

## LESSON 4

## GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Can Provide in Unexpected Ways

**SCRIPTURE:** [1 Kings 17](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** When the prophet Elijah is hiding from King Ahab, God demonstrates that He is the one true God by providing for Elijah's needs through unexpected ways.

**MEMORY VERSE:** God can do more than we could ever imagine. —from [Ephesians 3:20](#)

## CURIOSITY

Four options for interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Curiosity Activity: Find the Bread



## BELIEF

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [From Ephesians 3:20](#)

## FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

## IDENTITY

An interactive activity to keep kids engaged during pick-up and reinforce the lesson.

- Game: Flour Relay

**INVITATION**

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

Take a moment and read [1 Kings 17:7–24](#). I love to see how God is faithful to provide in unexpected ways. I love that this widow gives out of her own need, and God provides her with more than she can imagine. I love that Elijah experiences grace through the hand of another and that both are blessed as a result.

I have experienced the same miracle but not necessarily in the same way. Rather, my miracle of having my needs met has been much more through the community of faith who add to my jar. A bit of encouragement here. An anonymous financial gift here. A sprinkle of laughter and a smidge of prayer. A dollop of rides for my kids and a generous serving of text messages and calls.

But here's the thing; just like the widow, we have to make our needs known. We must be willing to say, "I only have this much to give right now" or "I am in need of these things." And I believe the same God who provided for the widow will be faithful to make our jars overflow as well.

How has God provided for you in unexpected ways? Take a few moments and thank the Lord today for the miracle of His provision.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Elijah was a prophet during the time of King Ahab. God provided for Elijah's needs through ravens and through the unnamed widow of Zarephath. The widow's son was brought back to life through Elijah's prayers.

**WHAT?**

Israel rebelled against God, and their newest king, Ahab, did more evil things than all the kings before him ([1 Kings 16:30](#)). God caused a famine to come to the land as a consequence of these actions and to convince Ahab that the Lord of Israel is God alone.

**WHERE?**

Kerith Valley, also known as the Jordan Valley, was located just east of the Jordan River. The city of Zarephath was located between Tyre and Sidon and is known today as Sarafand, Lebanon. It is possible Jesus visited there in His journeys ([Mark 7:24](#)).

**WHEN?**

Elijah's experience took place during the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Ahab was the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel and is believed to have reigned between 874–853 BC.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Centuries later, Jesus reminded His disciples that God will care for our needs as He does the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Jesus is our ultimate provision, giving us all we need for eternal life in God by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

#### Free Play

##### **As kids arrive...**

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?**

#### Worship Playlist

##### **During free play...**

Play one of the Spotify playlists as background music while kids arrive and play.

#### Clean Up

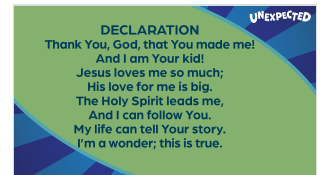
##### **At the end of free play...**

Play the Clean Up video to signify time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

#### Declaring God's Wonder

## **SUPPLIES:** Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

Display the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



**Hello, friends! I'm so glad to be here with all of you today. Let's start our time together with our declaration. These words remind us of what God says is TRUE about me and you. Let's say these words together. Repeat after me!**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (*Kids repeat.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (*Kids repeat.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (*Kids repeat.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (*Kids repeat.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (*Kids repeat.*)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (*Kids repeat.*)

March like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story,** (*Kids repeat.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (*Kids repeat.*)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

## **Curiosity Activity: Find the Bread**

**SUPPLIES:** brown or tan paper "bread"

Ahead of time, hide several sheets of brown or tan paper around the room. The kids will need to find the "bread" (i.e., the paper). Whoever finds a sheet will get to hide it for the next round.

**Have you ever baked bread before? Let's go on a hunt for pretend bread! I have hidden some brown pieces of paper, which we will pretend is bread, in our room. Can you find them?**

Allow kids to find the bread. You can play a couple more rounds if you have time.



