

F5. Elijah: The Ravens and the Poor Widow

1 Kings 17:1-24

Learning Objectives

1. The children will examine the story of Elijah, the ravens and the poor widow.
2. The children will recognize that when they do what God asks of them with obedience, He will watch over them and take care of all of their needs.

Memory Verse: ***“My God will meet all your needs.” --Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)***

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

“Fill the Flour Bin!” Game

You will need two bowls, two small spoons, two small jars (about the same size) and flour for this game. You will also need enough children or volunteers. You could do this game as a competition with teams, or if you have less children you could play against the clock and see who can get the best time. You will need to set up two tables, one for each team, with a bowl filled with enough flour for one of the jars, one empty jar, and one spoon. When you tell the children to “go”, the first child goes to the table, picks up the spoon and puts one spoonful of flour into the empty jar. They put the spoon down, and then go to the back of the line. The next child then goes to the table and does the same thing. The competition continues until one team has a jar that is filled with flour. (Teacher Note: cover the children’s clothes and the floor, etc. as necessary. Flour can be fun but it is also messy!)

“What Can I Hear”

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “What can I hear?”

You will need paper and pencil for each child, an index card (with “GOD” written on it), and at least six of the following items: a bell, whistle, radio, baby rattle, drum, wind chimes, noisemaker (party favor), CD player, telephone, harmonica, alarm clock, or a timer. The children will be trying to guess what the objects have in common (we can hear all of them). Please see the above website for detailed instructions for this activity. At the end of the activity, tell the children that today they will learn about Elijah and a widow that had to really listen to God’s voice, and because they did just that, God was able to take care of them. Continue with the lesson.

Grades K-2

Elijah and the Ravens Coloring Page

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “Elijah”

You will need to print one copy for each child and provide crayons (etc.) for them to complete the coloring sheet as they enter class.

Grades 3-5

Puzzle: Crossword

You will need to print enough puzzle pages for the students prior to class. Please see puzzle page at the end of this lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Listen for God's voice.

Teacher note: To assist with the story telling, see below for a skit on the first part of the story. Use costumes, props, and/or puppets to make it fun!

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → "God Will Provide"

Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Elijah was from Tishbe in the land of Gilead. He said to Ahab, "I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that He lives. And you can be just as sure that there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land. There won't be any during the next few years. It won't come until I say so."

Then a message from the Lord came to Elijah. It said, "Leave this place. Go east and hide in the Kerith Valley. It is east of the Jordan River. You will drink water from the brook. I have ordered some ravens to feed you there."

So Elijah did what the Lord had told him to do. He went to the Kerith Valley. It was east of the Jordan River. He stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning. They also brought him bread and meat in the evening. He drank water from the brook.

Elijah Visits a Widow at Zarephath

Some time later the brook dried up. It hadn't rained in the land for quite a while. A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, "Go right away to Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. Stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."

So Elijah went to Zarephath. He came to the town gate. A widow was there gathering sticks. He called out to her. He asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar? I need a drink." She went to get the water.

Then he called out to her, "Please bring me a piece of bread too." "I don't have any bread," she replied. "And that's just as sure as the Lord your God is alive. All I have is a small amount of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I'm gathering a few sticks to take home. I'll make one last meal for myself and my son. We'll eat it. After that, we'll die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home. Do what you have said. But first make a little bread for me. Make it out of what you have. Bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. The Lord is the God of Israel. He says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up. The jug will always have oil in it. You will have flour and oil until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

She went away and did what Elijah had told her to do. So Elijah had food every day. There was also food for the woman and her family. The jar of flour wasn't used up. The jug always had oil in it. That's what the Lord had said would happen. He had spoken that message through Elijah.

Sometime later the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. He got worse and worse. Finally he stopped breathing. The woman said to Elijah, "You are a man of God. What do you have against me? Did you come to bring my sin out into the open? Did you come to kill my son?"

"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms. He carried him to the upstairs room where he was staying. He put him down on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord. He said, "Lord my God, I'm staying with this widow. Have you brought pain and sorrow to her? Have you caused her son to die?"

Then he lay down on the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord. He said, "Lord my God, give this boy's life back to him!"

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

The Lord answered Elijah's prayer. He gave the boy's life back to him. So the boy lived. Elijah picked up the boy. He carried him down from the upstairs room into the house. He gave him to his mother. He said, "Look! Your son is alive!" Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God. I know that the message you have brought from the Lord is true."

