

CHURCH AT HOME



ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 17

Story Point: God took care of the widow and her son.

Key Passage: Isaiah 42:8

“I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Q: How many gods are there?

A: There is one true God.

CATECHISM: Q: What is idolatry?

A: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

TEACHING
Tips

Introduce the Story with opening activities
Teach the Story then Watch the Story (Bible Story Video)
Apply the Story (Optional Activities)

LINKS TO CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

- [Forest Activity Page -3 & 4 year olds \(pages 1-2\)](#)
- [Treehouse Activity Page -K & 1st graders \(pages 1-2\)](#)
- [Canopy Activity Page -2nd & 3rd graders \(pages 1-2\)](#)

LINKS FOR KEY PASSAGE and BIBLE STORY PICTURE

- [Key passage poster](#)
- [Bible Story Picture \(page 1\)](#)

LINKS FOR BIBLE STORY VIDEOS

- [Preschool Bible story video](#)
- [Elementary Bible story video](#)

START THE CONVERSATION

Ask your kids:

Prompt kids to talk about a time they were very hungry. What did they eat?



It is a sad truth that, even in some countries that have a lot, many people go hungry sometimes. Followers of Jesus can work together to meet the needs of those who are hungry. Today we will learn about a time a prophet of God helped a woman and her son when they were very, very hungry.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

LAST MEAL

Supplies: paper plate, markers, colored pencils or crayons.

Provide each kid with a paper plate. Let the kids share markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Invite the kids to draw on their plates what they would want to eat if it were to be their last meal for a while.



During a drought, there isn't enough rain to grow the crops needed to feed everyone. As a result, some people may go hungry. If you knew you would not eat again for a long time, what would you choose to eat as your last meal? Today we will learn that a woman and her son got more food than they expected! How do you think they got all their extra food?

ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete their age appropriate activity page (See page 1).



In today's Bible story there was a woman who was a widow. A woman is a widow if her husband has died. The widow and her son did not have enough food to eat. Listen to hear how God took care of the widow and her son.

SET EXPECTATIONS for Group Time

Before beginning the lesson briefly set expectations and go over our 5 up Rules. Model 5 up rules (What does it NOT look like and what DOES it look like). Model “Be Kind” and “Be safe” (What does it NOT look like and what DOES it look like)

Sit UP

Zip UP

Listen UP

Look UP

Hand UP

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Invite your children to have a Bible Drill. Tell them to grab their Bibles and hold them with both hands. When everyone’s ready, see who can be the first to find 1 Kings 17. Remind them 1 Kings is a book in the Old Testament where we can learn about the kings of Israel.

It’s clear that only God controls the weather. Have you ever tried to make it rain? We can’t start or stop the rain; we’re not God. And that leads us directly to our big picture question and answer. We will think about this question and answer as we learn about our Bible story: **How many gods are there?** The answer is, **There is one true God who alone deserves worship.** That may seem obvious, but as you’ll see today, many people did not believe this!



Remind children that all the stories in the Bible are telling an even bigger story. The Bible is one big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

*Use the Bible storytelling tips from the Bible story below to help you tell the story. Use the **bolded words** for preschoolers. Show the Bible story video as a recap later to remind the kids what they learned.*

Elijah and the Widow | 1 Kings 17

Elijah the prophet spoke to Ahab, the evil king of Israel, and gave him a message: **“There will be no dew or rain for the next few years unless I command it.** This will certainly happen.”

Then God told Elijah to go to a place near a stream. God said the ravens would provide food for Elijah to eat. So Elijah obeyed God. The ravens brought him bread and meat, and he drank water from the stream. After a while, the stream dried up because there was no rain in the land.

Then God told Elijah to go to a small village. God said a widow (or a woman whose husband had died) in the town would provide for Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. When Elijah got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering wood. He called to her, “Please bring me a little water so I can drink.” As she went to get it, he added, “Please bring me a piece of bread too.”

But the woman told Elijah, “I don’t have bread. I only have a little bit of flour and oil.” The woman and her son were planning to eat one more meal before they died from hunger.

“Don’t be afraid,” Elijah said. “Go and prepare the meal, but first bring me a small loaf of bread. Then make some for yourself and your son. God says you will not run out of flour or oil until rain comes again.”

So the woman prepared the meal. She, Elijah, and everyone in her household had enough to eat, and **she did not run out of flour or oil just like the Lord had said.**

Some time later, the woman’s son got sick and he stopped breathing. Elijah took the boy upstairs and laid him on the bed. He cried out to God, stretched himself out over the boy three times, and cried out to God again. “Lord my God, please let this boy live again!” Elijah prayed.

The Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy’s life came into him again. He was alive! **Elijah led the boy to his mother. She said to Elijah, “Now I know you are a man of God,** and the Lord really does speak through you.”



God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow’s son. Many years later, God

miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Elijah. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him.

God always does the most amazing things. Can you imagine having a flock of birds bringing your food every day? That's so cool. But when the stream dried up, God sent Elijah on his way.

The widow and her son were expecting to eat one last meal before they died, but God had a different idea. God wanted them to help Elijah and trust that He would provide, and He did. Again and again they used oil and flour. Instead of enough for one small last meal, they had enough to last them the rest of the drought and famine!

