ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW

Bible Reference: 1 Kings 17

Date:

1st Service

Age: 2's/3's + 3's/4's

Memory Verse:
Philippians 4:19 "And God will meet your needs according to his glory in Christ Jesus"

Theme:
God Helps People

Schedule

- Arrival/Attendance/Directed Play.....8:55-9:10
- Clean Up and Gather For Story.....9:10-9:15
- Bible Story.....9:15-9:30
- Craft/Coloring Page:.....9:30-9:40
- Friends from Afar.....9:40-9:50
- Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer.....9:50-10:05
- Snack Time at Tables.....10:05-10:15
- Free Choice Play.....10:15-10:40

Notes and Reminders

This is our final lesson before we begin our unit about Jesus' birth! Help the kids think about ways that God helps us now. Remind them that the best help we every recieved from God is the birth of his son, Jesus!

SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

Who do we trust when life is difficult? Where do we turn when the bills pile up, a relationship is struggling, or a friend is in pain?

Most of the time, we look to ourselves. We set a plan in motion to fix the situation. The result is often hopelessness, frustration, and defeat.

When the widow of Zarephath was out of food, she came up with a plan. She could see no end to the drought, so she used her last provisions to cook one final meal. They would eat, and then they would die.

Thankfully, God doesn't leave us to find our own way out of tough situations. God had a better plan for this widow and sent His prophet to share it with her. But the plan must have sounded a little crazy.

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son" (1 Kings 17:13).

Elijah then assured her the flour and oil would not empty until the drought was over. Hearing Elijah's words, the widow had a choice to make. She could trust God, feed Elijah first, and believe in God's provision. Or, she could trust herself.

The widow trusted God and was blessed with food to last through the drought. God saw beyond what her mind could comprehend and her eyes could see. He saw the whole of her life when she could only see the moment. The widow lived a life of overflow when she let God's Spirit lead.

Did the widow have a part to play in the miracle? Yes. She listened and obeyed. The same is true for us today. If we'll listen to God's voice and do what He says, we'll see Him provide for us and through us, just as He promises (Philippians 4:19)

Reflect:

- Are you facing a situation that seems hopeless?
- What is God asking you to do? Has anything been holding you back from obedience?
- How have you seen God provide in the past when you trusted in Him?

Devo from: Newspring Church
https://newspring.cc/devotionals/the-overflowing-life-a-14-day-devotional/will-you-trust-god-to-provide

OUTLINE

Arrival/Attendance/ Directed Play 8:55-9:10

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door. Set up the activities and introduce the children to the lesson through these activities. Encourage the kids to participate in both activities as they play together. You may need to ask the kids to come to the different areas so all of them have the opportunity to participate.

Pass the Jar

- Find the jar in you bin filled with pictures of things God gives us (food, family, sunshine, friends, etc.) Help kids sit in a circle on the carpet. Pass the jar around the circle while music plays. When the music stops, the child holding it reaches in and pulls out something. Each child says "Thank You, God, for ___!" Continue playing so that everyone gets a turn.
- SAY Our jar was filled with so many things that God provides or gives to us! We spent time thanking Him for all of these things! In our story today, we will learn what God provided for Elijah and a widow who took care of him.

Playdough Bread

- Pass out playdough so that each child has a lump to roll and shape. Encourage the children to shape their playdough into a loaf of bread. Show them how to roll it into a ball or log. Encourage them to practice using the tools to cut the ir 'bread.'
- SAY The woman worked very hard to make her own bread- she couldn't. just buy some at the store. She had to mix all the ingredients together to make the dough. Then she shaped it like we did so that she could cook it. After that she had to bake the dough so it was cooked before anyone ate it. She trusted that God would provide for her and he did! Her flour and oil never ran out!

Clean Up and Gather for Story 9:10-9:15

Invite the children to begin cleaning up toys and putting away their activities at 9:10. Then remind them to meet at the carpet for Bible story time. Remind the children that we are going to do our best to be good listeners.

Bible Story 9:15-9:30

Welcome Song

- Welcome all the children by singing their welcome song
- (Tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
- First let's clap our hands like so
- Then reach down and touch our toes
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
    - You can call a group of children names to welcome them and they can stand up and wave if you'd like.