Discussion Questions:

1. What did God tell Elijah to do at the beginning of today's story? *(He told Elijah to go to the Kerith Ravine.)*
2. Why did God tell Elijah to do that? *(There was not going to be rain for a long time, there would probably not be enough food and water.)*
3. How did God feed Elijah when he was at the brook? *(The ravens brought him bread and meat in the mornings and in the evenings.)*
4. When the brook dried up, how did God provide food for Elijah? *(There was a widow there at Zarephath that would help provide food for him.)*
5. How did God reward Elijah and the widow because they listened to and obeyed Him? *(God helped them to survive the famine, and they had food to eat.)*
6. How did God help the widow in her time of need? *(God allowed Elijah to bring her son back to life again.)*
7. Do you think it was easy or difficult for either Elijah or the widow to listen to God and follow His instructions? Why or why not? *(Discuss together.)*
8. What instructions do we have from God to follow? *(The Commandments, also what we here in services.)*
9. Is it always easy to follow God's instructions? *(Discuss together.)*
10. Why do you think we should live our lives as God instructs us to? *(Discuss. Answers will vary. Remind the children of the memory verse.)*

Application to Real Life

"Turning to God" Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Games → "Turning to God"

You will need a blind fold for this activity. You may also need some extra volunteers. This activity is a great way for the children to understand the concept of "listening for God's voice." The children (or volunteers) will form a large circle facing each other while one person who has been blindfolded will stand in the center of the circle. Everyone in the circle will say "world" over and over in a normal voice (waiting a few seconds in between each time they say the word). One person in the circle will say "God" over and over, instead of "world". The blindfolded person must listen very carefully in order to hear the person saying "God" and then point to the person. Continue the game with another blindfolded volunteer. See the above website for other word combination suggestions and detailed instructions.

When you have completed the exercise, enjoy a healthy snack together and talk about the distractions that we have in our lives. There are so many things that take our minds and our hearts away from God, but when we look for God and really try to hear His voice, He can show us the right way to go in our lives. Listen for God's voice, and He will provide for all of our needs. (Remind the children of the message and memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Psalms located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the odd commandments that the children know so far.
4. Recite the memory verse.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

Scrambled Words Story Review

You will need easel paper or a white board for this review activity. Find 15-20 words from today's lesson. List them on a piece of paper, and then next to each word, scramble the letters of each one. In class, on one side of the easel paper, list the scrambled words and on the other side list the actual words in random order. The children will stand in line and take turns seeing if they can guess a scrambled word. If they guess correctly, they can draw a line from the scrambled word to the actual word in the other column. Then they need to tell what the word had to do with today's lesson.

For younger children, you could use simple pictures representing objects or words from the story. On one side of the easel, draw the pictures going down the page in a column format. Then to the right of the pictures from another column with the same pictures in a different order. Then cover each of the pictures with a small piece of paper and tape. The children will play a "memory" game to find the matching pictures. When they find a match, they can tell what that picture has to do with the lesson for today. Have fun! Use your creativity and recruit other talented helpers as needed.

Oil and Flour Play Dough Recipe

You will need 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water and 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, along with a few bowls and small re-sealable plastic bags. Increase the recipe as needed according to the number of children in your class. Mix the flour and salt first. Then add the water and oil. Next, have the children knead the dough for 10 minutes to make the dough smooth and shiny (you will need to show them how to do this). Use flour on your hands to keep the dough from sticking to your fingers. As you work, remember to keep the conversation going. Talk about the widow and what she may have thought or how she may have felt in today's story. Remind the children that because she chose to listen to God's servant, Elijah, God was able to provide for her and her family. Give the children a little bit of the dough to take home in the re-sealable bags. Remember to write the memory verse on their baggies.

Grades 3-5

Pick a Word Review

Choose about 20+ key words from the lesson (for example, Elijah, widow, flour, ravens, etc.) and write each one on a small piece of paper. Fold the papers up and place them in a bowl. Pass the bowl around the class and allow the children to pick one word. They should then read the word and tell how it is related to today's story. At the end of the activity, remind the children of the message and memory verse.

“Voice of God”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Voice of God”

You will need a large sheet or blanket, rope and index cards for this activity. The children will be trying to identify voices of others (recruit extra volunteers as needed) in this activity. See the above website for detailed instructions. In addition to the original discussion questions in this activity, ask the children “How can we possibly hear God’s voice today?” Answers will vary. Talk with the children about reading their Bibles to learn what God or the Lord Jesus has to say about how to live our lives. Also discuss how we can hear God’s voice sometimes through a song or through His Word in our services. Remind the children that we need to pray to God each day and ask Him to help us hear His voice and to have the wisdom to follow Him each day.

Role Play: God Provides

Before Class: Gather the props for the play. Lay the sticks on the stage for the widow to gather. Set up the table at one side of the stage. This will be the widow’s home. Then, place the pot and the jug on the table. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See Play Script at the end of this lesson).

Journal*Optional****Grades K-2***

Draw a picture of what you think your face would look like if you heard God’s voice talk to you. How would you feel? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Have you ever heard God’s voice in your life? Write about what happened to you.

