

God Provides for Elijah and a Widow



Overview

Materials You'll Need

- clear, self-adhesive paper
- assorted tissue paper
- blank paper
- markers
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors



Scriptures

1 Kgs 17:8-16

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is faithful and keeps His promises

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify things we can do to demonstrate our faith towards God

Memory Verse

"God is faithful." (1 Cor 10:13)



Bible Knowledge

King Ahab

Ahab was the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He reigned for about twenty-two years. Although he did have some military and political successes, he is remembered mostly for his spiritual failures. First, he married the Phoenician princess Jezebel, who brought to Israel the worship of the Phoenician god Baal. He also allowed a temple to be built where Jezebel could worship Baal. Then Ahab, too, began to worship this idol (1 Kgs 16:30-33). The Bible records that he did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings who were before him.

Elijah

Elijah was a prophet from Tishbe of Gilead in the northern kingdom. His name means "The Lord is my God." He was a fearless prophet, for he stood up to Ahab and his son Ahaziah, who worshiped idols. One of the first things Elijah did was to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain for a long time. After Elijah's announcement, God led him to the Brook Cherith in Gilead, east of the Jordan

River. There Elijah was miraculously fed by ravens. When the drought continued and the brook dried up, he was led to Phoenicia, to the home of a widow.

The Widow of Zarephath

Elijah went to Zarephath, a town on the Mediterranean Sea, north of Israel. There he found a widow and asked her for food and drink. Widows at the time were poor and could do little to sustain themselves. With the drought, this widow would have been exceptionally desperate. So she responded by saying that she only had enough oil and flour for one more meal, to feed herself and her son. Then they too would die. Elijah persisted in his request and promised that if she provided food for him, she would continue to have enough flour and oil. The woman trusted God to provide for her needs and shared what she had with Elijah. Interestingly, this widow was not an Israelite, yet she willingly took God at His word. She was rewarded with an unfailling jar of flour and an inexhaustible supply of oil. Later, when her son died, he was restored to life by the prophet (1 Kgs 17:17-22).



Understanding Your Students

For young children, trust comes pretty easily. This is because they can do little for themselves and depend on others for their needs. And because their families have provided for them since they were babies, they have learned to trust them. However, trusting in God may be a bit more difficult for them. This is because they haven't been able to concretely witness many of the things He has done for them that would make them trust in Him. As each lesson allows, we need to point out how faithful, loving, and great our God is. Over time, the children will begin to see a God whom they can trust to provide all they need. It is our hope that they will learn to believe in His promises and act accordingly.

While trusting in God and the grown-ups in their

lives is a good thing, we may also want to introduce to our students the topic of strangers and how to act around them. This is because children are innocent and trusting in nature. Children are taught to never talk to strangers. But there is some confusion in that because adults often talk to strangers. We may help someone who needs directions; we may talk to the person who delivers the mail; we may stop and talk to someone who is walking their dog. In the eyes of the students, these people are strangers. It is hard to reconcile why they aren't allowed to speak to strangers while we are doing it regularly. That is why it is important to role-play specific scenarios and talk about what they can do in each situation. While we do not wish to dampen their trusting spirit, we also want to make sure they are protected.



Vocabulary

Miracle

an amazing thing that only God can do

Brook

a small river

Widow

a woman whose husband has died

Faith

to believe in God and His promises



Before You Teach

In the story of Elijah and how God provided food for him, we see two people who demonstrated trust in God. First was Elijah, who obeyed God and went to the Brook Cherith. There he found water to drink and ravens who brought him bread and meat. Then when the brook dried up, God told him to go to the widow at Zarephath. Once again, without any questions, Elijah followed the words of God and walked to the city. At the city's gate, he met the widow and asked her for some water. Then he asked her for some bread. Upon hearing this, the widow explained her situation and said that she only had enough to feed herself and her son one last meal. Elijah then challenged the widow by asking her to make some bread for him first. He promised there would be enough flour and oil to last her and her son until God sent rain again. To follow these directions would have been a leap of faith.

But this widow did exactly as Elijah told her and indeed, the flour and oil did not run out.

Why were Elijah and the widow able to obey so willingly? The only answer was that they had faith in God and His promises. In fact, what they were asked to do were difficult things. By our human reasoning, it makes no sense to wait for birds to bring food. It seems equally impossible to expect what little flour and oil were left to never run out. Yet sometimes, God calls for us to step out and examine our faith. It is easy to trust God when we don't have much to lose, or if the course of action seems reasonable. But God doesn't always work this way. He often challenges us because He wants us to rise up to the occasion and help our faith grow. Only when we depend on God completely can we give glory to His name. Then we will recognize that it is not through our own actions or effort that anything was accomplished. And even when things go smoothly, we should still remember God's constant presence so we will not forget God's providence.



