



ELIJAH & THE DEAD BOY

1 KINGS 17

GOAL

▶ **To teach children to live by faith and not by sight.** God promises to direct and provide for those who trust Him and who believe God's Word over their own understanding. God can see things that we cannot see, He understands things we cannot even begin to comprehend, and He can accomplish in us things we cannot accomplish ourselves.

CHARACTERS

▶ **The Prophet Elijah:** He was the one chosen to represent God to King Ahab and the people of Israel. He was not welcome and was forced to flee for his life, but God protected him and provided for him. God lead Elijah to a poor widow and her son to show them that He is the One who provides and gives life.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel: They were the wicked king and queen of Israel who rebelled against God and His Word and worshiped false gods. When Elijah brought the Word of God to them, they rejected it and tried to kill him.

The Widow and her Son: She was a poor woman left alone to raise her son during a severe famine. She was down to her last jar of oil and flour when Elijah shows up on her doorstep. In faith, she believed the word of Elijah, did what she was told, and was spared from starvation. She was tested again when her son got severely sick and died. Elijah took the boy upstairs and pleaded with God to let the boy live. God brought the boy back to life and the widow finally proclaimed God's words as true. She was forever changed.



MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Proverbs 3:5-6:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
-

OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read 1 Kings 17:** This is the story about a courageous prophet named Elijah who was called to speak God's word to the rebellious nation of Israel. After meeting with King Ahab and announcing a curse of famine on the land, Elijah was forced to flee to a stream where he received complete provision from the Lord. When the stream dried up, Elijah was sent to stay with a poor widow and her son. God miraculously provided a continual supply of food for them throughout all the days of the famine. Another miracle is performed after the widow's son unexpectedly dies. God hears the persistent prayers of Elijah and raises the boy from the dead.
-

SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **We can trust God because He keeps His word.**

1. God told Israel if they would not repent, He would judge them. When they did not repent, He cursed the land with a famine.
2. God told Elijah to go to the brook Cherith, and there, He would protect and care for him. Elijah did what God commanded, and he was miraculously provided for.
3. God told Elijah to stay with a poor widow living in a land belonging to the enemy, and there he would provide for him. With no questions asked, Elijah did what God commanded and experienced two great miracles: the never-ending food supply in oil and flour and the resurrection of the widow's son.

We can trust God even when it doesn't make sense to us.

When the brook dried up and the food supply ended, it would make sense in our minds for God to send Elijah to a rich merchant or to a place where food was not so scarce. But God sent him to a land that was being destroyed by the famine and to a poor widow and her son who were down to their last morsel of food. It didn't make sense, but Elijah did what God asked him to and God provided for him.

We can trust God even when things are difficult.

God uses difficulties in our lives to help build complete trust and confidence in Him. God sent Elijah from one training ground to another, and each destination built courage and strength. It was difficult for Elijah to leave everything and flee for his life, but God miraculously provided for him, and his faith in God grew. When God asked him to go to the poor widow's house, Elijah did exactly what he was told and did not question or doubt. Furthermore, God uses Elijah to bring the poor widow to faith and to cultivate trust and confidence in God.



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Hot Lava | *Supplies:*** Paper plates and a timer.

Lay out dozens of paper plates close enough to each other that the kids can jump safely from one to the next. Anything that is not a paper plate is “hot lava.” If a child does not land on a paper plate, they have fallen in the lava, and they are out. Set the timer for minutes, and see how many survive to the end.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

▶ **Read 1 Kings 17:** Are you afraid or worried? Are there things in your life that are difficult and hard to overcome? God asks you to trust Him. Rely on God’s wisdom because He knows everything; rely on His power because He can do anything; and rely on His goodness because He loves you and always has what is best for you in mind.

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Everyone Line Up!**

Divide the class into groups of about five or six. Assign the groups to line up in the following order:

1. Line up by age, youngest to oldest.
2. Line up by the number in your immediate family, least to greatest.
3. Line up in alphabetical order, A to Z.
4. Line up in order of birthdays, January to December.
5. Line up from tallest to shortest.
6. Make up you own based on your group of kids.

The first team to get into their assigned order wins.

Thanking for Kindness | *Supplies:* Paper, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter glue, etc.

Elijah asked God to save the Shunnamite woman's son because she had been kind to him. Ask the students who has been kind to them in their lives and what they might ask God to do for that person. Have the students make thank you cards for their person. Inside, the students should write down what they are praying that God does for them.



**TAKE
HOME**

▶ Elijah trusted God with his life, and the widow trusted the Word of the Lord given by the prophet Elijah. Both experienced God's protection and provision, and both witnessed the most amazing miracle when God raised the widow's son back to life! How can we respond to the demonstrations of God's power in this story?

1. God protected Elijah from King Ahab and wicked Queen Jezebel. God will protect us.
2. God miraculously fed Elijah by a stream of water and later sustained Elijah, the widow, and the widow's son with a never-ending supply of food. God will provide for us.
3. God raised the poor widow's son from the dead. God has power over death.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What was God going to send because of the king and queen's wickedness?

A1: A famine

Q1b: Have you ever had to give someone bad news?

