Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and the Ravens

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: God provides for those who trust and obey Him, one day at a time. Put God first, and He takes care of the rest.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 17. Students read 1 Kings 17:1–16 and 17:22–24 out loud themselves.
Memory verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:19 (KJV)* and "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." *Matthew 6:33 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read 1 Kings 16:29–17:24 and Matthew 6:25–34. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

1. Opening game: Trust Walk (5–10 minutes)

Students pair up. One partner closes their eyes (or wears a blindfold); the other guides them across the room around chairs using only their voice, no touching. Switch. Ask: *Was it hard to walk when you couldn't see where you were going? What made you trust your partner?* Say: "Today we'll read about a man who obeyed God before he could see how God would feed him."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Tell the beginning: Ahab became king over Israel and did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him (1 Kings 16:29–30).
Read out loud: 1 Kings 17:1–7. Old words in this passage:

- **Tishbite** (17:1): from Tishbe; **before whom I stand** (17:1): whom I serve; **dew** (17:1): morning drops of water
- **get thee hence** (17:3): go from here; **brook** (17:3): small stream; **before Jordan** (17:3): near the Jordan
- **flesh** (17:6): meat

Read out loud: 1 Kings 17:8–16. Old words in this passage:

- **belongeth to Zidon** (17:9): in the land of Zidon, outside Israel; **sustain** (17:9): feed and care for
- **vessel** (17:10): a cup or jar; **morsel** (17:11): small piece; **cake** (17:12): small flat loaf
- **meal** (17:12): flour; **cruse** (17:12): small jar; **dress it** (17:12): cook it
- **waste** (17:14): get used up; **fail** (17:14): run out

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Tell in your own words: later the widow's son fell sick, so **sore** (so badly) that there was no breath left in him (17:17). She asked Elijah if he had come to call her sin to **remembrance** (bring it to mind) (17:18). Elijah carried the boy up into the **loft** (upstairs room) where he stayed, laid him on his own bed, and cried unto the LORD for the widow he **sojourned** (stayed as a guest) with (17:19–20). He stretched himself upon the child three times and prayed for the child's soul to come into him again (17:21).
Read out loud: 1 Kings 17:22–24. Old words: **revived** (17:22): came back to life; **liveth** (17:23): is alive.

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Elijah obeyed and went to the brook before he ever saw a raven (17:5). Why is obeying first so hard?
2. The ravens came "in the morning... and in the evening" (17:6). Why do you think God provided one day at a time instead of all at once?
3. Then the brook dried up (17:7). Does a "dried-up brook" mean God has stopped caring? What did God do next?
4. Elijah asked the widow to make his cake first (17:13). How does that connect to Matthew 6:33?
5. Zarephath belonged to Zidon, outside Israel (17:9). What does it show that God sent His prophet to a poor widow there?
6. The widow said, "Now by this I know... that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth" (17:24). How has God shown you that His word is true?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: in Philippians 4:19, **supply** means "give" and **according to his riches in glory** means God gives from everything He has. In Matthew 6:33, **seek ye first** means "look for and put first," and **added unto you** means "given to you too."
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Philippians 4:19 this week; keep working on Matthew 6:33 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "God met every need Elijah and the widow had. Our biggest need is not food. It is to be made right with God. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5). Seek ye first the kingdom of God."
Pray with the students, 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: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is something I worry about not having? Write Philippians 4:19 next to it.
2. Write about a time God gave me or my family what we needed. Was it in a way I expected?
3. What is one way I can put God first this week, like the widow made Elijah's cake first?
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: each night, write down one thing God provided that day, like the ravens in the morning and the evening.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You fed Elijah by the brook and kept the widow's barrel full. Teach us to obey You before we see how things will work out. Help us seek You first and trust You for everything we need. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Reading out loud: the read-aloud parts skip 1 Kings 17:17–21 on purpose. Those verses are told in your own words above, so the class hears about the widow's son gently.
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. If a student asks, answer honestly and gently: we don't always know why hard things happen, but the LORD heard Elijah's voice (17:22), and the widow learned that the word of the LORD is truth (17:24).

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