

God Provides for Elijah

(1 Kings 16:29 — 17:16)

Pre-Session Warm Up

How many of you have a pet? [Teacher, let the children talk about their pets.] Have you trained your pet to do any tricks? Many animals can be trained to do tricks. Lions can be trained to jump through rings of fire. Whales can be trained to play catch. Bears can ride bikes!

What would you think if your pet talked? Maybe he would say, “Good morning. How are you today?” You’d be amazed because that is something animals don’t usually do! What would you think if your pet went to the grocery store and brought home meat and bread? Again, you’d be amazed because that is something animals can’t do.

Today we’ll find out about some amazing miracles that some birds did that showed God’s awesome power to meet our needs.

Opening Prayer

Father, thank You that nothing is too hard for You. There is no limit to the ways that You can provide for our needs. Teach us this morning to always trust that You will love and care for us, even when the situation looks hopeless to us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Lesson

Solomon, the third king over the children of Israel, was the wisest man in the world. But he turned his love away from God and began to pray to the false gods that his wives worshiped. Solomon did what was clearly wrong and refused to follow the Lord.

How sad! The Lord was angry with Solomon and sent a prophet to him. A prophet is a man who gives messages to people from God.

The prophet took off his beautiful, brand-new robe and tore it into 12 pieces and said, “Since you have not stayed faithful to God, He will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants.”

So, the children of Israel were divided into two parts. There was the Northern part where 10 of the families lived and the Southern part where the other 2 families lived. The Northern part continued to call themselves, Israel; but the Southern part called themselves, Judah.

After Solomon there were many kings that ruled. Today we will learn about Ahab. He was a very wicked king who did not honor or obey God. Of all the kings of Israel (the Northern 10 families), he was the worst. He did more to anger God than any of the other kings before him.

He married a foreign princess named Jezebel and she got Ahab to build temples for the worship of her false god, Baal.

1 Kings 16:32-33

First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. (33) Then he set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him.

Ahab wanted to please his princess, Jezebel. So he built a temple for Baal. Jezebel wanted to get rid of the worship of Israel’s God so she decided put to death all the prophets of God she could lay her hands on.

But God was still in charge. Because King Ahab was leading the people away from worshiping God, God called Elijah to be a prophet, a messenger, to warn King Ahab and try to save the people of Israel.

One day God sent Elijah to Ahab’s palace. When he arrived at the city, he walked straight into the hall where the king was sitting.

This took a lot of courage. Did you know that you could not come into the presence of a king if you were not invited? Elijah could have been killed for visiting the king. He might have felt scared, but he knew he had a message from God that he had to tell King Ahab.

1 Kings 17:1 [Teacher, read....]

Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, "As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!"

Those who worshiped Baal believed he was the god who brought the rains that were so important to the people for raising crops. So, when Elijah walked into the presence of this Baal-worshiping king and told him there would be no rain for several years, Ahab was shocked.

When there is no rain, they call it a drought. It was a very serious thing in those days. A drought causes a famine, a time when there isn't enough food to eat. They didn't have faucets to turn hoses on to water with. The crops would not grow without rain; because people wouldn't have enough water to drink or food to eat many would die.

The shortage of food and water would affect Elijah, too. So God told Elijah to get out of town.

1 Kings 17:2-5

Then the LORD said to Elijah, (3) "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. (4) Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food." (5) So Elijah did as the LORD told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan.

Elijah needed protection and food and God provided both for Elijah in a miraculous way. He told Elijah to hide from Ahab and Jezebel by the brook called Cherith. It was a lonely place out in the wilderness but Elijah knew that God was with him.

The brook provided Elijah with water, and ravens came carrying bread and meat in their beaks.

1 Kings 17:6

The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook.

God is a great provider who can meet your needs. What are some needs that you or I might have? (Food, clothing, a place to live.)

When you have a need, what do you do? Do you worry? Do you look to others, such as your parents or friends to meet your needs? Maybe you try to meet your own needs.

Remember that God wants you to look to Him first to provide for your needs. He is your Heavenly Father who knows and cares for you more than anyone else could. He longs for you to call upon Him in your times of need.

Elijah had some very important needs, but he knew that God would provide. And God miraculously fed Elijah by sending ravens with meat and bread! And I'm sure Elijah was very thankful for God's provision.

Then God allowed the brook Cherith to dry up.

1 Kings 17:7

But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.

Would Elijah start to doubt God's love and care for him?

Then the Lord told him to go to a place called Zarephath where a widow lady would provide for him. (A widow is a woman whose husband has died.)

1 Kings 17:10-11

So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" (11) As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

This woman must have thought Elijah was crazy. Didn't he know there was a drought going on?

1 Kings 17:12

But she said, "I swear by the LORD your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

And then Elijah tells her not to worry.

1 Kings 17:13-14

But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. (14) For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!”

It may sound selfish of Elijah to ask the woman for food and water in a time of drought. Here she was at the point of starvation. But He knew that if she was willing to give the bread to him first, God would bless her in many other ways. This was a test of faith for this woman. But Elijah assured her that God would provide.

