

# God Takes Care of Elijah



**Scripture Reference:** [1 Kings 17](#)

**Suggested Theme:** God is caring and has what we need. God will provide for our needs.

**Memory Verse:** “The thing you should seek is God’s kingdom. Then all the other things you need will be given to you.” [Luke 12:31, ICB](#)

## Story Overview:

God sent the prophet Elijah to tell King Ahab (7th king of Israel) that a terrible drought would come upon Israel because of his disobedience. Ahab’s evil wife, Jezebel, was so angry that she started having prophets of the Lord hunted down and killed. The Lord sent Elijah into hiding by a brook of water. The Lord kept Elijah safe. Twice each day, the Lord had bread and meat delivered to Elijah by unusual means – ravens. When the brook dried up, the Lord sent Elijah to the home of a poor widow. When Elijah stayed at the widow’s home, she miraculously had enough flour and oil to make bread. She never ran out. When the widow’s son died, Elijah raised him from the dead. The Lord took care of Elijah.

## Background Study:

Many years have passed since the nation of God divided into two separate kingdoms—Israel and Judah. Over the years, Judah was ruled by both good and bad kings. Israel, on the other hand, only ever had bad kings.

Israel’s religious decline continued throughout its history. During these times, prophets of God were abundant. They travelled among the people of Israel and Judah, declaring the word of the Lord. They prophesied of the rise and fall of kings in both kingdoms. Preaching the plain truth of God could be very dangerous. Disobedient kings did not want to hear about God’s judgement of them, and the prophets were often in mortal danger.

[Background information on the Divided Kingdom.](#)

At the time of this week’s story, Ahab was the king of Israel. He worshipped false gods and married an evil foreigner named Jezebel. He even built altars and places of worship for Baal and other gods. Jezebel tried to kill off the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4).

The prophet, Elijah, was from a small town in Gilead on the eastern side of the Jordan River. God sent Elijah to King Ahab to warn him that Israel was going to experience a terrible drought. This would happen because Ahab and Jezebel did not obey God. Israel is a hot, dry country during the summer months. The people rely on the winter and spring rains to get them through these dry months. They could not raise crops if no rain

came for even one year. Not even grass would grow in the open fields for the cattle to eat. In this case, the drought went on for three and a half years. The rivers would be nothing but dry earth. People, crops, and cattle would die from lack of food and water. A drought in this area of the world would bring massive famine to the people.



The drought came just as Elijah had prophesied. God knew that Ahab would try to blame everything on Elijah, so He sent Elijah to a safe place. The brook of Kerith is believed to be located within the territory of Gilead on the eastern side of the Jordan River. Here, Elijah had plenty of water. He probably lived in a cave near the brook. Since it was best that no one knew where Elijah was, God even provided the food for him to eat. Ravens brought food twice a day for Elijah. The Lord protected Elijah from both the famine and Ahab's anger.

When the brook dried up, the Lord sent Elijah to a widow's home in Zarephath of Sidon (right in the middle of the area where Jezebel was from!) The widow and her son had been affected by the severe drought. They had just enough flour and oil to make one last loaf of bread. The woman agreed to hide Elijah, and because of the Lord's power, the flour and oil supply never ran out. The woman was happy that Elijah was there because her son became ill and died, and Elijah raised him from the dead.

### **Way to Introduce the Story:**

Before the session, hide a picture of Elijah somewhere in the room. Tell the children that you have hidden a picture of a man named Elijah and that they must try to find him. The children may want to take turns hiding him, too! After that, tell the children that you will be learning about a time when God hid Elijah. He hid him in the best place where no one could find him.

### **The Story:**

All of God's people used to be one country, with kings like Saul, David, and Solomon. Now, they are divided into two countries: Israel and Judah.

Ahab was the king of Israel, and he did not obey God. He married a very bad woman named Jezebel. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel made idols of false gods and then worshipped them. They wanted everyone in the country to worship the idols.

A man in Israel did not like the things that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel did. He did not worship idols. This man's name was Elijah, who worshipped only the one true God.

Elijah was a prophet of God. A prophet is someone who has a special message from God. God told Elijah things, and Elijah would then tell the people. Sometimes, people liked what Elijah said and thanked him for bringing the good messages from God. Sometimes, the people did not like the message. Some people did

not want to be told they were wrong.

God had a special message for Elijah. He told Elijah to take the message to the King and Queen. God told Elijah to tell them that He was very angry with them because they worshipped idols. Because they kept doing these things, the Lord would send a terrible drought. That would mean that there would be no rain for a long time.

Things happened just like Elijah prophesied. The rain stopped, and everything became very dry. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel became very angry. They wanted to kill Elijah, the prophet.

But God took care of Elijah. He made sure no one would find him. He told Elijah to go to a special place and to stay there. Even though the rest of the country was dry from the drought, Elijah was safe and always had enough water from a brook. The Lord also made sure Elijah had plenty to eat. Every morning and every evening, ravens would fly in and bring Elijah bread and meat to eat.

After a while, the brook dried up, and God told Elijah to go to Zarephath. When Elijah travelled, he must have noticed how dry everything was. Elijah wondered what he would find in Zarephath.

