give some of her clothes to Sue.

_____ Dr. Johnson is a Christian. He knows the Smith family can't afford health care so he charges them nothing for office visits.

_____ When Lisa finishes with nursing school, she wants to be a medical missionary in India and share her knowledge of God's Word and medicine with the orphans.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH 442 v. 1, 2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that has freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive. Amen

Passages

Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Proverbs 19:17 - He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

The Prophet Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 - 17:24

Have you ever had to tell someone God's Word to correct him when he was caught up in sin?
What are two ways the person caught in sin might react to you bringing him God's Word?
Think about this as you study how Elijah confronted King Ahab with his sin of idolatry.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us so freely of Your Son to take away our sins. Help us to give freely and generously to those in need and in our offerings at church. Help them to be gifts of love. Please give us the faith to trust that You will provide for all of our needs. Amen.

The Story

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{34} In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken

through Joshua the son of Nun.

(1 Kings 17) And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

{2} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {3} "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {4} "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

{5} So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {6} The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

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go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." {10} So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." {11} And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

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Outer aim – God provides for all of Elijah, the widow and her family's bodily and spiritual needs.

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss your answers.

1. Who was trying to stamp out the worship of the true God? (1 Kings 18:4)
2. What did King Ahab do to establish the worship of Baal and Asherah in his land?(1 K. 16:31-33)
3. What lesson did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the other people of Israel need to learn? How did God try to teach them that lesson?

4. God had two ways to try to teach them to worship the true God - He sent Elijah to speak God's Word and He sent troubles (drought in this case). Did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the people of Israel learn their lesson from God?
5. This is one way people might react to God's correction. They reject God's Word and God's will for their lives with rebellious hearts and thereby actually harden their own hearts against God and His Word. Who sent Elijah to speak to Ahab about his idolatry?
6. Since Ahab was the King, what could Ahab have done to Elijah as an angry response?
7. Do you think Elijah knew this was a possibility before he went to Ahab? How was this a test for Elijah's faith?
8. Did this stop Elijah from going to speak God's Word to Ahab? How did Elijah put God's Kingdom and God's work before his own personal safety?
9. How was Elijah able to do this?
10. Speaking God's Word can be hard to do in the face of persecution. Elijah simply obeyed God's will in this matter and entrusted his life into the hands of the Lord. The widow also needed to learn some spiritual lessons. What does verse 12 tell us the woman thought would happen to her and her son?
11. Basically she thought, "My son and I are going to die. If we share with you we will die faster." Does this attitude show a trust in God? What promise of God's providence did Elijah make in verse 14?
12. Did the woman believe this promise? How do we know?
13. Who had given her the faith to believe this promise?
14. Later, when her son died, the woman thought God was punishing her. What did she believe God was punishing her for? (v. 18)
15. This is a common misconception among many people, "God is punishing me for my sins, that is why God has sent this trouble." Does God ever punish us for our sins? Who was punished in our place for our sins?
16. Trials in life are never a punishment for believers. Jesus was completely punished for our sins on the cross. Then why did God send the problems of drought and death to the widow?

Inner aim – God sends trials and sufferings to test us spiritually, to correct us and to strengthen our faith.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following Scripture references and then discuss the following questions.

James 1:24, Rom. 5:1-4

What should be our attitude when we are confronted by trials?
God sends trials to us as well. What are some trials people your age might face?
What good can come from trials? (See the above passages and also I Pet. 5:10.)

Hebrews 12:1-11

What do trials prove to us regarding our relationship to God? (vv. 6-7)
What do they prove regarding God's feelings toward us? (v. 6)
Who is our perfect example of bearing trials? (vv. 2-3)
What does God accomplish in our hearts through trials? (vv. 10-11)
How should we receive this chastening from God? (v. 9)

Isaiah 53:4-6

Are we being punished for our sins when we suffer trials? (vv. 5-6)
Who bore all the punishment for our sins?

Hebrews 2:18, 4:15

Do we ever suffer alone? Who else is helping us to bear the sorrow of this trial?
How was Christ tempted through His trials? (v. 4:15)
Who perfectly withstood every trial and temptation?
Who can sympathize with us and provide help when we need it?

Romans 8:16-18, 26-39

Who or what can separate us from God's love? (vv. 38-39)
Who helps us in our weakness by praying for us? (vv. 26, 34)
How do all things (even trials) turn out for the Christian? (v. 28)
How can we be conquerors in the midst of trials as verse 37 states?

