

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.

Activity: Find the Bread

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

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).

Activity: Find the Bread

SUPPLIES: brown or tan paper (3–4 sheets)

Ahead of time, hide several sheets of brown or tan paper around the room. This will be pretend bread.

Today, we're learning how God can provide in unexpected ways! God provided bread for Elijah, a woman, and her son so they had food to eat. God provides for us too. Let's play a game to find some hidden bread to help us remember how God provided for Elijah, the woman, and her son. I have hidden some brown pieces of paper around the room. We're going to pretend it's bread and try to find it. Can you find the pretend bread?

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

Our bread was hidden in some unexpected places!

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for snack and story.

Snack

SUPPLIES: Small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids at chairs around snack tables and serve cheerios and water. While kids are busy eating, begin the Bible story.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy bread

God gave His people prophets, or messengers, to share His message with His people. Elijah was a prophet who told the evil king God's message that it wasn't going to rain for a long time. Without rain, there would be no food! This made the evil king angry at Elijah. So Elijah ran away.

God told Elijah to hide, and He would provide for Elijah. Even though food wasn't growing without the rain, God still provided another way for Elijah to eat. God sent birds called ravens to bring food to Elijah every day.

I didn't expect God to provide food for Elijah with birds! Can you act like birds? Allow the kids to act like ravens. **Then Elijah went to another town where a widow (someone whose husband had died) would take care of him and give him food. Elijah asked the widow for food and water. She didn't have much food left! She was going to use the last of her flour and oil to make one last meal of bread.**

Elijah told her that God said she wouldn't run out of food! She used the flour and oil to make bread, and there was more flour and more oil! Pretend with the kids to pour the ingredients and knead the bread. Then hold up the toy bread (or real bread) to show the kids. **She kept making bread, and God kept refilling the oil and flour so she could make more and more! God kept His promise! God provided food for Elijah in two unexpected ways in today's story. God provides for us too! He gives us what we need.**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. Dear God, thank You for providing us with so many things. We love You and thank You for the unexpected ways You give us what we need. 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 you in unexpected ways this week, and may you praise Him for all He does.**

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today, we're learning that God can provide in unexpected ways. God is so good to us! Let's sing and thank Him!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.