

Lesson C2.3 - God Cares for Us



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Kings 17:1-16

► Bible Characters: Elijah, God, King Ahab, the poor widow

The prophet Elijah had to give an evil king bad news. Fearing for his life after this, Elijah hid in the wilderness, where God cared for him. Later, God sent Elijah to a starving widow, who shared her last bit of bread with him. Again, God cared for both of them, and the widow's food did not run out!

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Division

Because of disputes in the royal house, God's people were split into a Northern Kingdom (Israel) and a Southern Kingdom (Judah). It was a bad time, with much false worship and idolatry.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of the **Alphabet Song**.

Welcome everyone today!

Now let's settle down and pray.

Thank you, Lord, that we are here.

Keep us healthy through the year.

Help us listen, learn and grow.

Teach us all that we should know. Amen!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Raise your hand if you've ever been worried about something. Sometimes, we have to do hard things, and sometimes, hard things happen to us. But in either case, we don't need to worry. Why? Because **God cares for us**. Say that with me: **God cares for us**. And since **God cares for us**, he will help us through whatever we must face.

Who can tell about a time God watched out for you and helped you? (*Call on volunteers*)

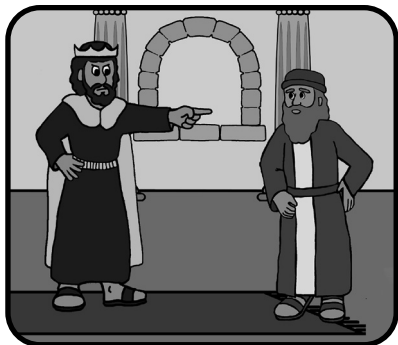
In today's story, a man named Elijah faced some very hard things. So did a poor widow. Would they be okay? Let's hear their story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: In the Bible, God often chose certain people to be prophets. (A prophet listens to God and is a messenger for him.) One prophet was named Elijah.

Read the caption: Elijah was a servant of God. But his job was not always easy. One day, Elijah had to tell a bad king there would be no rain.

- *Look at the picture. Which person is Elijah? [The one in the green.]*
- *What do you think is happening here? [The king is upset with Elijah after hearing the bad news that there would be no rain.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: The king became angry when he heard God's message. So Elijah left and went to live in the wilderness where he could not be found. But God took care of Elijah. God sent birds called ravens to bring Elijah food.

Read the caption: "Elijah lived alone in hiding for some time. But then God led him to a new town. There he met a poor widow gathering sticks."

- *Why might the widow be gathering sticks? [To build a fire to cook some food.]*
- *Does the widow look happy to see Elijah? [She looks more surprised than happy.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: Elijah was tired and thirsty from living outdoors with no rain. God had told him a widow in this new town would help him. Would she?

Read the caption: Elijah asked the widow for water and bread. She and her son were starving. But she trusted God and shared what she had.

- *What is the widow doing in this picture? [Giving Elijah a little loaf of bread]*
- *Do you think it was easy or hard for the widow to share with Elijah? Why? [Probably very hard since she and her son were almost out of food, themselves.]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: God had promised that the widow's jar of flour would not empty, and her jug of oil would not go dry until it rained again. After sharing her food, she and her son would have what they needed to survive this hard time.

Read the caption: Elijah told the widow that God would take care of her. And God did! Her jug of oil and jar of flour stayed full and did not run out.

- *What things do you see on the table? [A bottle or jug of oil, a large jar with flour inside, and some bread or little cakes.]*
- *What do think the widow learned from this? [God would take care of her.]*

Remember today's message: **God cares for us!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Elijah was a prophet who
was faithful, and quite fearless, too.
So when a selfish king was bad,
Elijah warned that God was mad!*

*"Since you've shown God such disdain,"
Elijah said, "There'll be no rain."
When to a small town he was led,
he asked a widow for some bread.*

*She shared the little that she had.
Elijah spoke, and made her glad.
"God says your food will last and last,
full until this drought has passed!"*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Game: Elijah's Cake**Materials:**

- None

Instructions:

To play this game, kids will try to remember ingredients in a certain order to add them into a cake.

Invite the class to sit in a circle. You (the Leader) can get the game started by saying, "I'm making a cake for Elijah. First, I'll add flour."

The person to your right will go next. He or she will repeat what you said, but will also add one ingredient to your list. So, that person would say, "I'm going to mix up a cake. "First I'll add flour, then I'll add (blank)." The next kid in line will repeat what was said, and then add another ingredient. For example, "I'm going to mix up a cake. First I'll add flour, then I'll add (blank), then I'll add (blank)." (The ingredients can be as crazy as desired for this game!)

Continue like this and see if kids can remember the exact order of things. It's okay if they don't know what actually goes into a cake, and if they suggest odd ingredients.



h. Song (optional)

Sing this song to the tune, "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands." You can listen to the tune online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

If You Trust God and You Know It

For this song, kids can hold out their hand like they are sharing something when they sing the line, "share your bread."

**If you trust God and you know it,
share your bread!**

**If you trust God and you know it,
share your bread!**

**If you trust God and you know it
then your actions now will show it,**

If you trust God and you know it, share your bread!



i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: God told Elijah to warn a bad king that there would be no rain. So Elijah went to find him. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us,

For teaching and for helping us,

For always watching over us,

We love you too.

Amen!