#### Lesson 1:

#### God Takes Care of the Prophet Elijah

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Kings 17

MEMORY WORK:

Bible skills 1-6 Psalms 119:105

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God cares about me all the time, just as He took care of Elijah, the widow, and her son.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Since this is the first lesson for the new class time should be spent doing a general Bible review before introducing the lesson. It is recommended to go over many of these basic Bible facts as part of your teaching routine. Students should already know that (1) the Bible has 2 parts (Old and New Testaments), (2) The number of books in the Bible (66), the O.T. (39), and the N.T. (27). Use the Bible visual with removable numbers to review this. Introduce where to find the O.T. (front of Bible) and N.T. (back of Bible). Have each student find the O.T. and N.T. in a Bible.Sing the books of the Bible songs. Explain which part of the Bible the lesson for today comes from and insert a corresponding picture in the Bible visual pocket. Now you are ready to introduce the lesson.

God promises to always take care of us if we obey Him. In our Bible lesson today, we will learn about a prophet, a man of God, named Elijah. This is a wonderful story of how God cared for Elijah.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Elijah was a godly man (from Tishbe in **Gilead**) who lived during the time wicked Ahab was king of Israel (the Northern Kingdom). Elijah was chosen by God to be a special messenger, a prophet, to the 10 northern tribes. God sent Elijah to tell King Ahab that a **drought** would soon come upon Israel because so many had turned away from God. [Discuss what a drought is and its consequences.]

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|  | **HISTORICAL NOTE:** Gilead was a mountainous area east of the Jordan, which was home to the tribes of Rueben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh. It was called Perea in New Testament times. |

1. After Elijah delivered that message to Ahab, God told him to go to a brook (stream, creek) called Cherith (location is uncertain). Elijah drank water from the brook, but where would he find food? God sent **ravens** to take meat and bread to Elijah every day until the waters of the brook dried up (because of the lack of rainfall). It is important to note that God allowed the brook to dry up. This was another reminder for Elijah that he should trust God and not the things he could see and feel and taste. God did not plan for Elijah to stay at the brook and hide from Ahab and Jezebel forever; He was preparing Elijah to serve and to teach in another place.

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|  | **NOTE:** The raven is the first bird specifically mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 8:7). |

1. When the brook dried up, God told Elijah to leave Israel and go to Zarephath, a city in Phoenicia, to find food at the home of a poor **widow**. (Explain “widow” to small children.) When Elijah met the widow, she was very sad and desperate; she was getting ready to prepare the last bit of food she had for herself and her son. But Elijah promised her that “the Lord God of Israel”— not the idols worshipped by the Phoenicians—would give her and her son the food they needed until He sent rain again and the drought ended. Because she listened to Elijah, believed what he said, and did what he told her to do, she was blessed with enough food every day. She fed Elijah, herself, and her son from a miraculously endless supply of meal and oil.
2. Sometime later, this same widow’s young son died suddenly. She asked Elijah for help, believing that he could help since he was “a man of God” (1 Kings 17:18). Elijah took the boy’s body to the room on the rooftop where he was staying and prayed earnestly that God would bring him back to life. He stretched himself over the body of the boy three times. Just as suddenly as the boy died, he came back to life!

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|  | **NOTE:** The resurrection of the widow’s son is the first recorded resurrection from the dead recorded in Scripture. |

1. These three miracles (birds feeding Elijah, the endless supply of meal and oil, and the raising of the boy from the dead) all demonstrated God’s great power. They demonstrated that Elijah’s message to King Ahab and Israel about their wickedness was from God (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3-4). But they also show us that God cares about us all the time, and He knows just what we need in every circumstance. God, of course, knew that Elijah needed water and at the same time, that the widow and her son were almost out of food. Because of their faith and His concern for the fatherless and widows (Exodus 22:22-24), God saw to their needs right when they needed Him. He has promised to do what is best for us as well, if we will only trust Him (believe, pray earnestly, obey).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* Elijah ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. There are directions for showing visuals on the tv pinned to the cork board strip beside the tv.

##### Bible Study Guide for All Ages (BSGFAA) Lesson 179. These visuals will look like a black and white comic strip on one large piece of cardstock. To use these attach it to the magnetic dry erase board. Use dry erase markers to follow the directions. Let students take turns marking on the page.

