

Lesson #3-8

The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides

PK-2nd

1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

Key Verse:

The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

1 Kings 17:16

The Point:

In difficult situations, God provided for Elijah, the widow, and her son, and God promises us the same provisions when we fall on desperate times.

Making Connections:

God Sightings

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Historical Timelines

Spiritual Practice:

Service



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

Play Kitchen

- † Bowls and spatulas
- † Optional: a play kitchen area

Raven in my Window

- † None

Sun and Rain

- † Yellow and blue towels or blankets

Into the Story (PK-2nd)

What We Need

Shop for daily needs.

10 min.

- † Shopping bags
- † One daily need item per child (apples, Bibles, toothbrushes, cups, tissues, etc.)

Bible Nuts and Bolts (1st-2nd)

Historical Timelines

Complete “my lifelines”.

15 min.

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-8.A
- † Pencils
- † Crayons

Learning the Story (PK-2nd)

The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides

Identify examples of God’s provision.

15 min.

- † Bibles

Activities a la Carte

Living the Story (PK-2nd)

Provisions

Make kits to provide for the basic needs of others.

15 min.

- † Plastic bags that seal
- † Donations (toothbrushes, shampoo, etc.)

Singing the Story (PK-2nd)

"God Will Make a Way"

5 min.

- † None

Additional Activities

Look and See (PK-2nd)

Look for God sightings.

20 min.

- † Construction paper
- † Tape
- † Optional: cardboard toilet paper rolls
- † Optional: duct tape
- † Optional: scissors

Raven Relay (PK-2nd)

Ravens race to deliver provisions.

20 min.

- † Plastic trash bags or lawn bags with blankets in them (one per team)
- † Whistle
- † Optional: computer with Internet access

Oil and Meal (PK-2nd)

Olive oil bread is served.

15 min.

- † Small jar of oil
- † Small jar of flour
- † Bowl
- † Olive oil bread or bakery bread

Sending the Story (PK-2nd)

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Story Connections

After God's promise to David, David sinned. Solomon became the next king, prayed for wisdom, and built and dedicated the temple. Solomon became wealthy and sinned by turning to the gods of his wives. Following this, more kings did evil in the sight of the Lord. The people served other gods, giving Baal and others credit for their provisions. God stopped the rain to show the people who provides water for them.

Story Summary:

The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides

Elijah the prophet proclaimed God's message to King Ahab that it was not going to rain. Then God led Elijah to a brook so he could drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat each morning and night. After many days of no rain, the brook dried up.

God sent Elijah to Zarephath, a Canaanite city that would be unwelcoming to an Israelite. Elijah commanded a widow to feed him. Elijah told her to take the little bit of meal (flour) and oil that she had left and make him a little cake. Day after day, God filled her jars of meal and oil, so she never ran out.

The woman's son became ill until he could not breathe. Elijah carried the boy to his room and cried out to God for help. Because of the healing power of God, the child was brought back to life.

The Point

In difficult situations, God provided for Elijah, the widow, and her son, and God promises us the same provisions when we fall on desperate times.

When it seems like there is no way to get through a trying situation, we are tempted to complain, withdraw, or give up. However, in the most challenging times, we are able to recognize and be blessed by God's provisions when we take time to look past the situation and look to God. God will provide.

Bible Nuts and Bolts:

Historical Timelines

Graphic timelines can be helpful in understanding biblical passages, especially their relationship with each other and their historical contexts. When we know about the leadership during a particular time or what happened before that time period, what takes place in a particular passage of Scripture is put in context and becomes easier to understand. Without that information, we might misinterpret Scripture.

Spiritual Practice: Service

God provides for us, and in our desire to live a godly life, we can model God's love by providing for others. We may not have the financial means to provide material goods, but service to others is more than handing people gifts. We can provide companionship, comfort, a listening ear, a ride, and more. We can also collect food from others to invite more people to be involved in service.



Lesson Plan



Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

Play Kitchen

If the church does not have a play kitchen, use plastic bowls and spatulas so the children can provide food for their pretend family and guests.

Raven in my Window

This activity requires a teacher to show the children how to play and to get the activity started. The words to the game “Bluebird Bluebird in My Window,” are changed to “Raven, Raven in My Window.” “Oh Johnny what a day” is replaced with “Oh Elijah what a day.” View the following if you are not familiar with the game: <http://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=2406&c=23>. If it seems like this would require more teacher involvement with your group than free play should, consider using a computer and playing the “bluebird” game song for the children to follow and play on their own.

Sun and Rain

Children will pretend to stomp in puddles and play in the sun. Yellow towels or blankets can be placed around the play area to represent sun, and blue towels or blankets can represent puddles.

Into the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

What We Need

Shop for daily needs.

