

# God Gives Elijah Water and Food



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- butcher paper
- tape
- markers (or paint and paintbrushes)



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 17:1-7

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is the Creator

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize that God is the provider of all things; to identify things that God provides for us

### Memory Verse

"Remember now your Creator." (Eccl 12:1a)



## Bible Knowledge

### 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. Elijah performed a number of miracles during his ministry.

The first was his prophecy that there would be no rain until he said it would rain again (1 Kgs 17:1). The second was when he raised the widow's dead son in Zarephath (1 Kgs 17:17-24).

Next, Elijah performed one of the greatest miracles on Mount Carmel. He gathered four hundred and fifty of Baal's prophets as well as four hundred prophets of Asherah. Then he told them to call on their gods, and he would call on His God to see which would send fire from heaven. The false prophets were unable to light their offering after many hours of dancing around their altar. When it was Elijah's turn, he first poured water over the altar and then prayed to God to show everyone present who the real God was. God sent down a fire that consumed the wet wood with the offer-

ing, and the false prophets were then ordered to be killed.

After this miracle, Elijah prophesied that the drought would end. After he prayed once again to God, a small cloud appeared on the horizon, ending three rainless years.

Elijah also appeared with Moses during the transfiguration on the mount (Mt 7:4; Mk 9:5; Lk 9:33).

### The Northern and Southern Kingdoms

During the reign of David, he successfully united the north and south, and he established Jerusalem as the capital of the kingdom. However, after Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Israel first emerged as a separate power under the leadership of Jeroboam. There were nineteen kings who ruled during the country's two centuries of existence. One notable king was King Ahab whom Elijah constantly confronted.

The southern kingdom of Judah was led by Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. Judah was the more stable of the two countries, and was ruled by descendants of David (with the exception of Queen Athaliah). Eventually, both kingdoms fell to other stronger nations, as God had foretold.



## Understanding Your Students

In today's lesson, God provided everything that Elijah needed during the drought and resulting famine. There was no doubt in Elijah's mind who gave him the food and water. If it was not God, then who else could it be? For young children, they often don't see God as their provider. Rather, it is their parents who buy things for them, who go to work to earn money, and who take them out to have a good time. And they know their parents are willing to do all this for them because their parents love them. While this is true, we must also take opportunities to point out the amazing grace of God. He is the Creator of all things. If God did not plant the first seeds, we would not know what vegetables and fruits are. If there were no sunshine and rain, then crops would not grow. If He did not give us families, we would not have parents to look after us.

To help your students recognize God's love in everyday experiences, introduce conversations about

God while the students are involved in an activity. For example, we could say during snack time, "Jennifer, that orange smells good. God has made so much good food for us to eat. God loves us very much." If it happens to be a rainy or sunny day, we could talk about the weather and how God gives us what we need in order for plants, trees and even human beings to grow. We can also talk about the love and care our families demonstrate. But all these are only possible because of God's love for His people.

It is easier for a child to learn about God's love when it is a part of their everyday lives. They are living in a world that is created and planned out by God. They should not think that things around them are the way they are because they exist. God has provided everything for us to enjoy because He loves us. During the famine, things looked bleak. Where would Elijah or the widow get food from? But God said that as long as we trust in Him, He will give us all we need. We know that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust that He will do the same for us.



## Vocabulary

### **Prophet**

a messenger of God

### **Brook**

a small river

### **Raven**

a big, black, flying bird



## Before You Teach

The God who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in it, is a God of power, and a God of wisdom. And yet, our mighty God took the time to create each and every one of us. We have different fingerprints, and no two people really look exactly alike among the billions of people who are living in this world. That is amazing.

Yet, have you ever wondered how the all-powerful and all-knowing God could care about you-one person out of billions? Have you ever felt that God could not possibly be concerned about the trivial, seemingly inconsequential details of your daily life? If you have, you're not alone. David, meditating on God's majesty and glory, says in Psalms 8:3, "When I

consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?" David also wondered how God could care so much about him, when really he was nothing more than a speck of dust.

Yes, God is a God of power. And He is a God of wisdom. But He is also a God of love. His love is eternal. He loves us with an everlasting love because God is love (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:8), and nothing can separate us from this love; neither death nor life (Rom 8:38, 39).

When we consider this, we can only kneel before our God and worship Him. No one and nothing else is worthy of such reverence. We would want to do our best to love Him back and repay all that He has done for us. Let us meditate constantly on His love so we may not forget our Lord.