TN: This question is meant to get children thinking about how doing the right thing sometimes isn't fun. God asked Elijah to do something that Elijah knew wouldn't make the king and queen happy, but he did it anyway, regardless of the consequences he would face.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What two things did Elijah ask the widow to give him?

A2: A cup of water and a piece of bread.

Q2b: Have you ever helped someone in need?

TN: This question is meant to get students thinking about how good it feels to help others even when the person can't give anything in return. Situations like this are a blessing for the giver and receiver of the help.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: How many cakes did Elijah ask the widow to make?

A3: Three: one for him, one for her son, and one for the widow

Q3b: Have you ever shared something with someone even though you needed it and would not have much for yourself?

TN: This question is meant to get children thinking about being selfless and faithful. Sometimes, giving up something necessary can be scary, but if God promises it will be okay, then there is nothing to fear.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did not run out until the famine ended?

A4: Flour and oil

Q4b: When was the last time you were surprised?

TN: This question is to get children thinking about times when something good happened to them that they did not expect or did not think was possible. God is the God of miracles and blessings.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Where did Elijah take the boy's lifeless body?

A5: To the room where he was staying

Q5b: What is your favorite thing? How would you feel if it were taken away from you?

TN: Children may not understand grief to the extent discussed in this story, but getting them to think about something they love being taken from them help them understand and relate the widow's grief on some level without getting too sad.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: How many times did Elijah stretch his body over the boy?

A6: Three times

Q6b: When do you think it is important to pray?

TN: What is impossible for us is not impossible for God. God is there for us when we are scared or sad because he loves us so much. Prayer is an act of faith—we go to God with our needs, trusting that he hears us and will help. This is also a good opportunity to remind the children that they can pray when they are happy or blessed; thanking God for his provision also is prayer.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What happened to the boy?

A7: He came back to life

Q7b: What is a miracle?

TN: Miracles are often thought to be big, impossible things, such as bringing someone back from the dead. This story has many: a stream provided him water, the flour and oil not running out, and the boy being brought back to life. Little things working out when it doesn't seem possible is evidence of the hand of God in their lives.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

- ▷ **Proverbs 3:5-6** (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

BIG IDEA

- ▷ Trust the Lord, even when it sounds crazy, because God has a plan, and it is good!

**CLOSING
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear Jesus, I pray that this story about Elijah's faith will help these kids understand that they can put their trust and confidence in you. Just like you directed Elijah where he should go and provided for him when he needed food and water, and just like you provided an endless supply of food to the widow and her son when they were down to their last bite, you will take care of all those who put their trust in you.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



The prophet Elijah brought bad news to Ahab, the ruler of Israel. King Ahab and his people had refused to repent of their evil ways, so God was going to send a famine. The words of the prophet made King Ahab and his wicked queen Jezebel very angry, and they sought to kill Elijah. Elijah fled to a small stream of water where God miraculously provided for him. When the stream dried up, God said to the prophet, "Go to the town of Zarephath. You will meet a woman there, who no longer has a husband to provide for her. She is very poor, but she will give you food and drink."

SLIDE 2



When Elijah arrived, he saw the poor widow off in the distance gathering sticks for a fire. He called to her, "Please, may I have a cup of water?" She clearly had her own troubles, but she stopped what she was doing to get him a drink. As she walked away, he called to her, "May I also have a piece of bread?" It was then that she revealed to him the pain behind her tired and grief-stricken countenance. "As your God lives" she said, "the famine has been hard on us, and I have none to give you. I only have a handful of flour and a little oil in a jar. I am gathering these sticks so that I can make a fire to prepare one last loaf. My son and I will eat it, and after that we will together die of hunger."



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



Elijah had compassion on the widow and her son. He said to the woman, “Don’t be afraid. Go and make your last cake, but give it to me; after that make one for you and your son. If you do as I say, God will reward your faith, and your flour and oil will not run out until after the famine is lifted and the land is blessed with rain.”

SLIDE 4



The widow believed Elijah and did exactly what he asked her to do. Just as he said, the oil and the flour did not run out, and sustained them to the end of the famine. The widow’s hope and expectation in the God of Israel grew strong. She believed that, in time, the prophet would pray to his God to lift the drought and she and her son would live out the rest of their lives in joy.

SLIDE 5



But alas, their lives took a tragic turn. Her precious son got very sick—so sick that he died. Suddenly the dreams she had for herself and her son came to a terrible end. She grasped to understand why this had happened. Why had her son been spared from starvation only to die of sickness now? Had God had forsaken her? Could it have been secret sins from her past that brought about this tragedy? In grief and frustration, she turned on Elijah and said, “What have I to do with you, oh man of God? Are you here to remind me of my sin and take my precious son’s life as punishment?” Overtaken with grief, Elijah said to the widow, “Give me your son.” He took the boy’s lifeless body up to the room where he was staying, and laid him on the bed.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 6



He cried to God, "Why have you taken this woman's son? She has been so kind to me!" Three times he stretched his body over the boy and called out to God persistently, "Please, let this boy live again!"

SLIDE 7



And God heard Elijah's prayer, and the most amazing miracle happened: The young boy came back to life! Elijah carried him back to his mother and said to her "Your boy lives!" Her sorrow was turned to joy as she looked into the eyes of her precious son. She exclaimed, "Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and the words God puts in your mouth are true."