You will need:

- † Shopping bags
- † One daily need item per child (apples, Bibles, toothbrushes, cups, tissues, etc.)

Before class:

1. Scatter or arrange the daily need items around the room in what will be used as the “store”.

During class:

1. Give each child a bag. Send the children to the “store” for one (one only) item that they will need for the day. Ask them to shop and come back with the item in the bag. Explain that **we use our best manners in the store. If an item we wanted has already been taken, we will happily take a different item.**
2. When the shoppers have returned, ask them to show what is in their bag and say why this item is needed during the day. Ask **how will it be used? When it will be used? Is it enough?**. Ask **is that the only thing that will be needed for the day?**
3. Say that **God knows exactly what we need every day, and sometimes it is not what we think we need or in the amount we think we need.**

Bible Nuts and Bolts (1st-2nd; 15 minutes)

Historical Timelines

Complete “My Lifelines”.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-8.A
- † Pencils
- † Crayons

Before class:

1. Print copies of Activity Sheet #3-8.A, one per child.

During class:

1. To lead into the concept of historical timelines, use Activity Sheet 3-8.A and guide the children through the process of making timelines for their own lives, including their birthdates and any major occurrence between birth and the present (maybe the birthday and the next, or perhaps they moved to a new location, learned to walk, or remember some vacation or party, or the birth of a brother or sister, the first day of school, etc.) The children can write or draw their lifeline contents.
2. Allow time for sharing by those who want to share their timeline stories.
3. Use this as a springboard to talk about historical timelines. **When we look at what is on your life timeline, we can understand more about you. When we have a timeline of what took place in the Bible, and what happened around the time that something else happened, we can get a better understanding of what is in the Bible.**
4. Show a timeline in your Bible.

Learning the Story (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides

Identify examples of God's provision.

You will need:

† Bibles

During class:

1. Explain that **as we go through the story, every time we hear that God provided something for someone, we will stand up and say, "God gives us what we need."**
2. Help the children locate I Kings 17 in their Bibles. Even though you may do all of the reading, the children should see where the story is coming from. Depending on the reading ability of the children in your class, you may ask for volunteers to read some of the verses.
3. Read I Kings 17:1.
4. **If there is no rain, what will happen when Elijah gets thirsty for water?** [*Guesses will vary.*]
5. Read I Kings 17:2-6. Pause at verse 17:4, so the children can stand and say, "God gives us what we need." After they sit, continue. Pause after verse 17:6, so the children can stand and say, "God gives us what we need." After the children are seated, continue.
6. **Who provided the food that the ravens brought to Elijah?** [*God.*]
7. **What are some of the things that people need to survive?** [*Answers will vary.*] Be careful to differentiate between needs and wants when the children give their answers.
8. **What have you prayed for and asked God to provide for you or someone you know?** [*Answers will vary but might include health, safe travels, friends, etc.*]
9. Read I Kings 17:8-9. Pause at verse 17:9, so the children can stand and say, "God gives us what we need." After they sit, continue.
10. Read I Kings 17:10-16. Pause at verse 17:16, so the children can stand and say, "God gives us what we need." After they sit, continue.
11. **If you only had one piece of your favorite candy or cookie, how willing would you be to give some of it to someone else? Why might you try to keep it all to yourself?** [*Answers will vary; I might be afraid there would not be enough left for me.*]
12. **When the widow obeyed and shared what she had, God made sure she still had enough for her family, too.**
13. All stand and say, **"God gives us what we need."**

Living the Story (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Provisions

Make kits to provide for the basic needs of others.

You will need:

- † Plastic bags that seal
- † Donations (toothbrushes, shampoo, etc.)

Before class:

1. Contact parents to request toothpaste samples, shampoo samples, toothbrushes, soap, or other grooming supplies.
2. Determine a shelter or mission that accepts donations of basic grooming supplies.

During class:

1. **One way that God provides for people is through other people, like you and me. Those who are able to do so can buy items to share with those in need. This is a form of Christian service.**
2. Ask the children to help you organize the service project by grouping all of the toothbrushes together, all of the shampoo samples together and all of the toothpaste samples together at designated places on a large table.
3. Give each child a plastic bag, and ask them to form a line at the end of the table.
4. Explain that, in a line, the children will work their way down the table (like in a buffet) and take one of each item and put it in the bag.
5. **As you pick up each item say, this** (name of item: shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste) **will provide for someone's needs, and then put it in the bag.**
6. **The items will be delivered to _____** (a shelter of your choice) **to help provide for the needs of the people who are staying there.**
7. After the bags are full, ask: **How does it feel to know that right now God is using you to help provide for other people?** [*Answers will vary.*]



Singing the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

God's Will Make a Way

Sing the chorus to “God Will Make A Way”

If you are not familiar with this song, or if you want to have the accompanying music, visit this youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRXt5OjIe5E>.