Bible Story

Water in the Jar

Bring a jar with some water (less than a cup) and two empty cups. Pour water into the first cup until there is no more water left in the jar. Then try to pour water into the second cup. No water should be coming out of the jar.

Ask the students why they think no water is coming out of the jar. (Because there is no more water in the jar.) If we drank this cup of water, would there be any water left? (No, because we ran out of water; there is no water in the jar.) No matter how hard we try, we could not get any more water to come out of that jar. If more water suddenly came out, that would be a miracle. And we know that only God can perform miracles. Today we are going to learn about a wonderful miracle that God did to help Elijah and a woman.

The Brook Dries Up

Last week, we learned that God told Elijah to talk to King Ahab. He told the king that there would be no more rain in the land until he said so. Everything happened just as God told Elijah it would happen. No rain fell from the sky for a very long time. God told Elijah to stay by a brook so he would have plenty of water to drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat. God took care of Elijah even when things in the land were drying up.

Do you know what can happen to rivers and brooks if it does not rain for a very long time? (Allow students to give their responses.) When there is no rain for a long time, all the rivers and brooks will have less and less water, and they will start to dry up. This also happened to the brook where Elijah was drinking from. Every day as Elijah drank from the brook, he watched the brook become smaller and smaller, until one day, the brook was totally dried up—there was no water at all. Now Elijah had no water to drink. What would Elijah do? Did God care about him?

God Speaks to Elijah

God had not forgotten about Elijah. God loved Elijah; He promised to take care of him. After the brook dried up, God said to Elijah, "Get up and go to

the city of Zarephath. You can stay in that city. There is a woman living there who will give you food."

Elijah obeyed God. He listened to God and did what God told him to do. He left the brook and walked to the city of Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, he saw a woman picking up sticks. This woman was a widow. That means her husband had already died.

Elijah was thirsty because he had walked very far, so he asked the woman "Would you please bring me a little water so I may drink?"

The Widow Shares

At that time everyone had very little water because it had not rained for so long. Do you think the woman wanted to give Elijah some water? (Allow students to answer.) This woman was very kind; she was willing to share her water with Elijah. When she heard Elijah asking her for water, she quickly went to get some for him. As she was going to get the water, Elijah called out to her and said, "Can you also please bring me a small piece of bread?"

When the woman heard this, she stopped and turned around.

She looked at Elijah sadly and said to him, "I don't have any bread. I have just enough flour and cooking oil to bake a small loaf of bread for my son and for me. You see, I was picking up the sticks so that I could build a fire to make our last meal. After we eat it, we will have no more food, and we will wait to die."

Elijah could see that this woman was sad and afraid.

He said, "Don't be afraid. Go home and use your flour and oil to bake a small loaf of bread for me first, and bring it to me. Then you can make some for yourself and your son. God told me to tell you that you will always have enough flour and oil for cooking until God sends rain on the ground again. You will not run out of food!"

Doesn't this sound amazing? Remember at the beginning of the class, we could not pour out any more water from the jar because we had run out? We could not make more water appear. But Elijah was telling the woman that no matter how little she had left in the jars, the flour and oil would never run out. That is amazing. And something so

amazing can only come from God.

When the woman heard this, she became happy. She believed that God would take care of Elijah, her son and herself. She listened to Elijah and hurried home. She built a fire, mixed the flour and oil, and baked a loaf of bread for Elijah and took it to him.

God's Promise

After that, the woman went back home. She peeked into the jars where she had kept her flour and oil. What do you think she saw? (Allow students to use their imagination.) Amazingly, there was as much flour and oil as before! There was still enough flour and oil to cook for herself and for her son. Remember our jar (show students the water jar used at the start of the class)? We ran out of water after we used up all the water. But God made sure that the flour and oil in the woman's jars never ran out. There was always enough flour and oil to bake one more loaf of bread, just as God promised! So the three of them (Elijah, the woman, and her son) had enough food to eat for many days.

The woman didn't think she had enough flour



Check For Understanding

1. **What happened to the brook after it had not rained for a long time?** (The brook dried up and there was no more water.)
2. **What did God tell Elijah to do after the water dried up in the brook?** (God told Elijah to go to a city. There would be a woman there who would give him food.)
3. **What did the widow share with Elijah?** (She shared water and her last bit of food.)
4. **What happened to the flour and oil when the woman shared with Elijah?** (She never

and oil to make bread for Elijah and her family to eat. But after she heard Elijah's words, she believed God, went home, and did what Elijah told her to do. Although what Elijah asked her to do seemed hard because she might have nothing left to make more bread for herself and her son, she obeyed. This is called faith. She couldn't see it at first with her eyes, but she believed.