**In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a time when God provided oil and flour to make bread to take care of Elijah and a woman and her son. God always takes care of us, but sometimes he takes care of us in ways we would never expect. Today in God's big story, we're going to learn how God provided in unexpected ways.**

*Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Can Provide in Unexpected Ways

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 17

**MEMORY VERSE:** From Ephesians 3:20

#### Worship

**SUPPLIES:** Worship Music videos

**Today, we'll learn about how God can provide in unexpected ways. Let's sing together about how God provides!**

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

#### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, we praise You for the ways You provide for us. Help us see You in unexpected ways in God's big story today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

#### God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of [1 Kings](#) in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

**God's Big STORY SCRIPT:  
GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, crown, picture of crackers, a jar of oil, and a bag of flour, bread (toy), [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, set out a crown, toy bread, pictures of a few crackers, a jar of oil, and a bag of flour. You can use these props as you tell the story.

**We're going to hear an interesting part of God's big story from the Bible about a time when God provided for people in unexpected ways! Pay attention and see if you can discover the ways God provided.**

**God's people—the Israelites—were living in the Promised Land, and God gave them prophets, or messengers, to share His message with His people. Elijah was a prophet during the rule of King Ahab, a terrible king who didn't love God and worshiped idols—pretend gods. Can you pretend to be a king?** Hold up the crown and let a child put it on his head and pretend to be a king.

**God was upset with King Ahab. God told Elijah to inform King Ahab that there would be no rain for several years to prove that God is alive and powerful. No rain meant there wouldn't be food for people to eat. That would be very sad. Can you show a sad face?** Encourage the kids to make sad faces.

**This made King Ahab angry. So Elijah hid from King Ahab in the Kerith Valley. God told Elijah He would provide for him. God stopped the rain, but He also led Elijah to a little stream of water that had enough water for him to drink. Without rain, food can't grow, but God provided another way for Elijah to eat. God sent birds called ravens to carry food to Elijah every day. Hold up the crackers. I did not expect God to provide through ravens!**

**Can you be a raven and drop off these crackers to me?** Allow a few kids to act like ravens and drop off crackers to you.

**When the little stream dried up, it was time for Elijah to leave. God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath where a widow (someone whose husband had died) would take care of him and give him food. Elijah traveled to Zarephath, where he met the widow and her son. Elijah asked her, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar? I need a drink" (1 Kings 17:10). The widow was sad. She said, "I don't have any bread. ... All I have is a small amount of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. ... I'll make one last meal for myself and my son" (1 Kings 17:12). She knew that would be the last thing she and her son would eat before they ran out of food. Hold up the jar (of oil) and the bag of flour).**

**Elijah told her, "The Lord is the God of Israel. He says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up. The jug will always have oil in it. You will have flour and oil until the day the Lord sends rain on the land'" (1 Kings 17:14). The widow believed God's words. She went home and made Elijah some bread with the last of the flour and oil. When she looked in the jar after feeding Elijah, there was still more flour and more oil. In fact, "the jar of flour wasn't used up [and] the jug always had oil in it" (1 Kings 17:16). God kept His promise! Let's pretend to make bread. Pretend to pour the ingredients and knead the bread. Then hold up the toy bread (or real bread) to show the kids.**

**But a little while later, something very sad happened. The widow's son got very sick and even stopped breathing! The widow was heartbroken. She questioned Elijah and all that had happened. Elijah took the boy to the upstairs room and cried out to the Lord. "Lord my God, I'm staying with this widow. Have you brought pain and sorrow even to her? Have you caused her son to die? ... Lord my God, give this boy's life back to him!" (1 Kings 17:20–21).**

**God heard Elijah's prayer. Suddenly, the boy took a deep breath. He was alive. Elijah took the boy to his mother and declared, "Look! Your son is alive!" (1 Kings 17:23). Can you act surprised? Encourage the kids to look surprised. The woman was overjoyed and realized all that Elijah had done and said was from God. God took care of Elijah, and He takes care of us. God can provide in unexpected ways!**

## Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [God Provides for Elijah God's Big Story!](#)



## Connecting the Wonder Truth

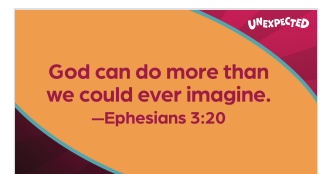
Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CAN PROVIDE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.**

In the story, God provided for Elijah using birds. Many years later, Jesus reminded His disciples that God would care for their needs as He does the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. The greatest way God provides for us is through Jesus, who saves us from our sins!

