

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