*Some time later, God allowed Elijah to do more than just keep them alive with miraculous food. God gave Elijah the miraculous power to bring the son back to life! **God provided in miraculous ways.** These miracles are things that only God can do. People worship many false gods, but only the one true God can prove His power in such ways. That's the answer to our big picture question! **How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***

The one true God is a miraculous provider who loves His people. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, God provided freedom. In the wilderness before entering the promised land, God provided food and water. When Israel was in the promised land but kept sinning against God, He provided judges to lead them back to Him. Again and again, God proved that He is faithful to provide. But the greatest provision of God was coming when he sent his one and only son Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION

Let's review our catechism question. Can you say it with me?



Q: What is idolatry?

[A: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.](#)

WATCH THE STORY (5 minutes)

[Click below to show the Bible story video "ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW."](#)

- [Preschool Bible story video](#)
- [Elementary Bible story video](#)

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

Ask kids if they have questions about the story. What didn't make sense? What was weird? What made you scratch your head? How did it make you feel? What pictures are stuck in your head from the story.

STORY REVIEW

Display the [Bible story picture](#) (page 1) as you ask the following questions. Retell portions of the Bible story as needed.

1. **Who was king of Israel when Elijah announced the famine?** (*Ahab, 1 Kings 17:1*)
2. **How did God provide for Elijah at first?** (*Ravens brought him food, and he drank from a stream; 1 Kings 17:6*)
3. **What did God do through Elijah for the widow and her son?** (*provided abundant flour and oil and raised the son from the dead; 1 Kings 17:16,22*)
4. **What are some ways God has provided for you or your family?** *Guide kids to discuss the various ways God provides for people. Remind them that even the more "normal" kinds of provisions are from God, such as their homes, their food, their friends, and their lives. All good things are blessings from God.*
5. **Can you think of a time you struggled to trust God?** *Discuss situations kids may face that can be frightening and lead to distrusting God. Help kids talk through ways we can turn our hearts back toward God, such as reading our Bibles, praying, or talking to other believers about our sins and struggles.*
6. **What was God's ultimate provision for people?** *Guide kids to see that we are all born in sin. Our greatest need is salvation, and God has provided the only way to be saved from sin through Jesus' death and*

resurrection. When we trust in Him, He removes our sin and gives us His righteousness. This is the most miraculous provision of all.



God provided in miraculous ways. He proved that He is the one true God. God's provision isn't always through miracles. Often, God provides for us in normal, everyday kinds of ways, and that's good too!

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

KEY PASSAGE: ISAIAH 42:8

“I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

Supplies: [memory verse poster](#)

See if your child can make up a short little song or jingle with the memory verse. Give them a minute to craft their tune and then lay down a beat and let them sing you their memory verse song. Sometimes singing things can help us remember it better.



*Our key passage comes from the writings of a different prophet named Isaiah. He wrote these words from God to teach people that God is not willing to share the glory that belongs only to Him. No other gods are real or powerful, and God will not allow His people to worship false gods. **How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***



*Make a video of your child teaching the memory verse. Send it to [Jordan Reich](#) and we might include it on our Sunday Church at Home videos. If you say the memory verse via video and send it in, we will also send you **Pelican Bucks**.*

SING A SONG



God gives us so many good gifts! But they are not wrapped like birthday presents or Christmas presents. What are some good gifts that God gives us? Can you name a few? Let's sing praises to our one and only miraculous Provider.



Sing together "[Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.](#)"

PRAY WITH YOUR KIDS

Invite kids to pray before applying the story.



God, thank You that You have all glory and power. Help us trust You alone. We know that no other god exists besides You. We know that You provide for Your people just like you did for Elijah and the widow.. Thank You for sending Jesus. We love You. Amen.

EXPERIENCE & APPLY THE STORY

OPTION 1: Provisions place mat

Supplies: white or colored paper, crayons or markers, plate or bowl

Trace a plate or bowl in the middle where the plate will go. Then let your child decorate outside the circle with pictures and/or words that describe good gifts God has given them. They can be super specific like "a fantastic and loving family" or general like "love" and "joy" or "smiles". But it can be anything that will remind them of how amazingly faithful God has been when they sit down to dinner and want to complain. Think of words and pictures that will calm them down and remind them that God provides for them no matter how bad their day has been.



When tough times come, it is easy to get discouraged. That's when we need reminders of all the good that God has done for us and what He provides for us. I hope you will use this place mat as a way to remember just how much God loves you and that He has a plan for you.

OPTION 2: WANTS VS. NEEDS

Supplies: none

Description/Make:

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Say the names of different objects that kids might want or need. Instruct the kids to pat their heads if the item is a want and rub their bellies if it's a need. Some items may be both a want and a need. Allow kids to explain their reasoning.

Suggested items:

- television
- food
- oxygen
- love
- school
- video games
- Jesus



In our story today, the widow and her son did not have the food they needed. **God provided in miraculous ways.** Similarly, Jesus provides salvation for us in a miraculous way. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again on the third day to prove that His sacrifice was enough. We can read in the Bible that in addition to needing Jesus, we can delight in Him. That means that Jesus is more than our greatest need, He's our greatest "want" too!