It is important for us to have faith and believe in God's promises. For example, when we see a caterpillar, we know that one day, it will turn into a butterfly. We can't see it right away, but we know it will happen because that is how God planned it. We also trust that the moon and stars will come out at night even though we can't see them during the day. We believe this because that is how God created the world. God also promised to give us the Holy Spirit and take us to heaven one day. Even though not all of us have the Holy Spirit, we can pray to God for the Holy Spirit. And even though we cannot see heaven, we trust what God tells us. We know there is a beautiful place waiting for us. Our God is a God who keeps His promises, and it is our job to trust Him.

ran out of flour and oil to make bread. There was always enough flour and oil each time she went to her jars.)

5. **The woman showed her love by sharing with Elijah. What can we share with our brothers and sisters or friends to show our love?** (Food, toys, coloring pens and pencils, books, etc.)
6. **Elijah and the woman in today's story both had faith in God. They believed God and His words. How do we show our faith today?** (We show our faith by praying to God, believing that He will give us His Holy Spirit, trusting in His promises, obeying His commands, etc.)



Life Application Story

The Plane Ride

Ding Dong!

Tommy ran towards the front door. He opened it and saw that it was his grandmother.

"Oh, it's you, Grandma," Tommy said.

"Well, you don't look so happy to see me," Grandma said.

"I am happy to see you. It's just that I was hop-

ing to see Dad. He is supposed to be home today from his trip," Tommy answered.

"Yes, that's why I came over. Your mom wanted me to stay at the house until she got back from the airport."

"Why does Mom have to go to the airport?" asked Tommy.

Mrs. Lewis walked to the front door just as Tommy asked the question.

"Well, Tommy, I was just listening to the news. It said that there was a big storm where Dad is taking off from. I called the airline, but they couldn't give me a lot of information. Since the airport is not far from our house, I am going to the airport just to make sure Dad is safe," explained Mrs. Lewis.

"Will he be okay?" asked Tommy.

"I think so. But in the meantime, I need you to wait for me at home with Grandma. You need to listen to her while I am gone. Julie should be home soon from her piano lesson next door. Will you be a big boy and let her know what is going on?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"I sure will," replied Tommy.

"Oh, I left the keys in the bedroom," said Mrs. Lewis, and she ran to get them.

"Grandma, is Dad really going to be okay?" asked Tommy again.

"I am sure that God will take care of him," Grandma said as she tried to comfort Tommy. "You know, if you still feel worried, we can kneel down now and pray for him."

"Okay," Tommy said.

Mrs. Lewis came back to the front door with her keys.

"Did I hear someone say he wanted to pray?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"Yeah. Grandma said God would help us and Dad," said Tommy.

"Grandma's right. Even though we don't know what is happening to Dad right now, we can trust that God will take care of him," Mrs. Lewis said.

The three of them knelt down and prayed to God. After a few minutes, they ended the prayer. As Mrs. Lewis got ready to open the front door and leave for the airport, they heard keys rattling from the outside.

"Maybe Julie's back," suggested Tommy.

"She doesn't bring keys next door," Mrs. Lewis said.

Before anyone else could say anything, the

door swung open and Mr. Lewis came in.

"Dad! What are you doing home? I thought you were stuck in a storm," Tommy yelled as he hugged his dad.

"Well, it's good to see you too," Mr. Lewis said as he put his suitcase down. He gave both Grandma and Mrs. Lewis kisses.

"I was just going to the airport to find out what was going on," said Mrs. Lewis as she took Mr. Lewis' coat.

"Well, I heard about the storm this morning so I tried to catch an earlier flight. At first, I thought it would be impossible because many people were trying to do the same thing. Miraculously, I got the last seat for that flight. I was going to call you but when I got to the airport, I was able to get on the plane right away, and I didn't have time to call. It was very rushed. When I landed, I realized my phone had no more batteries so I decided to come home first. Thank God I missed the storm and was able to get home," Mr. Lewis explained.

"Yes, thank God. Tommy was getting very worried about you. We were just praying for you before you stepped in," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Thank you for praying for me. I am sure God heard your prayer," said Mr. Lewis as he gave Tommy another hug.

"Yes, we need to remember that God takes care of all of us if we trust Him and believe in Him, even if we can't see everything right away," Grandma added.

"Just like God took care of Dad," Tommy said.