## Bible Story

### **Sunny Days and Rainy Days**

Good morning, class! How is everyone today? We thank God for giving us a beautiful sunny (or rainy or cloudy, depending on the weather) day. Do you like rainy days, or do you like sunny days? (Allow students to give their answers and ask them why.) Do you know what might happen if there are only sunny days? What would happen if it didn't rain for a long, long time? (Allow students to answer.) Without rain, the soft, green grass would become hard and brown. Flowers would wither and leaves would fall off trees. Then, if it still didn't rain, fruits like apples and oranges, and vegetables like beans, corn, and potatoes, would stop growing. The oceans and rivers would also begin to dry up. Then no food would grow, and all the people and animals would have no water to drink and no food to eat. That doesn't sound very nice, does it? Today we are going to hear a story about a place that had no rain for a long time. We are going to learn about a man called Elijah and how God took care of him when there was no rain.

### **No Rain**

Last week, we learned about King Solomon and how he built a beautiful temple for God. Solomon loved God very much and tried his best to be a good king. That is why when he first became the king, he asked God for wisdom. He wanted to know right from wrong and lead God's people according to His ways.

But after King Solomon died, not all the kings were good kings. Some of them did things that did not make God happy. One of those bad kings was called Ahab. He did not worship God. Instead, he worshiped idols. God was not happy. He wanted King Ahab to know that only God is the true God. So God told a man named Elijah to tell the king that there would be no rain for a long, long time. Elijah was a prophet of God. That means he was God's messenger. He told people what God wanted them to know. So when God told Elijah to go and find King Ahab, Elijah obeyed God. He went and told the king what God had said to him.

Elijah said, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will not be rain these years, except at my word."

That means that unless Elijah said so, there would be no more rain starting now. God did this because He wanted King Ahab to know that He was the true God who controlled everything. Unless God wanted it to rain, there would be no rain at all. When King Ahab heard this, he was not pleased. He did not like to hear that there would be no rain for a long, long time because that means that there would not be any food growing for a long time. What would he eat and drink?

### **Elijah Goes to a Brook**

Then God said to Elijah, "You must leave here. Go out into the country. I want you to stay there by a little brook called the Brook Cherith. There will be water in the brook for you to drink. I have already told some ravens to take food to you there."

God knew that if there was no rain, there would not be a lot of food for the people to eat. But Elijah did not need to worry. God had prepared everything for him. God wanted him to go to the brook so he would have water to drink. God also promised that ravens would bring him food. God loved Elijah, and He took good care of him. God loves us too, and He will always take care of us.

Elijah loved God, so he did just what God told him to do. He left and went to the country. Elijah knew that God was going to take care of him. He walked and walked until he arrived at the brook.

### **God Prepares Food for Elijah**

When Elijah arrived at the brook, there was still water in it. God had been right. Elijah would be able to drink water and not be thirsty. But what about the food? Elijah looked around and there was no food to be found. But Elijah knew that God loved him and would keep His promises. When he was waiting by the brook, he saw birds—big, black birds called ravens flying in the sky. As he looked on, he saw that the ravens were flying towards him. As they flew nearer and nearer, Elijah saw that each raven was carrying something. Elijah looked more closely. The ravens were carrying food; they were carrying bread and meat. The ravens flew in front of Elijah and put down the food, and then they flew away. Now Elijah not only had water to drink, he also had food to eat! God was very good to Elijah. He sent the ravens to bring

more bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening. Even though there was no rain for a long, long time in the land, God took care of Elijah. Elijah had everything he needed and he stayed by the brook for many, many days.

### God Controls and Provides Everything

Do you know who controls the weather? Who gives us the rain and the sunshine? It is God who gives us these things. God loves us and He gives us sunny days and rainy days, so that the grass, the flowers, and the trees have sunshine and water. Then they can grow, and we can have food to eat and water to drink. In today's story, there was no rain in the land. People did not have much food to eat. But God did not forget Elijah. He told him to go

to a brook where there was water to drink. He also sent ravens to bring him food, day and night. God can do anything because He is the almighty God. He can make it rain and make the rain stop. In today's lesson, God made it stop raining because He wanted to show King Ahab He was the true God. Only He, and not the idols King Ahab worshiped, could control all things in the world. We can trust that God will give us the things that we need every day. In fact, we know He takes care of us because every day we wake up after a good night's rest. We can breathe. We have wonderful food to eat and family members who love us. All these things tell us how much God cares about us and provides for us. We should thank God for everything.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What would happen if there was no rain for a long, long time?** (The grass would become brown, the flowers would wither, and there would be no food growing. The oceans and rivers would also dry up.)
2. **What did Elijah tell King Ahab?** (He told the king that there would be no rain again until he said so.)
3. **Why did God tell Elijah to talk to King Ahab?** (God wanted King Ahab to know that God is the true God. Only He could tell the rain to come or stop. He, not the idols that Ahab worshiped, controls everything in the world.)
4. **Where did God tell Elijah to go when there was no rain for a long time?** (God told

Elijah to go to the country by a brook and stay there.)

