

GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH IN MIRACULOUS WAYS

God was at work in the midst of a sinful generation.



THE STORY: 1 KINGS 16:29 - 17:7

MONDAY

God withheld rain

God withheld rain – In 1 Kings 16, we discover that Ahab, who had become king of Israel, was a wicked king who served and worshipped Baal (a Canaanite fertility god who was thought to control the rain). God brought judgment to Israel. He showed the powerlessness of the idol Baal by withholding all dew and rain, except what came by the word of the Lord. The people of Israel cried out to Baal, but no rain came. Elijah delivered a prophetic rebuke from the Lord to Ahab and then left. Ahab had no opportunity to appeal to God through His prophet Elijah.

Elijah obeyed the word of the Lord and received water and food. God miraculously provided for him, even while the drought grew worse.

TALK ABOUT IT:

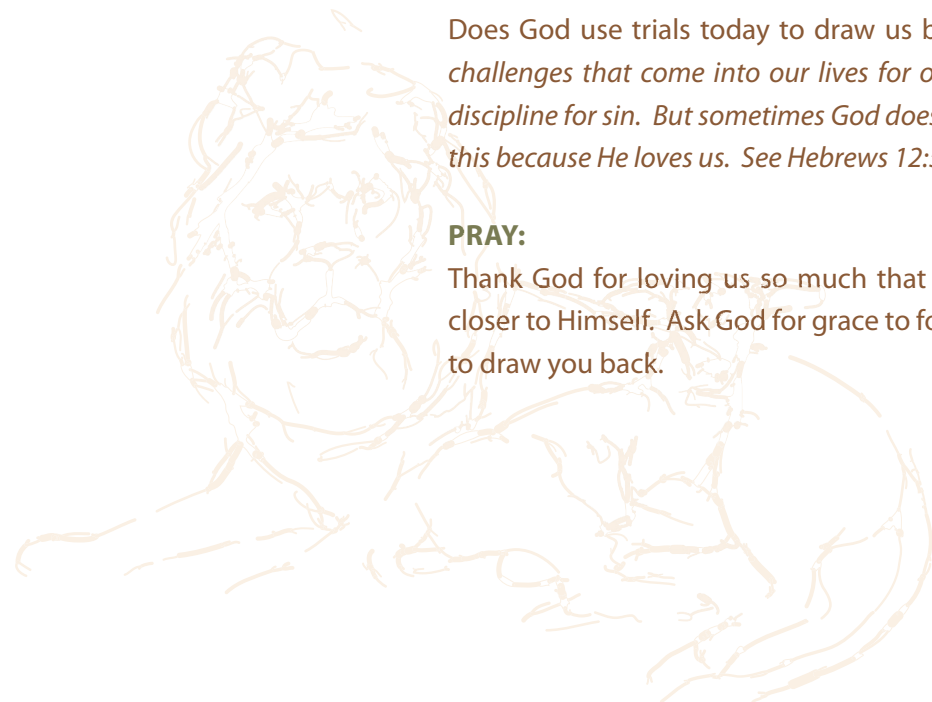
What happens when there is no rain for a long time? (*Without water everything dies.*)

Why did God choose to withhold rain in order to get Israel's attention? (*Israel was sinning. King Ahab did not pay attention to the ways of the Lord and thought he could do what ever pleased him. He followed after false gods. By holding back the rain, God put Israel into a situation where they would need to call out for help to bring rain. Their false gods, however, would not be able to help them because they had no power.*)

Does God use trials today to draw us back to Himself? (*God uses all the trials and challenges that come into our lives for our good. Not all trials are necessarily God's discipline for sin. But sometimes God does bring trials to draw us back to Him. He does this because He loves us. See Hebrews 12:5-6 and 1 Peter 1:6-7.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for loving us so much that He sends trials to build faith and draw us closer to Himself. Ask God for grace to follow Him so that you might not need a trial to draw you back.





THE STORY: 1 KINGS 17:8-16

TUESDAY

The faithful widow

The faithful widow – A widow, deeply affected by the drought, was about to make her last meal and die of starvation. God sent Elijah to her. God told Elijah that He had commanded the widow to feed him. Elijah believed God and asked the poor woman to give him her last meal. He prophesied to her that she would not run out of food as long as the drought remained. The courageous woman did as Elijah asked.

Then God provided food for the prophet, the widow, and her son for many days. For the entire period of the drought, neither the jar of flour nor the jug of oil ever emptied. All the while Israel received no rain from their false gods.

TALK ABOUT IT:

God called Elijah to leave Israel and bless a foreign woman. How does this remind you of Jesus? *(When the Jews rejected the Gospel, it was sent for the salvation of the Gentiles. Here we see a glimpse of God's willingness to save the whole world. See Luke 4:24-25 where Jesus makes this connection.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you be like the widow who had faith. Pray that you would not be like the people of Israel who, at this period in their history, followed after other gods.