Questions to Think About

1. **What was the family praying about?** (They were praying to God to keep Mr. Lewis safe.)
2. **How did God keep Mr. Lewis safe?** (God helped him get home safely and miss the storm.)
3. **Sometimes, we worry when we don't know the answers or what will happen next. What can we do when we are worried about something?** (We can pray to God to help us feel better, talk to a grown-up who might have some answers, do something else to take our mind off the situation, etc.)
4. **What kinds of things around us tell us that God is faithful and always keeps His promises?** (Allow students to answer. Some possible

answers: seeds grow into flowers and plants, a rainbow comes out after the rain, a caterpillar

turns into a butterfly, our families take care of us, etc.)



Activity 1

Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread. How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture? (There should be ten loaves.)



Activity 2

How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God? Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. We can show our faith by praying to God and for the Holy Spirit.
2. We can show our faith by reading the Bible with our family.
3. We can show our faith by coming to church.
4. We can show our faith by obeying our parents.



Activity 3

God is Faithful

Materials:

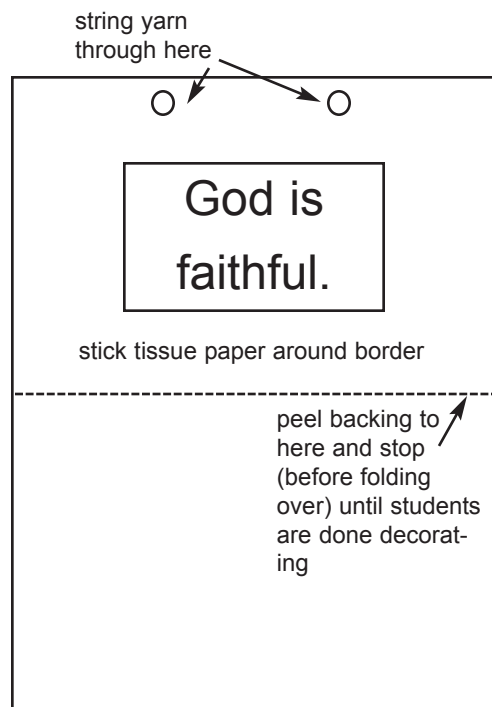
1. clear, self-adhesive paper (16x12 inch pieces)
2. assorted tissue paper
3. blank paper (4x6 inch pieces)
4. markers
5. hole punch
6. yarn
7. scissors

Directions:

1. Cut the clear, self-adhesive paper into 16x12 inch pieces. Provide one to each student.
2. Help the students tear the tissue paper into small and medium sized pieces.
3. Then help students write "God is faithful" on 4x6 inch pieces of blank white paper.
4. Starting at one corner, help the students peel off the backing to the self-adhesive paper

halfway so that only half of the sticky side is showing (8x12 inch).

5. Help the students position the 4x6 white paper (with the words "God is faithful" facing up) so that it will be in the center of the exposed sticky side. Stick the white paper onto the clear paper.
6. Encourage the students to stick various colors of the tissue paper on to the remaining exposed sticky side of their paper to create a border. They can be as creative as they can.
7. Help the students peel off the remaining backing and fold it over the tissue paper and white paper. It should become an 8x12 picture. Smooth out any air bubbles by sliding hand over the picture.
8. Punch two holes near the top of the picture and string a piece of yarn long enough to create a hanging. Tie the yarn off.
9. The students can hang this picture on a window since the tissue paper can create a sun-catcher effect. They can be reminded that God is always faithful, just as they heard in the story.



Activity 10:1

Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread.
How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture?



Activity 10:2

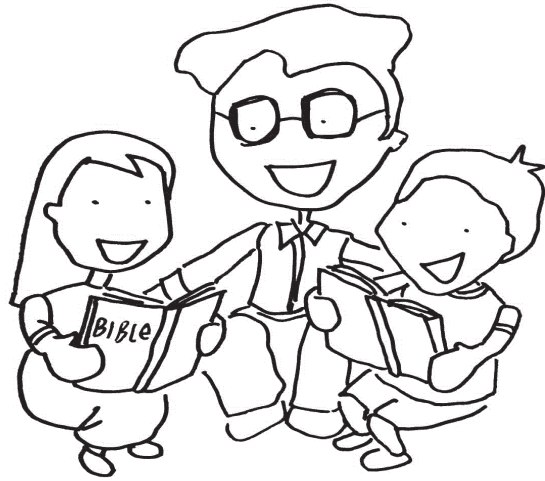
How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God?
Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. We can show our faith by praying to ___ and for the Holy Spirit.



2. We can show our faith by reading the _____ with our family.



3. We can show our faith by coming to _____.



WORD BANK
God
Bible
church
parents

4. We can show our faith by obeying our _____.

