Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and the Ravens

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God takes care of me. God gives me what I need.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 17. Read 1 Kings 17 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "my God shall supply all your need" *Philippians 4:19 (KJV)*. **Supply** means "give."
You need: a Bible, a brown paper circle ("bread") for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 17.

1. Opening game: Fly Like a Raven (5 minutes)

Give each child a paper bread. The kids are birds. They flap their arms and "fly" around the room. When you call, "Bring the bread!", they fly to you and hand you their bread. Give the bread back and play again. Say: "Good job, birds! Today we will hear a true story about birds that brought bread to a man named Elijah."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 17. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Elijah told the king: no rain! (1 Kings 17:1). *(Shake your head.)*
God said, "Go to the brook" (17:3). *(Walk in place.)*
Elijah drank water from the brook (17:6). *(Pretend to drink from your hands.)*
Big black birds, ravens, came flying (17:6). *(Flap your arms.)*
They brought bread and meat in the morning (17:6). *(Stretch and yawn.)*
They came again in the evening (17:6). *(Head on your hands.)*
Say it with me: "God takes care of me!"
The brook dried up (17:7). *(Wipe your hands together: all gone.)*
God sent Elijah to a woman and her son (17:9). *(Walk in place.)*
She had just a little flour and a little oil (17:12). *(Show a tiny pinch.)*
God said, "It will not run out!" (17:14). *(Shake your head.)*
They ate and ate for many days (17:15). *(Pretend to eat.)*
Later the boy got very sick. Elijah prayed (17:17–21). *(Fold your hands.)*
God made the boy live again (17:22)! *(Jump up.)*
Say it with me: "God takes care of me!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What birds brought Elijah food? *(Ravens, 1 Kings 17:6)*
2. What did the ravens bring? *(Bread and meat, 17:6)*
3. Did the woman's flour and oil run out? *(No! 17:16)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says, 'my God shall supply all your need.' That means, 'God gives me what I need.'" Teach the motion: hold out both hands like you are getting a gift on "supply." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Philippians 4:19" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: The Ravens Bring Bread (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a blue brook and a black bird flying with a piece of bread, like the ravens that brought Elijah bread and meat (1 Kings 17:6). While they color, ask: "Who brought Elijah food? Who sent the birds?" *(God did, 17:4.)*

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, thank You for my food.
Thank You for taking care of me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and do every motion with them. If they get wiggly, play "Fly Like a Raven" again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Told gently on purpose: this lesson says only that the boy got very sick, Elijah prayed, and God made him live again (1 Kings 17:17–22). Read the whole chapter yourself before class. If a child asks, say: "The boy stopped breathing, but God heard Elijah, and the boy came back to life. Elijah gave him back to his mother" (17:22–23).

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