Preschool–Grade 5

The Elijah and the Ravens Craft

A raven puppet at the brook · 1 Kings 17:1–16 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



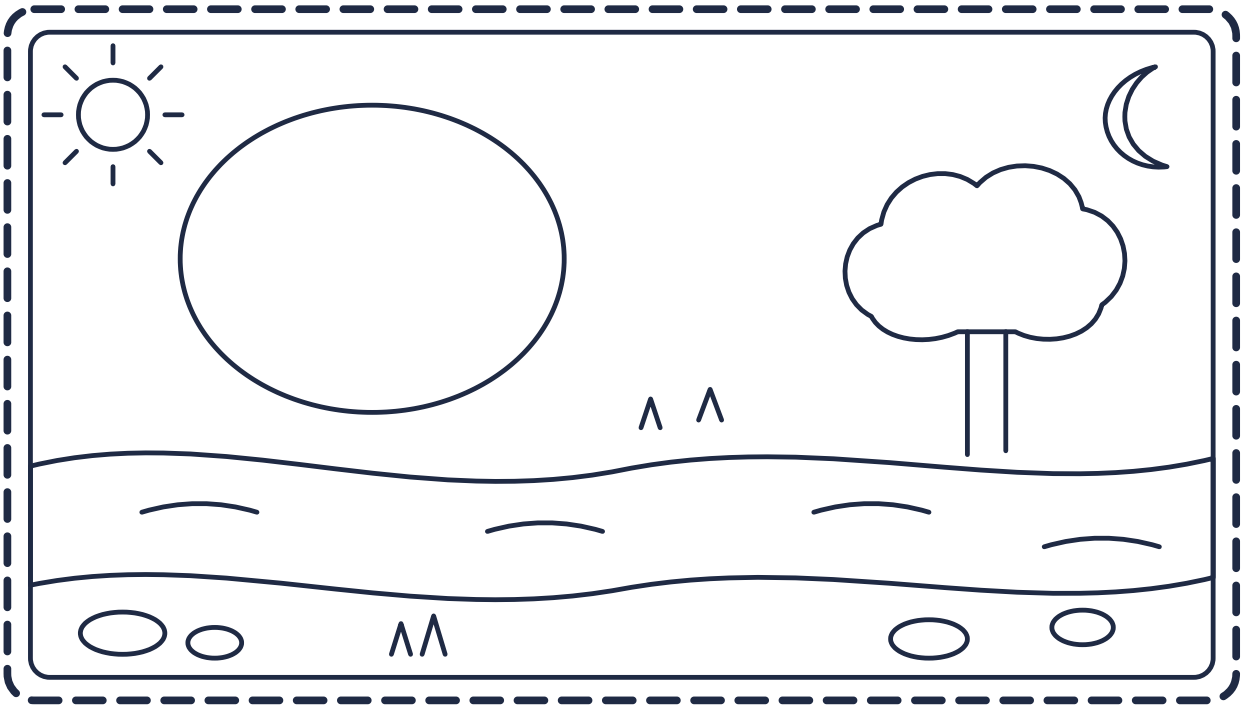
Harder

Medium (left): the brook card, with a blue brook across the bottom, gray stones, green grass and a green tree with a brown trunk, a yellow sun in one top corner and a moon in the other, and a child's drawing of Elijah sitting by the brook in the oval window. The black raven puppet on its craft stick flies down to Elijah with the tan bread and the brown meat under its beak. Harder (right): the brook card and the widow's house card, with its brown barrel of meal and orange cruse of oil and a child's drawing of the widow and her son, glued on light blue paper, with the raven puppet flying over the brook card.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



The brook Cherith (1 Kings 17:3)

brook: blue · tree and grass: green · trunk: brown · stones: gray · sun: yellow
In the oval window, draw Elijah sitting by the brook.
The sun is the morning and the moon is the evening (1 Kings 17:6).



Raven

Color it black. Leave the eye white.
Tape a craft stick on the back.



Bread and flesh

(1 Kings 17:6)
bread: tan
meat: brown
Glue it under
the raven's beak.

