



GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH IN MIRACULOUS WAYS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I KINGS 17

The story can be found in 1 Kings 17. Review 1 Kings 16 and help the children to understand that King Ahab was very wicked. Read 1 Kings 16:29-33 to the children. Explain that God wanted to punish Israel and King Ahab so he refused to send rain for three years.

LESSON IDEAS

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 speak out something that honors God, they will pretend to 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 withering plant. You can then say something that honors God to which they can both make the rain motion and slowly stand like a plant growing again.

Suggested deeds:

- 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 worshipping God
- Listen to God's Word
- Build stone idols

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OIL AND FLOUR

Supplies:

- a small loaf of bread
- bring additional ingredients for a simple bread recipe including oil
- a clear bottle with only enough oil for the recipe
- and a second clear bottle full of oil

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

Do your own cooking show for the children in character as the widow. Pretend you are retelling the story to them. Find a simple bread recipe that includes oil in the ingredients. Use a clear bottle for the oil and only bring enough to mix 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 baked ahead of time, just like the cooking shows on TV. Ask the children if they would like to try it. Break the bread and give everyone a small piece. While the children are eating, have another teacher 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."

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.

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. 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)