God can provide for all your needs, too. There is no need too great or too hard for God to supply. God has all power, all wisdom, and He loves you! He is well able to supply all your needs. God does not promise to supply everything we want. But our needs will never go unmet if we trust in God. Sometimes God doesn’t give us what we ask for because he wants our faith to grow. Perhaps he wants us to learn how to have patience. He loves you and will always do what is best for you. When you have a need, talk to God about it; and then trust that He will give you what is best.

Elijah didn’t know how God would feed him and the widow and her son, but he trusted God’s promise to provide.

And as the widow obeyed Elijah, God miraculously provided for all their needs.

1 Kings 17:15-16

So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. (16) There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

God’s provision of flour and oil never failed during the drought. And He will never fail to provide for you, too.

God cared for Elijah and protected him from King Ahab. God had promised to provide what Elijah needed, and God always keeps His promise!

We can trust God, too. He gives us people to care for us and He will help us know what to do. God promises to hear and answer our prayers.

[Teacher, ask for prayer requests....]

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You have promised to meet our every need. Help us to trust You and never doubt that You will always love and care for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Raven Clothespins



MATERIALS:

For each child, provide the following:

- One spring-type clothespin.
- Copy of raven on card stock or traced onto black construction

paper.

- Assorted feathers, scissors, glue, and magnet strips.
- Optional: stick-on wiggly eyes.

PROCEDURE:

1. Help children cut out and glue the raven to the clothespin so that the snap opening will serve as the raven's mouth. Allow students to decorate their ravens with feathers. Attach a magnet strip to the bottom side of each clothespin.
2. On a piece of paper shaped like a loaf of bread have the children write out this week's Bible memory verse and insert it into the bird's "beak". Explain that the word of God is spiritual food for us. God has provided His word to us so that we can grow in Him.

Game Center

Cooking Option

We're going to make some bread like the widow might have made for Elijah and her family. Students wash hands and then prepare the recipe.

MATERIALS:

- Ingredients for the recipe below
- Cooking utensils, hot plate or electric frying pan
- Napkins

PROCEDURE:

Recipe:

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 3 Tablespoons oil
- Dash of salt
- 3 Tablespoons honey
- 3 Tablespoons water

Stir ingredients together. Roll dough into small balls and flatten like tortillas, approximately 3 inches in diameter. Pour a small amount of oil in the pan to prevent sticking. Cook bread over medium heat, turning to brown both sides. Each student tastes the bread when it has cooled. As students wait for their bread to cook, engage them in conversation using some of the Review Questions below.

Pick a Word

Write key words from the lesson on a piece of construction paper shaped like a loaf of bread and put them into a basket. Let each child pick a word and tell the class the significance of that word in today’s lesson. Use words such as Prophet, Ahab, Jezebel, Baal, Elijah, Rain, Drought, Water, Ravens, Bread, Meat, Widow, Flour, and Oil.

Choose Your Way

On pieces of construction paper, make game squares using the words under each of the following categories, putting each word on a separate paper:

People	Places	Objects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby • Boy • Dad • Girl • Mom • Pastor • Teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom • Home • Park • School hallway • Soccer field • Store • Play yard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD • Milkshake • Necklace • Phone • Soccer ball • Sock • TV

1. Lay the game squares on the floor, placing each word in a category in its own row: a row of people, a row of places, and a row of objects.

2. Volunteer walks or hops across the papers, stepping on one paper from each category. Then using the words he stepped on, the student suggests a situation in which the person might need God’s love and protection. For example, if the child stepped on “Boy,” “Park,” and “Ball” he might say, “A boy at the park kicks a soccer ball and it hits an old man.”
3. Have the class discuss what that person could do, how they might feel in that situation, and how they would want God to help them.

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

1. How did God protect Elijah after he went to see King Ahab? (He told Elijah to hide from Ahab and Jezebel by the brook called Cherith.)
2. Why was Elijah feeling discouraged, afraid and all alone? (Jezebel wanted to kill him, and he thought there was no one else who believed in the true God.)
3. What did the ravens do in our lesson this morning? (They brought meat and bread to Elijah.)
4. How were the ravens able to bring bread and meat to Elijah both morning and evening? (God told them what to do.)
5. How did God show His power to Elijah in today’s lesson? (God sent ravens to feed Elijah.)
6. What did Elijah learn about God in our lesson today? (He learned that God always cares for him and protects him.)
7. How did God show His power to help Elijah when Elijah ran out of water? (God told Elijah to go and stay with the widow.)
8. God showed His power to Elijah and a widow by keeping them supplied with flour and oil. Why were the flour and oil important? (The flour and oil are mixed together to make bread.)
9. How did God provide for Elijah and the widow’s needs? (He kept the widow’s flour and oil from being used up.)

10. How did Elijah show he depended on and trusted in God? (He obeyed.)
11. How did the widow show that she believed what Elijah told her about God? (She did what Elijah asked.)
12. How has God helped people you know? (answers will vary.)
13. What are some ways God shows His care for you? (Helped me get better when I was sick. Helped me at school during a test.)
14. What are some reasons we have to thank God for His loving care?
15. What are some things that help you know God takes care of His children? (Stories the Bible tells us about what God did for people; things God has done for you; God's promises in His Word.)