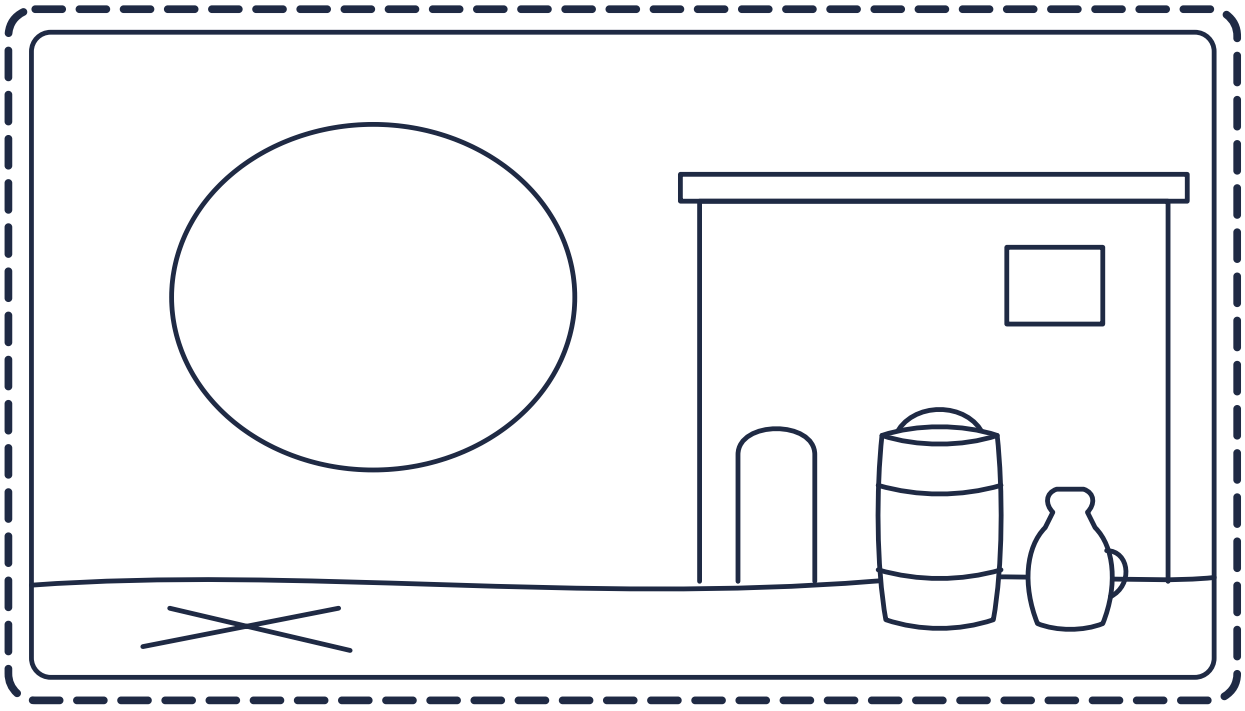
But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 (KJV)

Verse strip

Glue it on the back of the brook card.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level



The widow's house at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:9–16)

house: tan · door: brown · barrel of meal: brown, meal on top white · cruse of oil: orange
ground: light brown · the two sticks: black (1 Kings 17:12)
In the oval window, draw the widow (long hair, a long dress) and her son.

How to add the widow's house

1. Make the medium craft from page 2, but glue the verse strip on the back of the light blue paper instead of the brook card.
2. Color the widow's house card: the house tan, the door brown, the barrel brown with the meal on top left white, the cruse orange, the ground light brown and the two sticks black.
3. In the oval window, draw the widow and her son. Give the widow long hair and a long dress.
4. Cut out the card on the dashed lines. Glue the brook card on the top half of the light blue paper (the tall way) and the widow's house card on the bottom half.
5. Tell the whole story: fly the raven to Elijah, then point to the barrel and the cruse that did not run out (1 Kings 17:16). Say the memory verse from memory.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/elijah-and-the-ravens-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one craft stick per child, blue, green, gray, yellow, black, tan and brown crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks and clear tape. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, orange and light brown crayons, and one sheet of light blue construction paper (9 by 12 inches) per child. Kids use any colors for the drawings in the windows.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's pieces, glue the bread and flesh under the raven's beak and tape a craft stick on the back. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and make the raven puppet. Kids color the brook card and the raven and draw Elijah in the window. You glue the verse strip on the back. Say, "In the morning!" and the kids fly the raven to Elijah; say, "In the evening!" and they fly it again.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw Elijah, cut out the pieces, glue the bread and flesh under the beak, tape on the craft stick and glue the verse strip on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the widow's house from page 3. Kids color the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil, draw the widow and her son, glue both cards on light blue paper, and retell 1 Kings 17:1–16. They say Philippians 4:19 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people drawn: the template draws no people. Kids draw Elijah (and the widow and her son in the harder level) themselves in the oval windows. If kids ask how, suggest Elijah as a man in a robe sitting by the water, and the widow with long hair and a long dress, with her son beside her.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the brook blue, the tree and the grass green, the trunk brown, the stones gray and the sun yellow. Color the raven black and leave its eye white. Color the bread tan and the meat brown.
2. **Draw:** in the oval window on the brook card, draw Elijah sitting by the brook.
3. **Cut:** cut out the brook card, the raven, the bread and flesh piece and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Glue:** glue the bread and flesh piece under the raven's beak.
5. **Stick:** turn the raven over and tape a craft stick on its back, with most of the stick hanging below.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the brook card and read it together.
7. **Tell the story:** point to the sun and fly the raven to Elijah in the morning. Point to the moon and fly it again in the evening (1 Kings 17:6).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the brook. What was its name? *(Cherith, 1 Kings 17:3)* What did Elijah drink? *(Water from the brook, 17:6)*
- Fly the raven. Who sent the ravens? *(God: "I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there," 17:4)*
- What did the ravens bring, and when? *(Bread and flesh, in the morning and in the evening, 17:6)*
- Why did Elijah have to leave the brook? *(It dried up, because there had been no rain in the land, 17:7)*
- Harder level: what did the widow have in her barrel and her cruse? *(A handful of meal and a little oil, 17:12)* Did they run out? *(No, 17:16)*
- Turn the card over. Read Philippians 4:19 together.

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** brook = small stream; flesh = meat; sustain = feed and take care of; meal = flour; cruse = small jar; waste = get used up; fail = run out; supply = give.
- **What the Bible says:** "the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook" (1 Kings 17:6). The Bible doesn't say what the brook looked like, what kind of bread or meat it was, or what color anything was, so the tree, the stones, the sun and moon and the colors are ours. They help kids remember "morning" and "evening."
- **Preschool:** do all the cutting and make the raven puppets ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **If the raven flops over:** tape the craft stick all the way up to the raven's head, or use two pieces of tape.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Elijah and the ravens Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/elijah-and-the-ravens.

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