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Name some trials St. Paul faced.
Didn't the Apostle Paul already have a strong faith? Why would God send him so many trials? (Hint: 2 Cor. 1:3-11 may help.)

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Who comforts us in our suffering? (vv. 3-4)
Who comforted Paul in his sufferings?
The Christian Church in Paul's day was suffering much persecution from Jews and government leaders. How could St. Paul use his experiences of suffering to minister to a Church that was suffering persecution?
Let's make up an example. Let's say you have been persecuted (ridiculed, excluded) by peers at school for being a Christian. Where should you look for comfort? How, then, can you comfort another person who is facing similar persecution?

Your Turn - Look up the Scripture references, then pick an answer from the word box below to answer the questions.

deliverance
pray

stop worrying
anxious

thanksgiving
Scripture

Psalm 46:10

What do we need to remember when things seem out of control in our lives? (This answer is not in the word box.)

What do you think it means to "be still"? _____

Psalm 50:15

Instead of worrying, what should we do when we have troubles? _____

What is God's promise in this passage? _____

Romans 15:4

Where will we find the comfort and hope we need? _____

The Psalms are especially full of encouragement for those who are facing trials. See Ps. 25; 27; 46; 85; 86; and many more. See also Is. 12; Is. 43:1-3; Is. 49:15-16.

Philippians 4:6-9

What shouldn't we be? _____

What should we have in our prayers along with requests? _____

What should we be thinking about? _____

(This answer is not in the word box.)

What should we be busy doing? _____

(This answer is not in the word box.)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

What could we possibly rejoice about and give thanks for during times of trouble? (Answer not found in box.)

Summing it up – During times of trials we should...

Trust God

Stop worrying

Remember Christ's example

Pray

Study God's Word

Give thanks

Let our mind dwell on good things

Be busy doing what is right and good.

Passages

Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Ps. 50:15

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Hymn - TLH 442 v. 1, 2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that has freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive. Amen

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, When You choose to test us through trials, fill us with Your Spirit so that we do not turn away from You in rebellion. Instead, fill us with comfort from Your Word. Let Christ in His sufferings be our example. As Christ turned to You in prayer for comfort and strength, likewise help us to turn to You in prayer. Let our times of trial be times of faith strengthening for us. We pray that You will help us to use the comfort we receive from Your Word to comfort others in their distress. We thank You for the trials You send because You thereby prove to us Your love for us, and that You have truly made us Your own dear children. Help us to accept Your will for our lives with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

STORY

The Prophet Elijah - I Kings 16-17

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, Your mercies are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. Sometimes suffering is our lot because we are living in a world of sin among the godless. Fill us with Your Spirit, O Lord, that we may commit ourselves into Your care and keeping knowing that You will never forsake Your people but rather will bless them even in the midst of suffering. Be with me to communicate these gracious truths to the children placed in my charge in my Sunday School class. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Oil - (17:12) Olive oil was used in many ways for many purposes

Flour - 17:12 Likely, barley flour, the grain of the poor people

OUTER AIM

The prophet Elijah confronts wicked King Ahab with a message of a severe draught

INNER AIM

In the midst of suffering God's people are preserved and blessed

BACKGROUND (*Rupprecht Bible History References* Vol. 1, pp. 340-346)

After the division of the Kingdom, both the northern ten tribes (Israel) and the southern two tribes (Judah) declined in proportion to their departure from God. The nineteen kings of Israel were all wicked and led the people into the grossest forms of idolatry. They worshipped before the golden calves as did the Egyptians; they served Baal and Ashtoreth as did the Phoenicians and Babylonians. They even sacrificed their children to Moloch, as did the Canaanites.

It is difficult to understand how the people who had come to know the one true God could sacrifice this blessed truth and serve false gods. This did not happen suddenly. As they continued to commingle and intermarry with the heathen, step-by-step their involvement in the lives and worship of the heathen increased until they could hardly be distinguished from the idolatrous people with whom they lived. The worship of idols became so prominent it seemed that there were no people left at all who still served the living God.

Judah also turned to idolatry. However, in Judah the people enjoyed the leadership of pious kings from time-to-time. Of the twenty kings in Judah, eight could be considered pious men who initiated sweeping reforms to restore the true religion of the one true God.

