



ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

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 in hiding from King Ahab, God demonstrates that He is the one true God by providing for Elijah's needs in unexpected ways.

WORD OF WONDER: God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. —Ephesians 3:20

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is the biggest surprise you've ever experienced?
- SMAL GROUP
- Interactive Game: Who Would've Thought?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Unstoppable God, Here With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Provide in Unexpected Ways

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 17

WORD OF WONDER: Ephesians 3:20

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.

—Christina Embree

Nonprofit Ministry Director and Minister of Generational Discipleship

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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).

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Provide in Unexpected Ways

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 17

WORD OF WONDER: Ephesians 3:20

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop.

Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be sure to move to their level and introduce yourself to any new friends. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

Welcome Question

Consider using a **30 or 2:00 Countdown** to let leaders and kids know it's almost time to begin!

At Your Start Time...

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question board

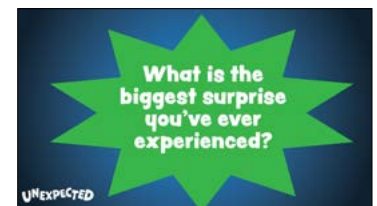
"What is the biggest surprise you've ever experienced?"

Encourage kids to be creative as they share their answers with one another.

"Just like many of you shared about surprising experiences in your life, sometimes God can surprise us too. Today in God's big story, we're going to hear about a few times when God provided good things in really unexpected ways.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today our Wonder Truth is **GOD CAN PROVIDE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.**



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! I have a little game for us first today!"

Interactive Game: Who Would've Thought?

SUPPLIES: box or container, random objects (10-12)

SLIDE: WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT

Ahead of time, fill a box or container with 10–12 random objects from your church or ministry area. Some examples of objects you can put in the boxes are plastic water bottles, rulers, blank sheets of paper, disposable cups, pipe cleaners, etc.

Split the room into 2 teams, left side and right side. Invite 3 volunteers from each team to come up front. You also will need 1-2 teen or adult volunteers to be the judge or judges.

Let kids know we will play 3 total rounds. The best 2 out of 3 wins!

Grab an item from the box and had one to each kid. They will need to use the object in a different way than it's typically used. For example, he could roll up a sheet of paper and pretend he is a pirate with a telescope looking for treasure. Give them 10 seconds to decide and then demonstrate their action.

"Just as we came up with new uses for these objects that we never would've expected, God can work through people and things in different ways too. We can trust God to provide because we know He is a good God who provides for His people. Sometimes it looks different than we expect because God is able to do much more than we can even imagine; He can surprise us!

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CAN PROVIDE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.**"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You are able to do more than I can imagine, (Kids repeat.)

And You can provide in unexpected ways! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

LESSON 4 **GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH**



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Father, thank You for this time to hear Your story from the Bible. We ask Your Holy Spirit to help us to understand Your great love for us—Your kids. Guide us to see all the ways You provide for us every day. We thank You most of all for giving us the gift of Jesus! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Unstoppable God, Here With Me

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Explain to kids they are going to read in the Bible an example of God providing. Explain that 1 Kings is in the Old Testament and tells the true story of different leaders in Israel's history.

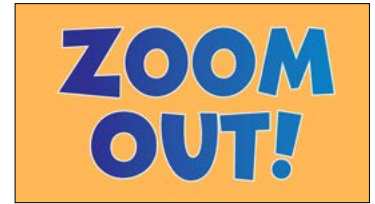
"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story! "

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY



LESSON 4 GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SLIDE: ZOOM OUT 1



"We are going to hear an amazing part of God's big story from the Bible showing us that sometimes things aren't quite as they seem. Be listening for unexpected events, and be ready to help tell the story!"

After God freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the land of promise, they had God for their King. But over time, the people begged God to give them a human king like all the other nations around them. Reluctantly, God agreed, but the first king—Saul—didn't stay true to God. The second king—David, the man after God's own heart—was a much better king, and so was his son, Solomon. But after that, just as God had warned, most of Israel's kings worshiped other gods. They didn't lead God's people well or follow His ways. So God raised up 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 who worshiped idols.

God gave a message to Elijah to inform King Ahab of something that would happen to prove God is alive and powerful. This picture on our screen shows you the message God gave Elijah. Can you figure out the message?

SLIDE: 2 Allow kids a few guesses at what's in the picture.

This is pretty hard. What about now?

SLIDES: 3-5 Once kids have tried guessing, repeat the process again for **SLIDE 4**. Then advance to the **SLIDE 5** image of the object and allow kids to shout out what they see.

Yes! It's a drop of water! God had Elijah inform King Ahab that there wouldn't be any rain or dew for several years.

Well, this made King Ahab angry, so Elijah went to hide from him in the Kerith Valley. At the same time God told Elijah to go, God also told Elijah how He would provide for him. God stopped the rain, but He also led Elijah to a little brook that had enough water for him to drink.

What did Elijah eat? Without rain, food can't grow, but God provided another way for Elijah to have food. Let's take a look at another unexpected way God provided for Elijah.

SLIDE: 6 Advance to the next Zoom-Out Slide. Allow kids to guess what the image is, then advance the slide. Continuing advancing the **slides 7-9** until the final image of this object is displayed, allowing kids to share their guesses.

Yes, it's a bird! Do you know what kind of bird it is? Pause for kids to share. **It's a raven.** God sent ravens every day with food for Elijah to eat. I didn't expect ravens to be how God provided food for Elijah!

When the little brook dried up, it was time for Elijah to leave the valley. God told him, "Go right away to Zarephath in the region of Sidon. Stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food" (1 Kings 17:9).

Elijah traveled to Zarephath where he met a widow, a woman whose husband had died. Elijah asked her, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar? I need a drink” (1 Kings 17:10). Elijah also asked the widow for something else. Look at this image and see if you can guess what Elijah wanted.

SLIDE: 10 repeat again for the next set of pictures. allow kids to guess what the image is. Advance the slides until the fourth slide of the image is displayed, allowing kids to share their guesses.

Yes! Elijah asked the widow for bread. The widow was sad, though. “I don’t have any bread,’ she replied. ... ‘All I have is a small amount of flour in a jar and a li tle olive oil in a jug. ... I’ll make one last meal for myself and my son. We’ll eat it. After that, we’ll die” (1 Kings 17:12).

Wow! That seems like a really sad story, except that’s not the way God let the story end. He provided for Elijah again. Let’s see if you can guess the unexpected way God provided. Advance to the next Zoom-Out Slide. Allow kids to guess as you advance the slides.

Yes! That’s a jar like the woman used to hold her flou . Do you know what God did with that jar? Listen to what Elijah told the woman. He 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 loo ed in the jar after feeding Elijah, there was still more flour and mo e oil. In fact, “The jar of flour as n’t used up [and] the jug always had oil in it” (1 Kings 17:16). God kept His word!

You all did a really great job looking at the images that weren’t quite as they seemed. We’ve learned God worked in some really unexpected ways! And the story is not over yet! 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). The woman was overjoyed and realized all that Elijah had done and said was from God. God can provide in unexpected ways!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD CAN PROVIDE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?

Allow kids to answer freely.

Over 800 years after God provided for Elijah in unexpected ways, Jesus reminded His disciples that God cares for our needs as He does the lilies of the fields and birds of the air. Jesus is God's ultimate and unexpected provision for us. Through God's gift of Jesus and His death and resurrection, we have the hope of eternal life with God.



Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

*****Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.**



WORSHIP VIDEO: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus

Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God see your needs and provide for you in unexpected ways. As He does so, may your faith grow, for your Father in heaven loves you and cares for you. Praise God for He is good! He can do more than we imagine!