5. **How did God feed Elijah?** (God sent ravens to take bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening.)
6. **God loved Elijah and took good care of him. We know that God loves us too. How does God take care of us today?** (God gives us sunny days and rainy days, He gives us wonderful food to eat, He gives us parents who love us, etc.)
7. **God loves us and He will always take care of us. He gives us great families and He created so much wonderful food for us to eat. How should we thank Him?** (We can thank Him by praying to Him before our meals, by not wasting any food, by eating our vegetables, by obeying our parents, etc.)



### Life Application Story

#### Mom Is Sick

It was Monday morning and time for school. Susie was still sleeping when her oldest sister

Nicole came into her room.

"Wake up Susie. It's time for school!" Nicole gently nudged her sister.

"I'm still sleepy," Susie grumbled.

"You'll be late, come on! Get up!" Nicole said.

Susie finally opened her eyes and sat up on the

bed.

"Where is Mom?" Susie asked. "She's the one who wakes me up."

"Mom is not feeling well today. She is going to stay in bed and rest this morning."

Susie became fully awake now.

"What? Mom's not well? What happened?"

"I think she caught Ben's cold. Remember how he was coughing last week? Now Mom is coughing too."

Susie got out of bed and changed, but she kept thinking about her mother. Was she okay? "What if Mom got really sick?" Susie thought to herself. Susie brushed her teeth and washed her face. Then she went downstairs to have breakfast.

Dad was already in the kitchen. He was pouring milk and getting breakfast ready for everyone.

"Good morning, Susie! Hey, why the sad face?" Mr. Lim asked.

"Nicole said Mom is sick," Susie said as she sat down at the table.

"Mom's got a cold. She will be fine after getting some rest, though," Mr. Lim comforted Susie. "Eat your breakfast or you won't have energy for school."

"I don't want to eat, I want to see Mom!" Susie said. "I want to know that she is okay."

"Mom will be okay. She is sleeping now. She was coughing a lot last night and she did not get much sleep. She really needs her rest. How about you finish your breakfast, and we will all pray together before you go to school. We will pray to God to help Mom get better."

Susie nodded. When Susie finished her breakfast the whole family-Mr. Lim, Nicole, Lisa, Ben and Susie- all knelt down together to pray. Susie prayed to God to help her mom get better. Susie felt a bit better after the prayer because she knew that God loved her and her mother. He would listen to her prayer and He would take care of her mom.

As the children got ready to leave the house, Susie saw Mrs. Lim coming downstairs.

"Mom!" Susie cried out. She ran to give Mrs. Lim a big hug. "Are you okay? We were praying for you! Do you feel better now?"

Mrs. Lim smiled at Susie and the rest of the family.

"Sorry to make you all worried about me. I am

feeling better now so thank you all for praying for me. I am sure God has listened to your prayers, and He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said.

Then Mrs. Lim looked down at Susie. "I heard you yelling a bit from upstairs. What was that all about?" asked Mrs. Lim.

"I wanted to see you, but everyone told me not to bother you and just let you sleep," replied Susie.

"Well, I am glad you listened," Mrs. Lim.

"So that's why we prayed instead," added Susie.

"Thank you for praying for me. I love you very much. And more importantly, God loves us all very much. He always takes care of us, even when we are worried," said Mrs. Lim.

"Mom's right. It's so good that we have Jesus to take away our worries," Mr. Lim said.

"Okay now, off you go to school. I will see you in the afternoon," said Mrs. Lim as the children headed out the door.

Susie turned back as she stepped outside.

"I am going to pray for you again at recess and at lunch, okay Mom? Then God will definitely make you better," Susie said with a big smile.

"I am sure He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said as they waved good-bye.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Susie so worried?** (Susie was worried because her mom was sick)
2. **What did Mr. Lim suggest when they were worried?** (He suggested everyone pray to God together.)
3. **What can we do if we are worried?** (We can pray to God to help us, we can ask our parents and our brothers and sisters to pray with us, we can tell someone about our worries, etc.)



## Activity 1

### **Elijah Is Fed by God**

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

1. Elijah is fed by ravens. (Yes)
2. It rained. (No)
3. Elijah goes to the brook. (Yes)
4. Elijah goes to the supermarket to get food. (No)



## Activity 2

### **Creation Mural**

#### Materials:

1. butcher paper
2. tape
3. markers (or paint and paintbrushes)

#### Directions:

1. Roll out a long piece of butcher paper on the table. There should be enough room for all the students to stand around the table and have access to the paper.
2. Tape the ends of the paper to the table so the paper does not shift as the students are working.
3. Before the students draw, brainstorm the kinds of things God created and controls in this world. Write or draw them on the board.
4. Then have each student decide on several things they want to draw. Be sure certain items don't overlap (e.g. only one sun is needed).
5. Provide them with markers (or paint) and encourage the students to draw a mural of God's wonderful creations.
6. Hang the mural up in class for everyone to enjoy.

Activity 9:1

### Elijah Is Fed by God

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>
 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>