Idolatry brought Israel to its lowest spiritual point under Ahab, the king of Israel. "Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him." (I Kings 16:30-33)



STUDENT PRAYER

Lord God, I must confess that often I take things for granted in my life. Sometimes I forget that all things are blessings from Your gracious and loving hands. Lord, help me to see Your love for me in my earthly and spiritual blessings which I enjoy every day of my life. Fill me with Your Spirit that I may thankfully appreciate all that you have done for me in Christ Jesus my Savior and all that You continue to do for me. May I always worship You, the one true God of heaven and earth and give all glory to You in my words and actions. In the name of my Savior Jesus. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Though Ahab deserved nothing but condemnation from the Lord God, He had not yet given up on Ahab. The LORD God sent Elijah, His faithful prophet, to face Ahab directly. This was no easy mission. Elijah knew how dangerous it was. Ahab was a ruthless self-indulgent king. Jezebel, his wife, held an intense hatred for all the priests and prophets of the living God. They were not safe anywhere. Now Elijah was instructed to go to the capital city of Samaria where Ahab and Jezebel lived and bring them this message: "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." (I Kings 17:1)

The faith that God worked in Elijah is to be noted. He not only carried a message to the King, which would surely infuriate him, but the message would predict a famine over all the country. He too would be affected. Yet, Elijah obediently carried out God's wishes confident that God would watch over him and care for him. He needed to simply walk with His Lord, speak His Word and leave all things to God's direction.

Evidently the king and his henchmen were so completely surprised by Elijah's boldness that he was able to leave without being taken captive or harmed in anyway. Whether Ahab sought to find Elijah and punish him for such behavior, we don't know. It appears that Elijah was in extreme danger, for God Himself instructed Elijah to head eastward "and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan." (17:3) There the Lord would protect him from Ahab and Jezebel as well as supply him with sustenance.

From that day on there was neither dew nor rain throughout the entire kingdom of Israel. The grass and grain withered and died. The livestock began to die and the people suffered from hunger and thirst. In Palestine when moisture is lacking growing things dry up very rapidly because of the heat of the day and the very sandy soil. But this drought continued for three years and six months!

The Brook Cherith was a tributary flowing into the Jordan River. Ravens are rather voracious birds eating everything they find. It would seem they were an unlikely choice by God. Yet, He constantly challenges the knowledge of this world by using creation as He chooses. Zaraphath was located in Phoenicia on the shore of the Mediterranean between Tyre and Sidon. It was about 85 miles from the Brook Cherith. This was the native country of Queen Jezebel.

Another noteworthy example of faith is found there in Zaraphath. What a blessing came to the widow and her son when she took the Lord at His Word in faith. "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth." (17:24)

APPLICATION

In this world of sin we cannot avoid confrontation. Jesus says, "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

(John 17:14-17)

Sometimes we can get by, simply by minding our own business. We need not try to find ways to bring about a confrontation with our fellowman. Nevertheless, we will not be able to avoid it. Just as surely as we stand up for

God's truth in our words and actions, we will find ourselves at odds with someone or something in this world of sin.

Sometimes, since we live in a country where religious freedom is to be tolerated, we are permitted to speak and practice openly as our conscience dictates. Yet, we may find that people are hesitant to become our friends with us because of our unwillingness to disregard God and His Word in our lives.

Children are under a great deal of peer pressure. They want to be accepted and liked. All of us do. Yet, they are young and haven't experienced the downside of actions and words which are contrary to God and His Word of Truth. For the sake of having friends, they may sacrifice faithfulness to God, become disobedient to parents and disregard the law. The vulnerability of children makes them a prime target of Satan.

It is all-important, first of all, for mothers and fathers to "stand up for Jesus!" Parents need to do this in their family life, at work etc. Children are deeply impressed by actions far more than words. As someone once said, "What you are doing speaks so loudly I can't hear what you are saying."

Secondly, we need to help our children realize that they are first of all Christians. They have been bought with a price. That price is what Jesus paid in coming here to rescue us "that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (I Pet. 2:9, also see the explanation to the second article of the Creed)

Thirdly, if we are called upon to sacrifice Jesus and His Word for "friendship," the price is far too high. Remember, Satan works through people. God works through people. If we care about the would-be friends, we will do everything we can to share with them the love of Jesus rather than confirm them in a godless way by joining them in their error.

