

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?

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|----|-------------|
| 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.
