Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and the Ravens

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God provides. When we obey God and trust Him, He gives us what we need, sometimes in ways we would never expect.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 17. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:19 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Make two signs, "NEED" and "WANT," and tape them on opposite walls.

1. Opening game: Need or Want? (5–10 minutes)

Call out things one at a time. Kids run to the NEED wall or the WANT wall: water, a video game, food, new sneakers, a coat in winter, candy, a family that loves you, a bigger bedroom, sleep. Some are tricky, so let kids explain their choice. Ask: *What is the difference between a need and a want?* Say: "Philippians 4:19 says God shall supply all your **need**. Today we'll see God give a man everything he needed, through birds and through a poor widow."

2. Bible story: Fed by Ravens (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 1 Kings 17. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

No rain. Ahab was king over Israel, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD (1 Kings 16:29–30). **Look up 1 Kings 17:1.** Elijah the **Tishbite** (from the town of Tishbe) told Ahab there would be no **dew** (the morning drops on the grass) and no rain "these years, but according to my word." **Before whom I stand** means "whom I serve."

By the brook. Look up 1 Kings 17:4. God told Elijah to **get thee hence** (go from here), hide by the **brook** (small stream) Cherith, drink from it, and let the ravens feed him (17:3–4). **Look up 1 Kings 17:6. Flesh** means meat. Ravens brought Elijah bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the brook. After a while the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land (17:7).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

A widow with almost nothing. Look up 1 Kings 17:9. God sent Elijah to Zarephath, a town that **belongeth to Zidon** (outside Israel). God had commanded a widow there to **sustain** him (feed and care for him). At the gate of the city the widow was gathering sticks. Elijah asked for a little water in a **vessel** (a cup or jar) and a **morsel** (small piece) of bread (17:10–11). **Look up 1 Kings 17:12.** She had no **cake** (small flat loaf), only a handful of **meal** (flour) in a **barrel** (a big jar) and a little oil in a **cruse** (small jar). She planned to **dress it** (cook it) for herself and her son, and she thought it would be their last meal.

"Fear not." Elijah told her to make him a little cake first, then make some for herself and her son (17:13). **Look up 1 Kings 17:14.** God's promise: the meal would not **waste** (get used up) and the oil would not **fail** (run out) until the LORD sent rain. She did what Elijah said, and she, Elijah and her house ate many days (17:15). **Look up 1 Kings 17:16.** God kept His word.

The widow's son. Later her son fell sick, so **sore** (so badly) that there was no breath left in him (17:17). The widow asked Elijah if he had come to call her sin to **remembrance** (bring it to mind) (17:18). Elijah carried the boy up into a **loft** (upstairs room) where he **abode** (stayed), laid him on his own bed, and cried unto the LORD (17:19–20). He stretched himself upon the child three times and prayed, "Let this child's soul come into him again" (17:21). **Look up 1 Kings 17:22. Revived** means came back to life. Elijah gave the boy to his mother: "See, thy son liveth" (17:23). **Look up 1 Kings 17:24.** Now the woman knew the word of the LORD in Elijah's mouth was truth.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. God fed Elijah with ravens (17:4–6). Why do you think God chose such a surprising way?
2. Elijah "went and did according unto the word of the LORD" (17:5). What did Elijah have to trust before he saw any ravens?
3. The brook dried up (17:7). How do you think Elijah felt? What did God already have ready?
4. The widow gave Elijah the first cake from her last meal and oil (17:13–15). What did that take?
5. What are some ways God gives you what you need?

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Recall questions

1. What was the name of the brook where Elijah hid? *(Cherith, 1 Kings 17:3)*
2. When did the ravens bring Elijah bread and flesh? *(In the morning and in the evening, 17:6)*
3. What did the woman say when her son was alive again? *("Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth," 17:24)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the words: **supply** means "give," **all your need** means "everything you need," and **according to his riches in glory** means God gives from everything He has, and He owns everything. Read the verse on the board together. Erase one word and read it again. Keep erasing one word at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God fed Elijah by the brook and in the widow's house. The same God takes care of us. Our greatest need is to be saved from sin. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: write down three things God gave you this week that you needed. Thank Him for each one.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 1 Kings 17:1: Where was Elijah from? *(He was the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead)*
2. 1 Kings 17:3: Which river was the brook Cherith before? *(Jordan)*
3. 1 Kings 17:6: What did Elijah drink? *(Water from the brook)*
4. 1 Kings 17:10: What was the widow doing at the gate of the city? *(Gathering sticks)*
5. 1 Kings 17:12: How many sticks was she gathering? *(Two)*
6. 1 Kings 17:13: What were Elijah's first two words to her? *("Fear not")*
7. 1 Kings 17:19: Where did Elijah carry the boy? *(Up into a loft, where he stayed, and laid him on his own bed)*
8. 1 Kings 17:23: What did Elijah say to the mother? *("See, thy son liveth")*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need, even in ways we don't expect. Help us obey You like Elijah, and trust You like the widow did. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks how long there was no rain: the Bible says "these years" (1 Kings 17:1). The LORD sent rain "in the third year" (18:1).
For the teacher: the Bible gives the widow's words (17:18) and Elijah's prayer (17:20), but it does not explain why the boy got sick. Keep the focus where the story ends: the LORD heard Elijah's voice, the boy lived, and the widow knew the word of the LORD was truth (17:22–24).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post