Fourthly, we can be assured that blessing will always result from confessing His Truth in word and action in a kind, gentle and loving way. Remember, contending for the Truth doesn't mean that we must be contentious in the process.

Discuss with the children examples from their lives which required a confession of their faith before others in the world. What were the results?

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

I Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you".

James 5:16 - "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Psalms 37:25 - "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."

Deuteronomy 5:9-10 - "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

HYMN CHOICES

The Man Is Ever Blest - TLH 414

I walk In Danger All The way - TLH 413

May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill - TLH 412

Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways - TLH 416

STORY

The Prophet Elijah - I Kings 16-17 - Extra Notes

Introduction: Hold up a living plant. What does this plant need to live? What would happen if it didn't get any water? What would happen to strawberry plants, or corn plants, or wheat plants if they didn't get any water? What would we eat for food if all the plants died? That is just what happened during the Prophet Elijah's day. We're going to learn today **how God provided food for his faithful prophet, Elijah.**

Suggestions for telling the story: Your students may not know what idol worship is. It might help to bring a stick and stone and talk about the futility of praying to sticks and stones even if they are carved in the shape of a man or animal.

For the miracle of the oil and flour, actually present two jars, one with a small amount of flour and one with a small amount of oil. Mix the flour with the oil and some water to make a lump of dough. Show how the two jars have become empty in the process. This will emphasize to small children that it was a miracle. Kindergartners probably will not know what the word miracle means unless you spend some time explaining it. A miracle is something people and machines can't do. Only God can do a miracle because He has great power.

OUTER AIM

God provided food for Elijah, a widow, and her family.

INNER AIM

We can trust God to provide all of our needs because He has all power. (lower)

We bring our first fruits to God out of love, trusting that He will provide for all of our future needs. (middle)

God sends trials and sufferings to test us spiritually, correct us, and to strengthen our faith. (upper)

PASSAGES

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Ps. 124:8

Give us this day our daily bread. Matt. 6:11

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures (lasts) forever. Ps. 106:1

1st Article

HYMN CHOICES

"I am Jesus' Little Lamb" TLH 648

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" TLH 644

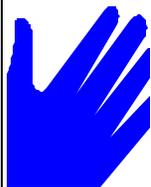
"Praise, Oh, Praise, Our God and King" TLH 570 verses 1, 4-8

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" TLH 457

"What God Ordains is Always Good" TLH 521

"Be Still, My Soul" TLH 651

"Children of the Heavenly Father" WS 785



STORY

God Provides For Elijah - 1 Kings 16:29-17:24

TEACHER PRAYER

O Lord, You have taught us to pray, "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread." You have thereby taught us that You will provide for all of our earthly needs. Teach us that lesson so that we are can thereby instruct the lambs given into our care on Sunday morning. Amen.

OUTER AIM

God provided food for Elijah by a miracle of the crows.

After the water in the brook dried up, where did God send Elijah to live? (To a widow in Zarephath)

Who had God told to take care of Elijah? (the widow)

Why was the widow worried that she couldn't share her food with Elijah? (She thought she would soon run out of food.)

What promise about the flour and oil did Elijah make to her? (Her jar of flour and jug of oil would never run out.)

Could Elijah make the jar of flour and jug of oil never run out? (no)

Who really made the flour and oil never run out? (God)

God provided the widow, her family, and Elijah with food every day by a miracle.

Do you have food to eat at your house?

Where does your food come from? (Note: Children in rural areas will understand that food is grown on farms from crops or livestock. Children growing up in the city may not understand this concept. It may be helpful to show some bread and some wheat and talk about how it gets to your table from the farm.)

Can the farmers make the plants grow? (no)

Who is the only one who can make the seeds grow into plants with food? (God)

What does God send so that the plants will grow? (Rain and sunshine)

Can the farmer make the cows grow? (no)

Who only can make the cows grow? (God)

What does God give the cows so they can grow? (green grass and grain to eat)

So, who is it that gives us our food? (God)

God also gives us trees to build houses with, clay from the ground to make bricks with, cotton from a plant to make clothes with, and wool from sheep to make clothes with.

God provides for all of our needs.

INNER AIM

How does God make plants, trees, clay, cows, and sheep? (God has special power to make things. He created the heavens and the whole earth.)

But even when there was no rain in Elijah's day to make the plants grow, how did God give Elijah food? (He did miracles.)