* Raven puppet, play bread, costumes, etc. to act out the story
* Pictures of a region affected by prolonged drought

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

##### “God Took Care of Elijah”

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “London Bridge”)

God sent ravens flying down, flying down, flying down;

God sent ravens flying down, to feed Elijah.

Every morning they flew down, they flew down, they flew down;

Every morning they flew down to feed Elijah.

Every evening they flew down, they flew down, they flew down;

Every evening they flew down to feed Elijah.

Oh, they fed him meat and bread, meat and bread, meat and bread;

Oh, they fed him meat and bread; they fed Elijah.

##### “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Author: Unknown\* (Tune: See Internet)

He’s got the whole world, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the little bitty babies, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got you and me, brother, in His hands.(3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got you and me, sister, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the mommas and the daddies, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hand

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Activities should focus on the first part of the lesson – Elijah’s time being fed by ravens.

* Show the children pictures of farms from which we get our food, or show them objects and talk about how farm products become things we eat. For example: show them a picture of peanuts growing in a field; peanuts in shells; shells broken open; peanuts crushed to make peanut butter; put in jars that we find on our store shelves; etc. Another example: Farmers plant wheat seeds that grow into beautiful fields of wheat that are harvested, then sent to other places where flour is made, then to bakeries where bread is made, etc. (God doesn’t give us food like He did to Elijah on this occasion, but God still provides our food—just in different ways.
* “[God Feeds Elijah Coloring Sheet](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32-167Coloring%20Sheet%20(God%20Feeds%20Elijah).pdf)s” - Glue pieces of cereal, such as cheerios in the hand on the coloring sheet.
* Use a bird sack puppet or glove puppet to “deliver” small loaves of bread to the children.
* General Bible Review - If time permits, introduce students to the flash card game. Show a flash card and ask the question. The student who raises hand and correctly answers the question gets the card. If no one can answer the question the teacher keeps the card. This will give the teacher a general understanding of the class’s overall Bible knowledge.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Talk to them about God bringing the widow’s son back to life and why that was important (to prove that Elijah’s message was from God; showed God’s great power).

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Activities should focus on the second part of the lesson – Elijah’s encounters with the widow.

* Give each child a ball of bread dough you have prepared before class. (The dough can be as simple as flour and oil.) Also give them a piece of aluminum foil or wax paper on which they can pat out a round shape. (Small toy rolling pins would be fun for them to use. They can sometimes be found in dollar stores.) Bring some pre- cooked bread to show the final product.
* Measure Water – Bring two measuring cups. Put two cups of water in one. Pour one cup into the other measuring cup. Show the students how there is now one cup in each container. Pour the water back into the original container and show how there is two cups in the container again. Discuss how there is always the same amount of water altogether. Discuss how this is different from the miracle of the never ending oil.
* Review Game A basic game like tic-tac toe or using the Candyland board would work well with this lesson.

### Review Questions

1. Where was Elijah from?
   1. Tishbe in Gilead
2. Who was the king of Israel when Elijah lived?
   1. Ahab
3. What di d God tell Elijah to tell King Ahab?
   1. A drought (no rain) would occur because so many had turned from God.
4. Where did Elijah go after delivering God’s message to Ahab?
   1. A brook called Cherith
5. While living by the brook, how did Elijah get food?
   1. God sent ravens to bring him food until the brook dried up.
6. Where did God tell Elijah to go next?
   1. A city called Zeraphath
7. Where would Elijah find food in Zaraphath?
   1. At the home of a poor widow
8. What did Elijah promise the widow?
   1. If she shared her last bit of food she had, the Lord would give her and her son what they needed.
9. Did the widow believe Elijah?
   1. Yes
10. How did God provide food for the widow?
    1. Her jars of flour and oil never ran out.
11. Years later, why did the widow ask Elijah for help?
    1. Her son died.
12. Where did Elijah take the boy’s body, and what did he do to the boy?
    1. He took the boy’s body to the room on the rooftop where he was staying and he prayed that God would bring him back to life.
13. How many times did he stretch himself over the boy’s body?
    1. Three times
14. What happened to the boy?
    1. He came back to life.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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