Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and the Ravens

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God provides. He takes care of His people and gives them what they need.
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, a paper "bread" (a brown paper circle) or a small bag with a roll in it, a brown paper circle for each child, a strip of blue paper or tape, 7 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 7 paper strips (see part 4). Put the blue strip on the floor for "the brook." Put bookmarks in your Bible at 1 Kings 17:6, 1 Kings 17:16 and Philippians 4:19.

1. Opening game: Pass the Bread (5 minutes)

The kids sit in a circle. Hand one child the paper bread. Clap your hands while the kids pass it around the circle. When you stop clapping, the child holding the bread names one thing God gives us (food, water, a home, a family, clothes). Play until every child has had a turn. Say: "God gives us everything we need. Today we will hear a true story about a man who got his food from some very surprising helpers."

2. Bible story: God Feeds Elijah (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 17, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Elijah was a **prophet**, a man who spoke God's words. **Ahab** was the king of Israel (1 Kings 16:29). Elijah told Ahab, "There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (17:1). **Dew** is the little drops of water you see on the grass in the morning. That means no rain would fall, and not even dew, until God said so through Elijah.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah. God told him to go and hide by the **brook Cherith**, a little stream of water. God said, "Thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the **ravens** to feed thee there" (17:3–4). Ravens are big black birds. Elijah obeyed. He went and lived by the brook, just as God said (17:5).

Read 1 Kings 17:6 from your Bible: "And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook." Say: "**Flesh** means meat. In the morning, the birds came with bread and meat. In the evening, they came again! God fed Elijah."

After a while, the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land (17:7). But God had a plan. He told Elijah to go to a town called **Zarephath**. God said, "I have commanded a **widow** woman there to **sustain** thee" (17:9). A widow is a woman whose husband has died. Sustain means to feed and take care of.

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

The story continues: Elijah went to Zarephath. At the gate of the city, he saw the widow gathering sticks. He asked her for a little water, and then for a **morsel**, a small piece, of bread (17:10–11). She said she had no bread. She had only a handful of **meal** (flour) in a **barrel** and a little oil in a **cruse** (a small jar). She was gathering sticks to cook it for herself and her son. She thought it was the last food they would have (17:12).

Elijah said, **"Fear not."** He told her to make him a little cake first, and then make some for herself and her son (17:13). And God made a promise: the barrel of meal would not run out, and the cruse of oil would not run dry, until the day the LORD sent rain (17:14). The widow did what Elijah said. **Read 1 Kings 17:16 from your Bible:** "And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah." Elijah, the widow and her house ate for many days (17:15). The meal and the oil did not run out!

Later, the widow's son got very sick, so sick that he stopped breathing (17:17). Elijah carried the boy up to the room where he stayed and laid him on his own bed (17:19). Elijah cried out to the LORD and prayed for the child (17:21). **The LORD heard Elijah, and the boy came alive again** (17:22)! Elijah brought him down to his mother and said, "See, thy son liveth" (17:23). That means, "Look, your son is alive!" The woman said, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God" (17:24).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who brought Elijah food by the brook? *(The ravens, 1 Kings 17:6)*
2. What did the ravens bring, and when? *(Bread and flesh, which is meat, in the morning and in the evening, 17:6)*
3. Why did Elijah have to leave the brook? *(It dried up, because there was no rain, 17:7)*
4. What did the widow have in her barrel and her cruse? *(A handful of meal and a little oil, 17:12)*
5. Did the meal and the oil run out? *(No. They did not run out, just as God said, 17:16)*

4. Memory verse: Need Strips (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 strips up in order: *But my God / shall supply / all your need / according to / his riches in glory / by Christ Jesus. / Philippians 4:19.* Explain the words: **supply** means "give," **all your need** means "everything you need," and **his riches in glory** means "everything God has, and He has everything." Read the verse together, and hold out both hands like you are getting a gift on "supply." Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God took care of Elijah with ravens, and He took care of the widow and her son with meal and oil that did not run out. God takes care of you too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: every time you eat, remember the ravens and the barrel of meal, and thank God for giving you what you need.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Elijah and the ravens word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/elijah-and-the-ravens-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/elijah-and-the-ravens-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/elijah-and-the-ravens-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/elijah-and-the-ravens-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/elijah-and-the-ravens), or **Morning and Evening:** one child is Elijah and sits by the blue paper "brook." Give every other child a brown paper bread; they are the ravens. Call, "Morning!" The ravens flap their arms, fly to Elijah and put their bread down beside him, then fly back. Collect the bread, hand it out again and call, "Evening!" Then say, "The brook dried up!" and Elijah walks to a new spot, "Zarephath." Let new kids be Elijah each round.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for taking care of Elijah, the widow and her son. Thank You for our food, our homes and our families. Help us trust You and obey You like Elijah did. Thank You for loving us and coming 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 next chapter says the LORD sent rain "in the third year" (18:1).
Told gently on purpose: the widow's son (1 Kings 17:17–24) is told in a few simple sentences. Her words to Elijah (17:18) and Elijah's prayer in 17:20 are not quoted. Read the whole chapter yourself before class. If a child asks whether the boy died, say: "He stopped breathing, but God heard Elijah's prayer, and the boy lived again" (17:22).

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