

LESSON 62

God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways

1 KINGS 17



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD IS AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF A SINFUL GENERATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Two leaves from the same kind of plant: one fresh and green, the other dry, brown, and shriveled

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 62)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 62

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Stop the Rain

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry erase marker

Oil and Flour

SUPPLIES: two rolls large enough for everyone in the class to have a small piece; additional ingredients for a simple bread recipe that has oil for one of the ingredients; two identical clear bottles—one containing only enough oil for the recipe and the other full of oil.

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION

5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see how God provides for his people miraculously.

Teacher's Note: There is a bit of a jump from last week's lesson to this week's lesson. Last week we learned that the kingdom was divided. Jeroboam was made king of the northern ten tribes of Israel. He led them to worship idols. The kings that followed Jeroboam in the northern kingdom were also evil. This brings us to our story of King Ahab.

Bring to class two leaves from the same kind of plant: one fresh and green, the other dry, brown, and shriveled.

Ask the class:

- What is a miracle?
(It is when God does something supernatural for us to see.)
- Can you remember any miracles that God performed for the people of Israel?
(opening the Red Sea, giving manna in the desert, conquering Jericho, etc.)
- What would happen if houseplants weren't watered?
(They would all dry up.)
- What is it called if God does not send rain for a long time?
(a drought)
- What is it called when there is no water to grow plants or feed animals, and therefore, there is no food to eat?
(a famine)

Pass around the fresh new leaf and then the dried-out one. Explain to the children that when there is no rain for plants, they dry up and die like the leaf. If the plants die, then animals, which depend on plants for food, also die. Since animals like cattle and goats eat plants, if all the plants dry up and die, the animals will also die.

Tell the children that today they will hear about a time when God provided miraculously for his people in the midst of drought and famine.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read story 62, “God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION

5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Why was there no rain in Israel?
(God said there would not be any rain until he said so.)
- Who was Elijah?
(Elijah was a great prophet.)
- What kind of food did the ravens bring to Elijah?
(The ravens brought him bread and meat [1 Kings 17:6].)
- What do prophets do?
(They speak God’s words to men. Many prophets wrote down what God said, and their words make up part of our Old Testament.)
- Can you name another prophet in the Bible?
(See if the children can remember some names of prophets. Turn to your Bible and have them repeat the names of the books of prophecy: Isaiah through Malachi.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- How much oil and flour did the widow have?
(She only had enough oil and flour to make one loaf of bread.)
- What did she think would happen when all the oil and flour was gone?
(She thought she would starve and die.)

- What did Elijah tell her to do?

(Make him bread first and then her flour and oil would never run out!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: John 6:35

God, using the prophet, provided for the widow by multiplying her bread and oil. This is a picture of another prophet who would come and multiply bread for the multitudes. His name is Jesus. But besides providing the physical bread, Jesus himself was the bread of life that will never run out!

“Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty’” (John 6:35 NIV).

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 62—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How did God provide for Elijah?

(God showed Elijah where the brook was and had the ravens bring him food.)

■ How does God provide for us?

(Accept any answer.)

Stop the Rain

To help the children understand the wicked deeds of Ahab, have them stand up and raise their hands above their heads with their fingers spread out. They will be the rain. If you say something that honors God, they will simulate rain by wiggling their fingers and lowering their hands (like rain falling down). If you say something that is wicked or does not honor God, they shrivel up and wither to a sitting position like a dying plant. You can then say something that honors God to which they can both make the rain motion and slowly stand like a plant reviving.

Suggested statements:

- Worship the Lord God of Israel.
- Honor your father and mother.
- Live honestly with integrity.
- Worship the false god Baal.
- Mistreat the prophets of the Lord.
- Stop worshiping God.
- Listen to God's Word.
- Build stone idols.

Oil and Flour

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two rolls large enough for everyone in the class to have a small piece
- ✓ additional ingredients for a simple bread recipe that has oil as one of the ingredients
- ✓ two identical clear bottles—one containing only enough oil for the recipe and the other full of oil

Keep the rolls and the full bottle of oil hidden until they are needed. Assume the character of the widow and do your own cooking show for the children. Pretend you are retelling the story to them. Find a simple bread recipe that has oil as one of the ingredients. Use a clear bottle for the oil and bring only the amount required for your recipe. When you mix it, make a big deal out of getting every last drop of oil. When the loaf is mixed, pass it around for the children to see. Ask

them what you would need to do next to make bread. (Put the loaf in an “oven” to bake.)

Bring out the small loaf (one of the rolls) baked ahead of time just like the cooking shows on television. Ask the children if they would like to sample it. Break the bread and give a small piece to half of the class, running out of bread. While handing out the bread, have another teacher or helper discretely switch your empty oil bottle for a full one. When all the bread is gone, tell the children, “Well now that all my oil is gone I guess I won’t be able to make any more bread.” Go and pick up the bottle expecting it to be empty only finding it full. Wonder at the miracle, and volunteer to make another loaf for the other half of the class. Bring out the other loaf and let the rest of the children have a piece.

Ask the children who received the bread first how they felt about getting bread when the other half of the class didn’t. (Praise those who might have offered to share their piece with the children who received none.) Then ask the children who received none at first how they felt when the other loaf came out.

Thank God for his provision and his love to us every day.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today’s lesson was about.

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