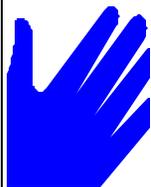
Do we ever have to worry if God can give us enough food? (no) Why not?

We can trust God to provide all of our needs because He has all power. (Level 1)

God, in His love, provides us with all that we need for our body and soul. (Level 2)

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION

Level 1 Hold up a living plant. What does this plant need to live? What would happen if it didn't get any water? What would happen to strawberry plants, or corn plants, or wheat plants if they didn't get any water? What would we eat for food if all the plants died? That is just what happened during the Prophet Elijah's day. We're going to learn today **how God provided food for his faithful prophet, Elijah.**



Level 2 Have the students help you make a list of things they need to stay alive and things they want. As the children suggest things help them to understand the difference between what we need to keep alive as opposed to things we want but don't need to sustain life. (Needs – water, air, food, clothing, shelter, family, etc.) Save the list for later lesson development. At this point emphasize only physical needs. We'll add spiritual needs later.

Suggestions for telling the story:

Level 1 Your students may not know what idol worship is. It might help to bring a stick and stone and talk about the futility of praying to sticks and stones even if they are carved in the shape of a man or animal. For the miracle of the oil and flour, actually present two jars, one with a small amount of flour and one with a small amount of oil. Mix the flour with the oil and some water to make a lump of dough. Show how the two jars have become empty in the process. This will emphasize to small children that it was a miracle. Kindergartners probably will not know what the word miracle means unless you spend some time explaining it. A miracle is something people and machines can't do. Only God can do a miracle because He has great power.

Extra activity: Plant some seeds and watch them grow over the next few weeks.

Level 2 If your students don't understand how lack of rain can affect the food supply, then spend some time explaining this. Having a plant in class may aid in this discussion. Your students may not know what idol worship is. It might help to bring a stick and stone and talk about the futility of praying to sticks and stones even if they are carved in the shape of a man or animal.

For the miracle of the oil and flour, actually present two jars, one with a small amount of flour and one with a small amount of oil. Mix the flour with the oil and some water to make a lump of dough. Show how the two jars have become empty in the process. This will emphasize to young children that it was a miracle. Your students may not know what the word miracle means unless you spend some time explaining it. A miracle is something people and machines can't do. Only God can do a miracle because He has great power.

Words which 2nd and 3rd graders may not know but they should certainly be introduced to might include: idols, idol worship, drought, famine, starvation.

As a class: Make a list of things our body needs in order to stay alive.(air, water, food, clothing, shelter, family) Just like our body has needs to stay alive, our soul has needs for eternal life. We call these spiritual needs. List as many spiritual needs as you can think of. (faith, forgiveness, God's love, baptism, power of Holy Spirit, prayer, God's Word, eternal life, and probably more)

Read the passages in bold type and then answer the questions orally.

He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy. Acts 14:17

This passage shows the usual way God provides food for us. What is that? (God makes the crops in the ground grow.)

Today's story shows another way God can supply food. How is that? (by a miracle)

Can you think of any other Bible stories where God fed His people by a miracle? (manna in the desert, feeding the 5,000, feeding the 4,000)

Repent and be baptized, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Through whom does God supply what our souls need? (the Holy Spirit)
How does the Holy Spirit give us spiritual blessings? (He works through God's Word, baptism, and the Lord's Supper to give us spiritual blessings.)
Can you think of any Bible stories where God sent His Holy Spirit to provide for His people's spiritual needs? (Pentecost, Peter preaches to Cornelius)
(God also provides for our spiritual needs through people who tell us God's Word.)

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, You are so kind and good to us. You give us everything that we need. Thank You for all the blessings You give us. Help us to use them wisely and share these blessings with others. Amen.

APPLICATION

Do your parents give you good things? (yes)
Why? (They love you and want to take care of you.)
Does God give us good food, clothing, and homes? (yes)
Why? (God loves us and wants to take care of us.)
All these good things God gives us are called blessings.
How can we show God we like the good blessings He gives us? (Thank Him. Take good care of what He gives us. Share with others.)

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Ps. 124:8
Give us this day our daily bread. Matt. 6:11
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures (lasts) forever. Ps. 106:1

HYMN CHOICES

"I am Jesus' Little Lamb" TLH 648
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" TLH 644
"Praise, Oh, Praise, Our God and King" TLH 570 verses 1, 4-8