## Memory Verse

**SUPPLIES:** [Memory Verse Slide](#)

Review the verse and encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you. Once you review the verse, repeat the verse using unexpected voices and actions. Have the kids repeat it back to you using the same voice or action.



- **GOD**—Point up.
- **CAN DO MORE THAN**—Spread your arms wide.
- **WE COULD EVER IMAGINE.**—Point to forehead.
- **FROM EPHESIANS 3:20**—Hold your hands together in front, then open your palms, as if opening a book.

**Now that we know the Memory Verse, let's say it in unexpected ways to help us remember it.**

Lead the kids through the verse a few times using these voices and actions:

- Say the verse while pretending to fly like a raven.
- Shout the verse.
- Pretend to bake bread while saying the verse.
- Lie down on your back while saying the verse.
- Say the verse while dancing.
- Say the verse while rubbing your belly as if you're hungry.



Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What is one thing God did for Elijah?**
- **What is something good that God has done for you or provided for you?**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Divide kids into smaller groups for discussion.

### Circle Time: Discussion and Prayer

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **In God's big story today, what is one way God provided for Elijah?** (*water, bread from a raven, flour and oil for bread from the widow, and life to the widow's son*)
- **What two things did the widow need to make the bread?** (*flour and oil*)
- **What did God do through Elijah when the widow's son died?** (*He brought the boy back to life.*)
- **What was unexpected about this story?** (*Ravens gave Elijah food; the widow's flour never went empty; God raised the widow's son from the dead.*)
- **Who gives you food and water? How does this show you are cared for by that person?**
- **If birds could drop any food to you, which food would you choose?**
- **How does God show He cares about you?**

**God can provide for us in unexpected ways, just like He did for Elijah when the ravens brought him bread!**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for the ways He will provide for us this week.

### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for providing for us.

**Dear God, thank You for all we have and all the ways You have provided for us in the past. Help us continue to thank You for the unexpected ways You will provide for us in the future. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God provide for all your needs and surprise you in unexpected ways this week.

*Use the following activity to keep kids engaged during pick-up and to reinforce the lesson.*

#### Game: Flour Relay

**SUPPLIES:** cotton balls (2 bags), jar or box (2), large mixing spoon (2, optional)

Ahead of time, open the bags of cotton balls and find a space for the relay race. Place the jars on one side of the room and the cotton balls on the other. In this relay race, kids will grab one handful of cotton balls and race to fill up the jar of “flour.” Once they put the cotton balls in the jar, they must run back to tag their next teammate to go. Kids can only use one hand to grab the cotton balls and put them into the jar. The first team to fill up its jar wins. You can also have the kids use a large mixing spoon instead of their hands to get the cotton balls.

**In our story today, God used an unending container of flour to provide food for Elijah, the woman, and her son. To help us remember how God provided for the people in today’s story, we are going to have a relay race where we’ll fill a container with pretend flour. You’ll be on two teams. The first person from each team will grab a handful of cotton balls (which we’ll pretend is flour) and race to the jar to put them inside. But you can only use one hand! Once you put the cotton balls in the jar, race back and tag your next teammate so she can get a handful and fill the jar. The team that fills up its flour jar first wins!**

Show the kids how to grab a handful of cotton balls and run to the jar and back. Then say, “Go!” and allow them to play the game.

**Look how full your jars are! This game helps us remember God’s big story today, when God kept filling the oil and flour to provide food for the widow, her son, and Elijah. God can provide in unexpected ways!**