When Elijah got to the city, he found a woman and her son collecting sticks. He asked the woman for a drink of water, and she said she would get some. Then Elijah asked the woman if she would bring him a little bread. The woman was very sad. She was very poor. She said she only had enough oil and flour to make one last meal for herself and her son. After that, they would not have anything to eat, and they would die.

Elijah told the woman not to worry. She should go ahead and make some bread for Elijah. God would make sure that she still had enough for herself and her son.

Elijah had a special message from the Lord, "As long as the drought lasts, you will always have enough oil and flour to make bread for me and for your family."

The woman rushed away and made the bread for Elijah. Then, she made some for her son and herself. She had enough flour and oil to make some for her whole family. Then, she had enough to make more bread the next day. The woman had enough oil and flour as long as the drought lasted.

As time went by, the woman's son became sick and died. She brought the boy to Elijah and asked him to help her.

Elijah carried the boy upstairs to the room where he was staying. He prayed to the Lord to help the boy. Another miracle happened. The Lord made the little boy alive again! Elijah carried him back to his mother and told her how the Lord raised him from the dead.

The woman was very happy! "Now I know that you are a true prophet of God. I know that the Lord is the only true God!"

Elijah continued to stay at the woman's house for a long time. Even though other people were hungry and the land was dry, God made sure that His prophet, Elijah, was safe. God took care of Elijah.

## **Ways to Tell the Story:**

This story can be told using a variety of methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection or other group participation.

[Click here for visual aids and story-telling methods.](#)

[Click here to download these illustrations and slideshow "Ravens Feed Elijah."](#)

[Click here to download these illustrations and slideshow "Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath."](#)

Be selective. Each teacher is unique, so only use the illustrations that best relate to how YOU tell the story in THIS lesson. Too many illustrations can be confusing, so eliminate any that cover other stories or details you do not wish to emphasise in this lesson.

### **Review and Reflection Questions:**

Review questions help children remember and know the facts of a story, while reflection questions encourage them to internalize its meaning and implications for their lives. Asking at least one of each type of question can help strengthen a child's spiritual development and help them connect to God. [Click here to learn more about review and reflection questions.](#)

#### **Review:**

1. Who were the wicked king and queen of Israel? (Ahab and Jezebel)
2. What did Ahab and Jezebel do that was wrong? (They did not worship God, and they built altars to worship false gods)
3. What is a prophet? (Someone who has a special message from God)
4. Who was the prophet of God who said there would be no rain in Israel? (Elijah)
5. Why did the Lord have to help Elijah hide? (Queen Jezebel was looking for and then killing prophets of God like Elijah)
6. When the Lord hid Elijah, how did He send him food? (By ravens)
7. When Elijah stayed with the widow, what happened to her oil and flour? (They never ran out)
8. When the widow's son died, what did God give Elijah the power to do? (He gave Elijah the power to bring the widow's son back to life)
9. What did this story show you about God?

#### **Reflection:**

1. What question do you have for God about this story?
2. What do you think the land of Israel looked like during the drought?
3. Do you think Elijah was scared when he had to hide from Queen Jezebel and those trying to kill him? Why or why not?
4. What do you think the food Elijah ate from the ravens tasted or looked like?
5. How do you think the widow felt when Elijah told her she would always have enough flour and oil to make bread?
6. The widow's son died, but Elijah brought him back to life. What do you think it felt like to be brought back to life?
7. What other times has God provided for other people's needs (like food, water, clothing, shelter) in the Bible?
8. When has God provided the things you or your family needed?
9. Who do you know or know of that is in need? How could you help them? (Suggestion: Pray together for the people the children bring up)

#### **Prayer:**

It is important to guide children in learning how to pray. In prayer, children can connect with God and learn that He hears and answers them. God can become a life-long friend who is with them every moment of their

lives. Try using a variety of prayer methods from time to time so that the children can learn to connect with God in different ways. Note that you can pray at any time throughout your lesson. [A variety of prayer methods are found here.](#)

## Song Suggestions:

- [He's Got the Whole World in His Hands Song](#)
- [My God is So Big Song](#)
- [Give Me Oil in My Lamp Song](#)
- Refer to the [Song Page](#) on this website for more options.

## Activities and Crafts:

[\(How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation\)](#)

### Activities:

- Younger children could go on a walk to collect bird feathers
- Look up and sing songs from the church songbook concerning God's care.
- Children can take turns being Elijah and hiding from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.
- Have a race. The children must play like they are ravens and pick up "food" (small objects like clothes pegs) with their mouths and carry them to "Elijah" (their team captain) – no hands allowed!
- Make bread from oil and flour.



Invite the children to respond to this story using the adaptable "God's Story" printable reflection page. [Free printables for this story.](#)

### Crafts:

- Make a Collage. Let children find pictures in old magazines of things God gives us (food, clothing, houses, toys, family, etc.) Have them cut these and glue them to a poster titled "God Takes Care of Us."



Print bookmarks, trading cards or timelines ([printable pages](#)).

- Visit the [Teaching Ideas](#) page for additional activities and crafts.

## Other Online Resources:

- [Colouring page with text \(Ministry Spark\)](#)
- [Craft: Handprint raven. \(DLTK\)](#)
- [Craft: Paper bag raven. \(DLTK\)](#)
- [Craft: Adapt this chenille wire crow craft to make a raven \(Craft ideas\)](#)

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### **Date**

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