The words from today's story are written below. They are taken from pages 206-208 in the Beginner's Bible. Use the printed pictures or the Bible in your room to share the story with the children. If you are viewing this document online, there is a scanned copy of the story later in the document.

Elijah Helps a Widow (1 Kings 17:8-16)

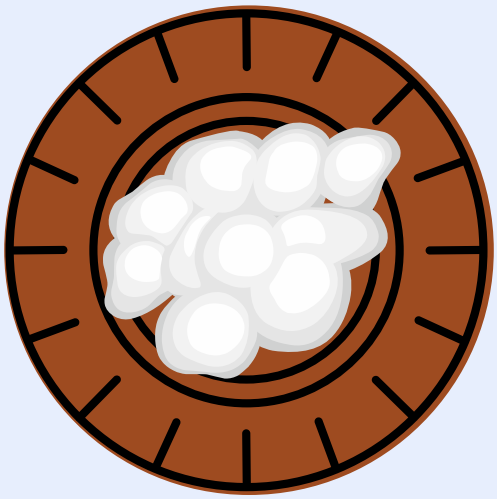
- God told Elijah to go to a nearby town. There he would find a woman who would take care of him. When Elijah arrived, he saw a widow gathering sticks. He asked her for some water and bread.
- The woman said, "My son and I only have enough flour and oil for one last meal." Elijah replied, "Don't be afraid. God will not let you go hungry."
- The woman poured him some water and made him some bread. Because she took care of Elijah, God took care of her. The woman's flour and oil never ran out!

Craft/Coloring Page 9:30-9:40

After the story, have the children go to their tables and prepare for a craft to go along with the lesson. Our BIG IDEA of the week is: God Helps People!

Give each child a paper plate. Pass out brown markers and crayons. Encourage children to color over the whole plate to make a basket. give each child a glue stick to smear glue around the center of the plate. Allow children to stick cotton balls to the glue to be the 'flour' in the basket. Remind the children that God helped Elijah and the widow by allowing the flour to never run out!

As children finish, distribute the coloring page with today's story on the back for children to complete. Have the children place both the craft and coloring sheet in their bin when they are finished.



Friends from Afar 9:40-9:50

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.

Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer 9:50-10:05

There is a list of songs for today's lesson on the TV. Use the directions located with the remote to access them.

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Dear God, thank you for helping us! Remind us to trust that you will give us everything we need. Thank you for showing us how Elijah and the widow trusted you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

- Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus"
- This is the children's final week learning this verse. Remind them that we can trust God to provide for us just like he provided for people in our Bible story! The best gift we have ever recieved from God is His son, Jesus!
    - My God- Point both index fingers up toward heaven.
    - Will supply- Bring hands together, palms up (like receiving a gift).
    - All your needs- Sweep with your arms to show "all" or everything.
    - According to his riches- Rub thumb and fingers together like money
    - In glory- Raise your hands and wiggle your fingers like shining light
    - In Christ Jesus- Cross your arms over your chest
    - Philippians 4:19- Hold up four fingers for chapter 4, and nine fingers for verse 9

Snack Time at Tables 10:05-10:15

Prior to serving the snack have the children use hand sanitizer before choosing a seat at the table. Each child will have veggie straws on a napkin and a small cup of water. NOTE: some children with allergies will have their own snack or drink...parents usually remind shepherds of this at drop off. If a question, please contact Kid Min Staff in hallways. Thanks.