God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way, He will make a way

Lyrics copied from DON MOEN LYRICS: <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/donmoen/godwillmakeaway.html>

Additional Activities

Look and See (PK-2nd; 20 minutes)

Use binoculars to look for God Sightings.

You will need:

- † Construction paper
- † Tape
- † Optional: cardboard toilet paper rolls
- † Optional: duct tape
- † Optional: scissors

During class:

1. Children will make binoculars to use each week in this ongoing “God Sightings” activity. Binoculars can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. The simple binoculars consist of cutting paper, rolling paper, taping the loose sides, and then taping two rolls of paper together at both ends (the inside ends). These will need to be handled with care. Optional: If you want something more elaborate or durable, wrap cardboard toilet paper rolls with duct tape, and use duct tape to hold them together.
2. Lead the children through the steps of making the binoculars, according to the style of your choice. (Using hands for binoculars is an option as well.)
3. When the binoculars are finished, go near a window or door and ask the children to **use your binoculars to see things that God made**. Ask them to call out the things that they see through their binoculars [*I see a squirrel. I see a tree. I see a bird. I see grass.*] Optional: if it is not too cold this time of year where you are located, step outside for this activity. **Say that we can see God’s power and creativity when we look at what God created. We can see God’s love too, because God created these things for us to enjoy.**
4. After the game is finished, collect the binoculars.
5. **Today we looked at some of what God created, and we saw God’s power, creativity, and love. Sometimes we see God’s love in a friendly face or a smile. Sometimes we see God’s love in the kindness of another person. Sometimes we see God’s love when we feel better after feeling sad. Sometimes we feel God’s love when we are sad and sense God’s comfort or peace. This week, you have a special “Look and See” assignment. Look for God’s love all around you all day, every day. Next week we will use our binoculars and share what we saw during the week. I look forward to hearing the big and small ways that you saw God this week.** (This will be a continuous activity through this unit.)

Raven Relay (1st-2nd; 20 minutes)

Ravens Race to Deliver Provisions

You will need:

- † Plastic trash bags or lawn bags with blankets in them (one per team)
- † Whistle
- † Optional: computer with Internet access

Before class:

1. Put blankets inside the plastic trash bags and place them in the middle of the room.

During class:

1. Optional: start out by showing this video, so the children can see what a raven looks like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xr-B9Na-o7M>.
2. Play the “Raven Relay”. In this relay, the children are ravens who have to fly to get the supplies and deliver them to Elijah in a certain time frame.
3. Divide the class into teams with four children per team. Four teams can play at a time. If there are more teams, the others will be the cheering squad until the next round when they can play.
4. Assign a number to each team and ask the teams to repeat their numbers aloud. **For this game, in each corner of the room there will be a flock of ravens, made up of one player from each team.** Send one player from each team to a different corner in the room.
5. **Wave to your teammates in the other corners. Be sure to keep track of which ravens are on your team. Be sure to keep track of your team’s number.**
6. **The bags of bread and meat are at an equal distance from each team, here in the middle of the room.**
7. Point to a corner and ask the player from team one to stand. Point to another corner, and ask the player from team two to stand. Point to another corner and ask the player from team three to stand. Point to the last corner, and ask the player from team four to stand. (The start corners are staggered to avoid too much congestion with children dragging bags during the race.)
8. **When you hear me blow the whistle, fly to get a bag, and drag it back to your corner. Let go of the bag and shout, “God provides!” Then fly, while dragging the bag, to the next corner.** (Point to show the direction that everyone will travel—clockwise.) **Give the bag to your team member in that corner and sit on the floor.**

9. That team member shouts, “God provides!” and then flies, dragging the bag to the next corner and then sits. From there, the next team member shouts, “God provides,” and flies and drags the bag to the next corner. When the bag reaches the fourth corner, that team member flies the bag back to the middle of the room and sits with it. We will see which team finishes the bread and meat delivery first.
10. You may want to demonstrate this before it gets going.
11. **God provides in some interesting, unique, and even fun ways. Which of the provisions in today’s story did you like the best and why? Which did you expect to happen?** *[Accept all answers.]*

Oil and Meal (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Olive oil bread is served.

You will need:

- † Small jar of oil
- † Small jar of flour
- † Bowl
- † Olive oil bread (or bakery bread)

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
2. Purchase or make olive oil bread or any other bakery bread.