Why do you think it is so difficult sometimes to listen to God and live our lives the way HE wants us to? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown up the lesson about **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal** (1 Kings 18:1-39).
- Learn the memory verse: *“No one can serve two masters at the same time.”*
--Matthew 6:24 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the picture titled **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal**. Bring it to class for a sticker.
- What is important to you? Make a list in order of the things that are most important to you in your life. Bring it to class to share.



Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Elijah and the Birds”

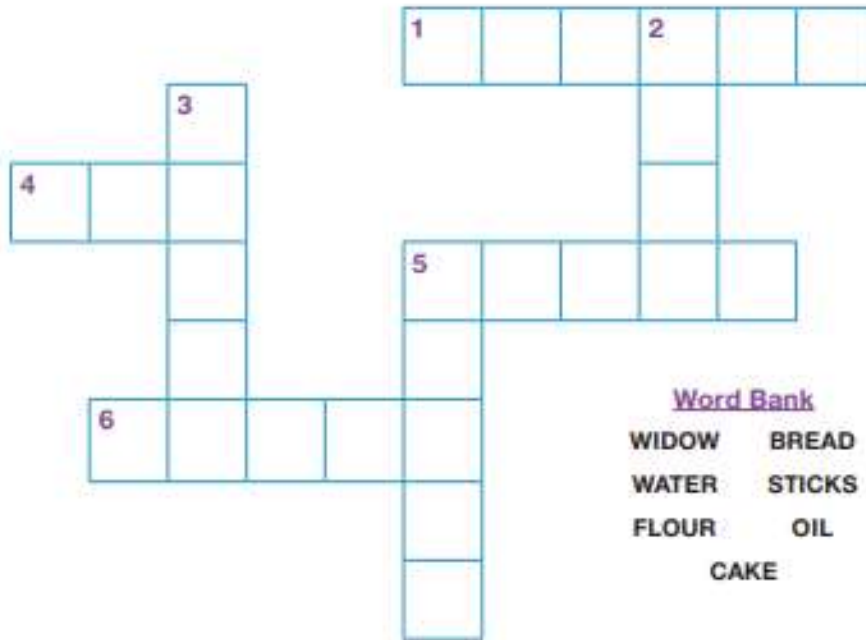
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “The Ravens Bring Food to Elijah” and “Elijah Helps a Poor Widow”





Puzzle: Crossword

Read each sentence then write the missing word in the puzzle.



Word Bank

WIDOW BREAD
 WATER STICKS
 FLOUR OIL
 CAKE

Across

- The widow was gathering _____ when Elijah approached her.
- The jar of _____ will never run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.
- Elijah asked the widow for a little cup of _____.
- Elijah asked for a morsel of _____.

Down

- Since the widow only had a small amount of flour and oil left she made a _____ of bread instead.
- The widow said, "I do not have bread, only a handful of _____".
- God told Elijah a _____ would provide for him.

Role Play: God Provides

Narrator: For a very long time, there was no rain which caused a great drought. Food was difficult to find. God instructed Elijah to go to Zarephath. When he arrived there, he saw a woman gathering sticks. *(Widow enters gathering sticks.)*

Elijah: *(Approaching the widow.)* Please bring me a cup of water to drink. I am so thirsty. *(The widow begins to walk away.)* Could I please have a piece of bread too?

Widow: *(The widow turns to Elijah.)* I do not have any bread for you. In fact, I only have a handful of flour and a little bit of oil. I was gathering wood so I could prepare some food for my son and I. This will be the last meal we eat. Then we will die because we have nothing left.

Elijah: Do not be afraid. Go and do as you have said, but first, make something for me. Afterwards, you can make something for you and your son. God promises that the flour in your pot and the oil in your jug will never be empty until the Lord allows it to rain again.

Narrator: *(Elijah and the widow go to her home. She prepares the food for Elijah.)* The widow did as Elijah asked. As long as the drought lasted, there was always flour in her pot and the jug of oil was never empty, just as God had promised.



Name: _____

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal



"No one can serve two masters at the same time."
--Matthew 6:24

Take Home Page: F5. Elijah: the Ravens and the Poor Widow

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we want to **listen for God's voice** each day. The children reviewed the story of Elijah, the ravens and the poor widow. They also talked about how much God wants to take care of all our needs. He only asks that we obediently follow Him.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"My God will meet all your needs." --Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What adventures did Elijah have in today's stories?
2. How did God reward Elijah when He obeyed Him?
3. Do you think it is always easy to follow God's instructions? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game together of either follow the leader or Simon says. After you play a few rounds, talk about the importance of listening to and following the footsteps of Jesus. Remind your child that Jesus wants us to follow Him and obey His commandments with our whole heart, not letting anyone or anything get in the way of following Him. Pray this week that your eyes would be opened to anything that is preventing you to follow Jesus with your whole heart.

