Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

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

Main point: God's word is true. God takes care of me.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 17:8–24. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth" *1 Kings 17:24 (KJV)*. The old word **truth** means true.
You need: a Bible, a small empty box or bowl, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 17. Put the empty box where you can reach it.

1. Opening game: Fill It Up! (5 minutes)

Show the empty box. Say: "Oh no! It's empty!" Kids find small things around the room (a block, a crayon, a toy) and put them in the box, one at a time. Count them together. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a jar and a barrel that never ran out!"

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.

There was no rain. Everything was dry (1 Kings 17:7). *(Shake your head no.)*
God sent Elijah to a widow's house (17:9). *(Walk in place.)*
She had just a little flour and a little oil (17:12). *(Pinch your fingers: a little bit.)*
Elijah said, "Fear not" (17:13). *(Hands out, calm.)*
She made Elijah a little cake first (17:13, 17:15). *(Pat your hands like making bread.)*
The flour and oil did not run out (17:16)! *(Scoop again and again.)*
Say it with me: "God takes care of me!"
Her son got very sick (17:17). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
Elijah carried him upstairs (17:19). *(Climb stairs with your hands.)*
Elijah prayed to God (17:20–21). *(Fold your hands.)*
God made the child alive again (17:22)! *(Jump up!)*
Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth" (17:23). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God's word is true!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who did God send Elijah to? *(A widow, 1 Kings 17:9)*
2. Did the flour and oil run out? *(No! 17:16)*
3. What did God do for the widow's son? *(Made him alive again, 17:22)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The widow said, 'the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.' That means: what God says is true." Teach the motion: point to your mouth on "word," point up on "LORD," and give a big thumbs-up on "truth." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Kings 17:24" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! God took care of the widow and her son. 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 Barrel and the Jar (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big barrel full of flour and a little jar of oil. While they color, ask: "Did the flour run out? Who takes care of us?" Kids who finish early can play Fill It Up! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for taking care of me.
Thank You that Your word is true. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: tell the sad part gently. "He got very sick, and he died" is enough; little ones don't need more. Keep the happy ending big: God made him alive again! Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is sad about someone who died: let them talk, and say it is all right to be sad. God cares. Don't guess about any person. Let the child's parents know.

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