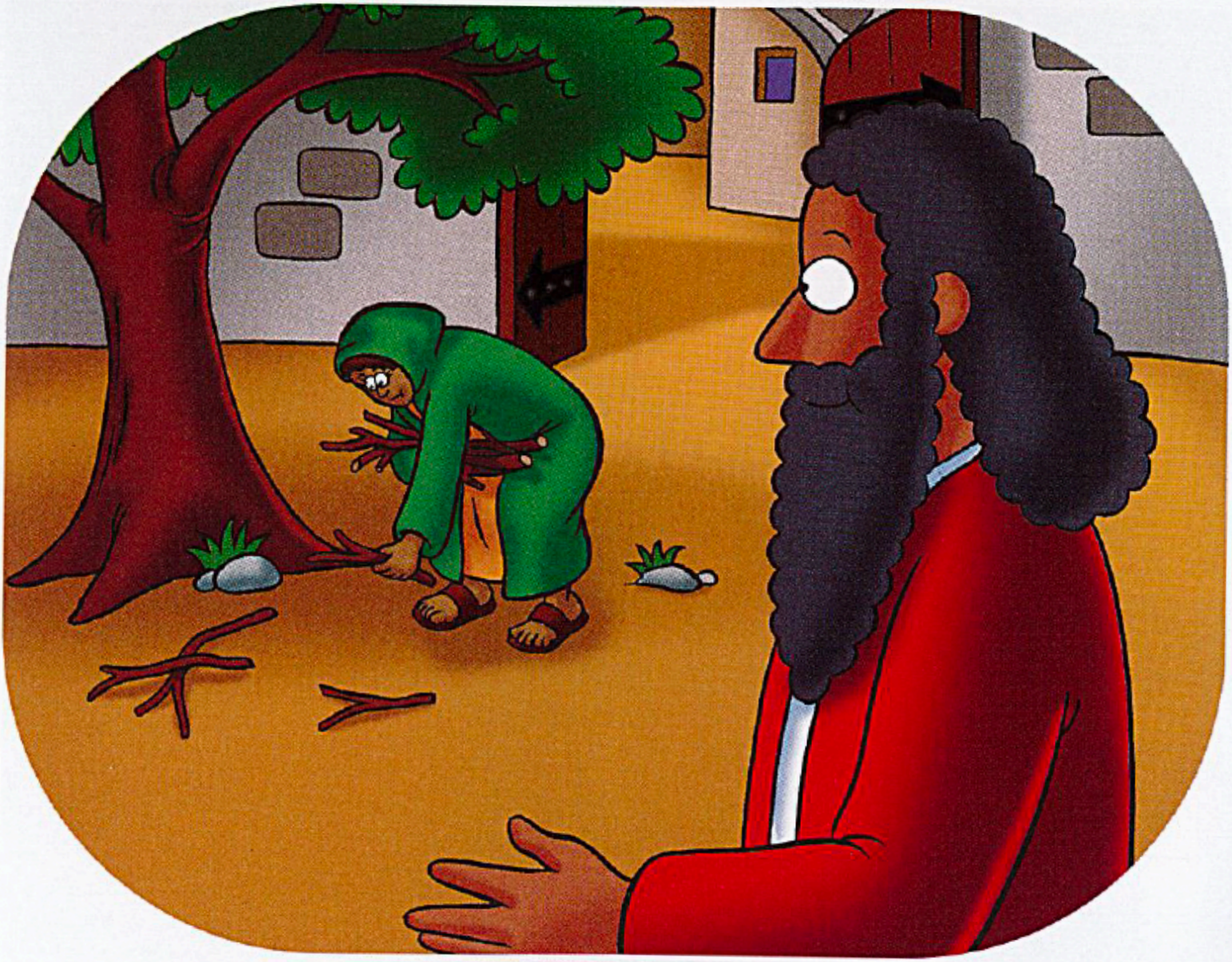
While the children are eating their snack, please read the read aloud book that is in the bin labeled Read Aloud book for snack time. Thanks.

Free Choice Play 10:15-10:40

Once the snack and read aloud are finished, the children may choose free play until their parents come to pick them up.

At dismissal, please make sure to check the child's tag number to match the parent's tag. Have the children take home any papers from their bin. Finally, check them off the attendance as being picked up (the last column for the date).

Thanks so much for shepherding the little ones this week. We appreciate you!



Elijah Helps a Widow

1 Kings 17:8–16

God told Elijah to go to a nearby town.
There he would find a woman who would
take care of him. When Elijah arrived,
he saw a widow gathering sticks.
He asked her for some water and bread.



The woman said, "My son and I only have enough flour and oil for one last meal."
Elijah replied, "Don't be afraid. God will not let you go hungry."



The woman poured him some water and made him some bread. Because she took care of Elijah, God took care of her. The woman's flour and oil never ran out!