THE STORY: JOHN 6:35-40

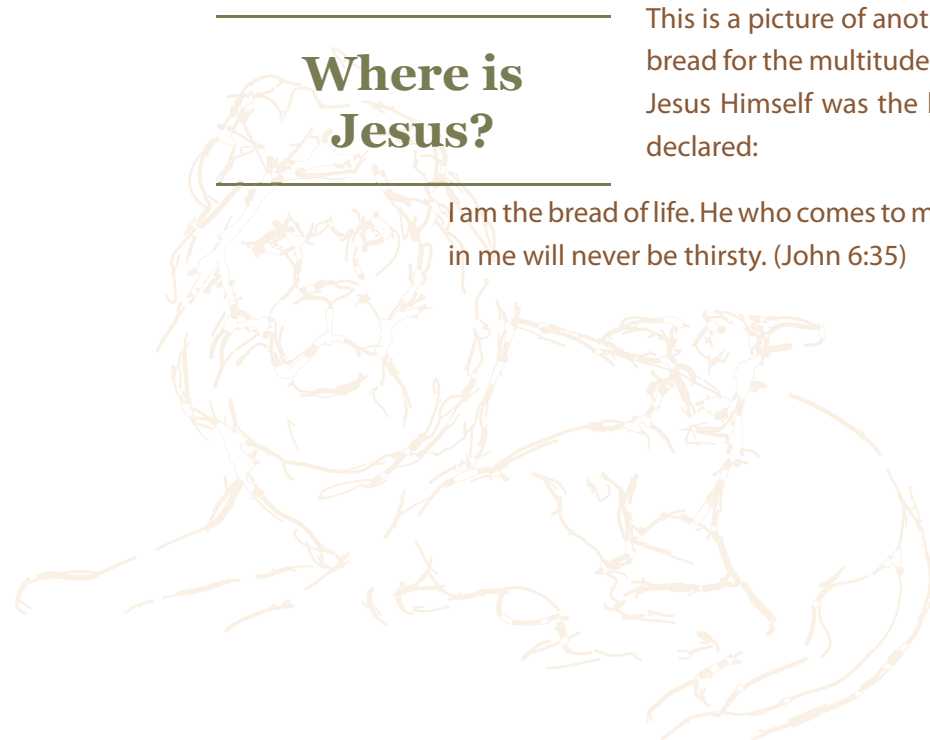
WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

God, using the prophet, provided for the widow and multiplied her bread and oil.

This is a picture of another prophet who would come and multiply bread for the multitudes. 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)



TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think God describes Himself as bread and drink? *(If we don't eat, we will die of starvation. If we don't drink we will die of thirst. Similarly, if we do not trust in Christ, we will die. God wants us to see just how important it is that we place our trust in Him.)*

How long can we live on bread and water? *(Earthly bread and water can only prolong our lives until we physically die.)*

How long can we live with Christ? *(If we trust in Jesus, the bread of life, we will live forever!)*

PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to be the bread of life for us.



THE STORY: 1 KINGS 17:17-24

THURSDAY

The widow's son was raised from the dead

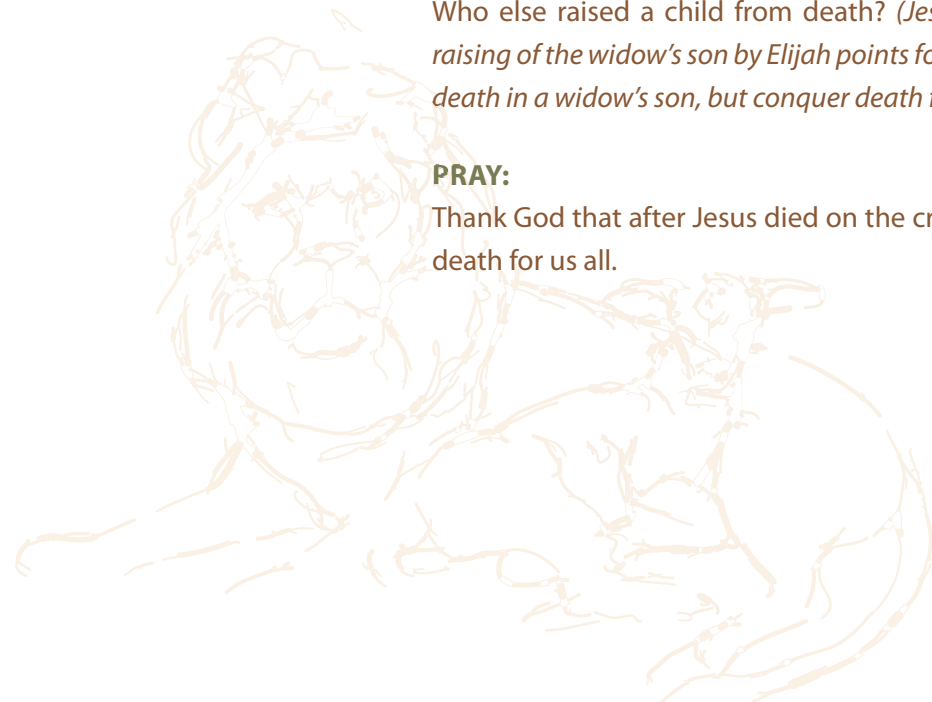
The widow's son was raised from the dead – Not only was God able to bring Elijah water from a flowing brook, food through ravens, and an endless supply of flour and oil, but God also demonstrated His power over life and death. God was fully able to do all the things that Baal could not do. God provided rain. God provided food. And most amazingly God provided 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.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who else raised a child from death? *(Jesus raised a widow's son in Luke 7:12. The raising of the widow's son by Elijah points forward to Jesus who would not only conquer death in a widow's son, but conquer death for us all.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that after Jesus died on the cross for our sin, He rose again, conquering death for us all.





On the road to Emmaus.

This passage is a description of the people of Israel and their relationship with God.

God is called their Rock and their Redeemer. These titles ultimately refer to Jesus who is our Rock and Redeemer. God did not pour out the fullness of His wrath upon Israel. He showed mercy because of his purpose and because of what Christ would do when he came.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why didn't God pour out His full wrath upon Israel for their disobedience in rejecting His provision? *(God was able to restrain His judgment and wrath because He looked forward to the day when His Son, Jesus, would take the full measure of all punishment for sin for those who believe.)*

Do any of the words in these verses remind you of Christ? *(God is called our Rock and our Redeemer, both are "bread from heaven" that the manna pointed forward to.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Rock and our Redeemer so that we can be saved from our sin.