During class:

1. Present the small jar of oil and small jar of flour. Pour them both out into a bowl and show that the jars are now empty.
2. **The Lord miraculously provided for the widow by putting oil and flour in the jar for her each day, so she always had enough bread for her household even after she used what was in the jar. Our jars stay empty after we use what is in them unless we fill them with more.**
3. **What does God fill our hearts with over and over?** [*Love, forgiveness, blessings*].
4. Eat the bread as a snack.
5. Optional: the children can dip the bread in olive oil.



Sending the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

1. **What are some things that God provided in today's story?** *[Water, bread, meat, oil, flour, a place to stay.]*
2. **What are some ways that God provides for you?** *[Answers will vary.]*

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Hold up an empty jar from the Oil and Meal activity. Pass the jar around the room, and as each child gets and holds the jar, the following prayer is prayed:

“Thank you, God, that you keep filling me with your love. Amen.

Historical Timelines

View and make historical timelines.

Name _____ Birthdate _____

[Example: Age 1 -- Met my new baby sister, Kira.]

Age 1--

Age 2--

Age 3--

Age 4--

Age 5--

Age 6--

Age 7--

Age 8--



PK-2nd

The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2016-2017)

Lesson #3-8
1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

The
Point

In difficult situations, God provided for Elijah, the widow, and her son, and God promises us the same provisions when we fall on desperate times. In times when it seems like there is no way to get through a trying situation, we are tempted to complain, withdraw, or give up. However, in the most challenging times we are able to recognize and be blessed by God's provisions when we take time to look past the situation and look to God. God will provide.

Story Summary: *The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides*

Elijah the prophet proclaimed God's message to King Ahab that it was not going to rain. Then God led Elijah to a brook, so he could drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat each morning and night. After many days of no rain, the brook dried up. God sent Elijah to Zarephath, a Canaanite city that would be unwelcoming to an Israelite. Elijah

commanded a widow to feed him. Elijah told her to take the little bit of meal (flour) and oil that she had left and make him a little cake. Day after day, God filled her jars of meal and oil, so she never ran out.

The woman's son became ill until he could not breathe. Elijah carried the boy to his room and cried out to God for help. Because of the healing power of God, the child was brought back to life.

Spiritual Practice: Service

God provides for us, and in our desire to live a godly life, we can model God's love by providing for others. We may not have the financial needs to provide material goods, but service to others is more than handing people gifts.

We can provide companionship, comfort, a listening ear, a ride, and more. As a family, offer to help an older member in the church with some yard work, like raking leaves.

Last Week/Next Week

Last week, we saw that God's covenant with David speaks of David creating a new temple for the Ark. In return, God shows God's power, protection, and love by promising David a new house.

Next week we hear Jonah was a prophet whose job was to tell the people of Nineveh to turn towards God and repent. It is a story that also shares miraculous events using nature.

Bible Nuts and Bolts: Historical Timelines

Graphical timelines can be helpful in understanding biblical passages, especially their relationship with each other and their historical contexts. When we know the leadership during a particular time or what happened before that time period, what takes place in a particular passage of Scripture is put in context and becomes easier to understand. Without that information, we might misinterpret Scripture.

Family Discussions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them—and to us?

- ✚ What are the God-sightings in this passage?
- ✚ What happened in this passage that only God could make happen?
- ✚ What in this passage reminds you of God's love?

Family Devotions

Pick a time each day to gather together and read the following excerpts that share stories from a variety of geographical locations. It would be a great opportunity to find a map in the back of a Bible to further explore the world during biblical times. Engage in a few activities that help you better understand God's message of love to people living in those places as well as where you live today.

Sunday—Read 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24] —The Widow of Zarephath: God Provides

God provided for the widow of Zarephath. What is a need that your family has? Pray together and ask God to provide what you need.

Monday—Read 2 Kings 2:1-12 —Elijah Meets God

Elijah met God. Use chairs to create a chariot. Sit in the chariot and ask God to help you see God's activity in your lives.

Tuesday—Read 2 Kings 2:1-12 —Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Elijah ascended to Heaven. Look at the clouds and find shapes that look like objects.

Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 —Elisha and the Widow's Oil

Elisha told a woman to gather empty vessels that miraculously filled with oil, so she could pay off her debt. Measure out a quantity of popcorn kernels into a small measuring cup. Pop the popcorn and see how many cups would now be needed to hold all of the popcorn.

Thursday—Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-7 —The Torah is Discovered

The Torah that was missing was discovered and followed again. Take turns hiding and searching for household objects. Alternatively, clean a closet or drawer and discover things you forgot you had or thought were missing.

Friday—Read 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 —The Covenant Renewed

The people started over in their commitment to the covenant. Work as a family to create, review, or renew rules of the household.

Saturday—Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 —The Fall of Jerusalem

While under an evil ruler who would not listen to God, Jerusalem was captured. Build a city out of blocks or other building toys. Take a picture and admire your work. Destroy the city.