

LESSON 62

God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways

1 KINGS 16:29–17:24



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD IS AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF A SINFUL GENERATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 1 Kings 16:29—17:24 from the Scriptures or read story 62, “God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Man-made Idols
SUPPLIES:
- | | |
|--|--|
| ✓ a brick-sized rock | ✓ an empty jug |
| ✓ a block of wood the same size as the brick or rock | ✓ a batch of brownies cut into enough small squares that each person in the class can have one |
| ✓ an empty jar | |
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
The Author of Life
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ several stethoscopes
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ coloring page 62—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Tell It with Props
SUPPLIES:
- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ beef jerky cut into small bite-sized pieces, enough for the whole class | ✓ handful of flour in a plastic bag |
| ✓ crackers | ✓ two tablespoons oil in a jar |
| ✓ spring water | ✓ a handful of sticks tied in a bundle |
| ✓ small plastic cups | ✓ one biscuit |

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God withholds rain—The kingdoms of Judah and Israel are still divided and have been ruled by a series of kings, most of them wicked. The King of Israel is now Ahab, the most wicked king of all. Under Ahab’s leadership, Israel worships the Canaanite god Baal.

Those who worship Baal believe he controls the weather. So God, speaking through the prophet Elijah, says that he is stopping both rain and dew! God does this for two reasons: to bring judgment on Israel and to show that Baal has no power. But through it all, God provides miraculously for his prophet Elijah.

God provides for a faithful widow—This story takes place in the middle of the pagan land where Baal is worshiped. This widow is not an Israelite, but she chooses to trust what Elijah tells her about the promise made by the God of Israel. The promise is that if she does as Elijah asks, she will not run out of food for as long as the drought continues.

Throughout the Bible, time after time, God asks people to do things that seem like they don’t make sense. But God is interested in a heart of trust and faith. To believe God and have faith in him is to see the world as it really is. God is the one who controls all things, and we can trust him in anything that he asks of us.

God raises the widow’s son from death—Not only was God able to bring Elijah water from a flowing brook, food from ravens, and an endless supply of flour and oil. God also demonstrated through Elijah his power over life and death. God was fully able to do all the things Baal could not do. God provided rain and food and even life!

When the widow’s son died, Elijah cried out to the Lord, and God raised the widow’s son from the dead. One day a greater prophet would come who would also raise men from the dead, including the son of a widow.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read John 6:35.

God, using the prophet, provided for the widow by multiplying her bread and oil. This is a picture of another prophet who would come and multiply bread for the multitudes. His name is Jesus. But besides providing the physical bread, Jesus himself is the bread of life that will never run out!

"Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty'" (John 6:35 NIV).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW

5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read 1 Kings 16:29—17:24 from the Scriptures or read story 62, "God Provides for Elijah in Miraculous Ways," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1

10 MIN

Man-made Idols

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a brick-sized rock
- ✓ a block of wood the same size as the brick or rock
- ✓ an empty jar
- ✓ an empty jug
- ✓ a batch of brownies cut into enough small squares that each person in the class can have one

This activity will help the children see the absurdity of trusting an idol instead of the living God.

Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the class. Explain to the volunteer that you need help: you are out of flour and oil and would like to make a batch of brownies. Tell the volunteer that you will provide everything needed to obtain flour and oil.

When your volunteer consents to help you, pull out the stone and block of wood and tell them to get started. Ask when you can expect to have the oil and flour. They are likely to look confused, so explain that they should ask the stone or the wood or both for oil and flour.

Suggest that the volunteer plead with the stone or jump up and down and call out to the stone. Play this up for a couple minutes. Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why couldn't {volunteer's name} get flour and oil from the stone and the wood?
(The stone and wood cannot make flour and oil.)
- Have stone or wood ever miraculously provided flour?
(no)
- Would it make a difference if we carved an image of Baal into the stone?
(No, no difference at all. Though there might be a face carved into one end of the stone, it would make no difference.)
- Ask the children what message God was sending to Israel about their gods by withholding the rain.
(God withheld the rain to help Israel turn back to God. If God just wanted to judge Israel, it would not have been necessary to send Elijah. The fact that God spoke to Israel through Elijah is evidence that he had not abandoned his people.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

The Author of Life

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several stethoscopes

Use this exercise to help the children appreciate the amazing and simple fact of life. No one controls life but God.

Have the children take turns listening to their hearts. (Depending on the size of the class, you may need more than one stethoscope. Ask some of the nurses or doctors in your church for help with this activity.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **How many of you have a heart that will stop if you don't remind it to beat?**
(Of course no one tells their heart to beat.)
- **Who controls your heartbeat?**
(God controls our heartbeats and commands that our hearts continue or stop.)

Ask the children with the stethoscopes to listen to several inanimate objects like a desk, wall, or book. Ask them to pronounce whether the objects are dead or alive.

Once the children indicate the objects are dead, ask the volunteers to bring the dead objects to life. After their objections, read to them the story of Elijah raising the widow's son, and talk about God's unique power to give and take life. Help the children understand just how much control God has over our lives.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 62—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How did God provide for Elijah?

(God showed Elijah where the brook was and had the ravens bring him food.)

- How does God provide for us?

(Accept any answer.)

CLOSING PRAYER

5 MIN

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Tell it with Props

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ beef jerky cut into small bite-sized pieces, enough for the whole class
- ✓ crackers
- ✓ spring water
- ✓ small plastic cups
- ✓ handful of flour in a plastic bag
- ✓ two tablespoons oil in a jar
- ✓ a handful of sticks tied in a bundle
- ✓ one biscuit

Retell the story of 1 Kings 17:1–16 and pass around the above props to make the story more interesting. You can start by assigning two or three children to be the ravens and have them take the jerky and crackers in cups around to the class, pretending to fly.

Then as you tell the story of the widow, pass the items from the list around as you come to them. You will be amazed at how passing objects like this keeps the children interested and helps them remember.

LESSON 62 - GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH IN MIRACULOUS WAYS

