

LESSON 62

# God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways

1 KINGS 16:29–17:24



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

GOD IS AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF A SINFUL GENERATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Read 1 Kings 16:29—17:24 from the Scriptures or read story 62, “God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Man-made Idols  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ a brick-sized rock
  - ✓ a block of wood the same size as the brick or rock
  - ✓ an empty jar
  - ✓ an empty jug
  - ✓ a batch of brownies cut into enough small squares that each person in the class can have one
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
What Are You Willing to Give?
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**  
Elijah and the Widow  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ modeling dough
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
The Kindness of God to a Widow

**TOTAL 80 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**God withholds rain**—The kingdoms of Judah and Israel are still divided and have been ruled by a series of kings, most of them wicked. The King of Israel is now Ahab, the most wicked king of all. Under Ahab's leadership, Israel worships the Canaanite god Baal.

Those who worship Baal believe he controls the weather. So God, speaking through the prophet Elijah, says that he is stopping both rain and dew! God does this for two reasons: to bring judgment on Israel and to show that Baal has no power. But through it all, God provides miraculously for his prophet Elijah.

**God provides for a faithful widow**—This story takes place in the middle of the pagan land where Baal is worshiped. This widow is not an Israelite, but she chooses to trust what Elijah tells her about the promise made by the God of Israel. The promise is that if she does as Elijah asks, she will not run out of food for as long as the drought continues.

Throughout the Bible, time after time, God asks people to do things that seem like they don't make sense. But God is interested in a heart of trust and faith. To believe God and have faith in him is to see the world as it really is. God is the one who controls all things, and we can trust him in anything that he asks of us.

**God raises the widow's son from death**—Not only was God able to bring Elijah water from a flowing brook, food from ravens, and an endless supply of flour and oil; God also demonstrated through Elijah his power over life and death. God was fully able to do all the things Baal could not do. God provided rain and food and even life!

When the widow's son died, Elijah cried out to the Lord, and God raised the widow's son from the dead. One day a greater prophet would come who would also raise men from the dead, including the son of a widow.

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

#### *Widow*

Widows were almost always poor because ancient laws did not protect them. God made special provision for widows among the Israelites (Deuteronomy 14:29; 16:11; 24:20; 26:12). The

widow in our story today, however, was not an Israelite. God demonstrates his kindness and mercy by extending special care and concern to the widow (Exodus 22:22; Deuteronomy 10:17–18).

### WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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 is 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).

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read 1 Kings 16:29—17:24 from the Scriptures or read story 62, "God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Man-made Idols

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a brick-sized rock
- ✓ a block of wood the same size as the brick or rock

- ✓ an empty jar
- ✓ an empty jug
- ✓ a batch of brownies cut into enough small squares that each person in the class can have one

This activity will help the children see the absurdity of trusting an idol instead of the living God.

Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the class. Explain to the volunteer that you need help: you are out of flour and oil and would like to make a batch of brownies. Tell the volunteer that you will provide everything needed to obtain flour and oil.

When your volunteer consents to help you, pull out the stone and block of wood and tell them to get started. Ask when you can expect to have the oil and flour. They are likely to look confused, so explain that they should ask the stone or the wood or both for oil and flour.

Suggest that the volunteer plead with the stone or jump up and down and call out to the stone. Play this up for a couple minutes. Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why couldn't {volunteer's name} get flour and oil from the stone and the wood?  
*(The stone and wood cannot make flour and oil.)*
- Have stone or wood ever miraculously provided flour?  
*(no)*
- Would it make a difference if we carved an image of Baal into the stone?  
*(No, no difference at all. Though there might be a face carved into one end of the stone, it would make no difference.)*
- Ask the children what message God was sending to Israel about their gods by withholding the rain.  
*(God withheld the rain to help Israel turn back to God. If God just wanted to judge Israel, it would not have been necessary to send Elijah. The fact that God spoke to Israel through Elijah is evidence that he had not abandoned his people.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**What Are You Willing to Give?**

Divide the class into groups of three or four.

Have each group look up one of the following passages and compare it to the story of the widow in 1 Kings 17:9–16. Then have them report on how the faith of the main character(s) in their passage compares with the faith of the widow in the 1 Kings passage.

Luke 18:18–30 (the rich young ruler)

Mark 12:41–44 (the widow’s mite)

Act 2:43–47 (new believers in the early church)

After the groups give their reports, ask the class the following questions:

- **What did the widows and the members of the early church have that the rich young ruler did not?**  
*(faith in God)*
  
- **How do we get faith in God?**  
*(Faith is a gift from God [Ephesians 2:8–9] that we can ask God to give us. Reading God’s Word and learning about his faithfulness in the lives of others is one way God builds faith in our lives.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Elijah and the Widow**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ modeling dough

Divide the class into teams of five to work together to create one of two scenes out of modeling dough: either the ravens providing for Elijah at the brook or the widow and the jar of flour and jug of oil. Different children can create the different components of the scene. After they are through, talk about what the story reveals about who God is.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**The Kindness of God to a Widow**

Invite a widow from your church to share a testimony of how God provided for her in the midst of losing her husband. The testimony should include components of the gospel.

Talk about the special care that God gives widows and how his unique mercy sets him apart from the idols of the Canaanites in the Old Testament. Take time in class to pray for the person who comes to share.