



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.

**WORD OF WONDER:** God can do more than we could ever imagine. —from Ephesians 3:20

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Play Stations:
  - Unexpected Creations
  - Knead the Dough
  - God Provides for Elijah Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Ephesians 3:20
- Circle Time: Feed the Ravens Beanbag Toss
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Drawn to Prayer
- Closing Game: Find the Bread



[Unexpected Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



**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:** From 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).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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:** From Ephesians 3:20

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** pipe cleaners, scraps of paper, bin, play dough, coloring utensils, bendable wax sticks (optional), toy plates and disposable silverware (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [God Provides for Elijah Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

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?"**

#### Play Station: Unexpected Creations

**Set-up:** Put pipe cleaners and scraps of paper in a bin. You can also add bendable wax sticks.

**Play:** Allow the kids to use the pipe cleaners and papers to create something unexpected and different. They can also use bendable wax sticks.

#### Play Station: Knead the Dough

**Set-up:** Set out play dough. You can also set out toy plates, disposable silverware, and serving ware.

**Play:** Allow the kids to use the play dough to create pretend food. They can use the toy plates, silverware, and serving ware to create and serve the pretend food.

#### Play Station: God Provides for Elijah Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite food on the back.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

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.

### WORD OF WONDER

God can do more than we could ever imagine.

—from Ephesians 3:20

**Now that we know the Word of Wonder, 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?**

## God's Big Story / Snack

**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.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** ((Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (Point to yourself.)

**"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Bible."**

**Read pages 140–145 in the My First Hands On Bible.**

## Circle Time: Feed the Ravens Beanbag Toss

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), beanbags (2), paper (4 sheets, optional), marker (prep only, optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Feed the Ravens Questions \(1 per SG\)](#)

Before the kids arrive, print the Feed the Ravens Questions and cut apart the question cards. Or, you could cut four sheets of paper in half (you will need seven total) and use a marker to write the questions (or number the questions and write corresponding numbers) onto the pieces of paper.

Before you start the activity, lay out all the papers with the discussion questions on the floor where the kids will gather. Gather the kids into a circle around the papers. The kids will pretend to be birds dropping food by throwing the beanbags onto the question cards. Whichever piece of paper the beanbag lands on (or is close to) is the question that will be discussed.

**"In our story, God provided food for Elijah by having birds drop food for him. Let's pretend we are the ravens that dropped bread to Elijah! The beanbags are our bread. Each person will get a turn to toss a beanbag onto one of the question papers. You'll answer the question your beanbag lands on (or lands close to).**

### 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.

**Head to Large Group!!**

## Responding in Worship: Drawn to Prayer

**SUPPLIES:** paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, tray or baking pan (optional), flour (optional, enough to cover the bottom of the pan), play dough (optional), wet wipes (optional), tablecloth or paper towels (optional)

**Allergy Caution:** Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

In this activity, kids will draw ways that God has provided for them, using paper and coloring utensils, then using either play dough or flour in a tray. If using flour in a tray, cover the bottom of the tray with a layer of flour. If using play dough, set out play dough on a table. You can set out a tablecloth or paper towels to contain messes. Set out wet wipes nearby for cleaning hands.

**God can provide for us in unexpected ways! Let's think about how God provided for you today. Maybe it was the breakfast you had or a hug you needed. On your paper, draw a simple picture of how God provided for you today. As you draw, tell God, "Thank You" for providing that for you.** Allow kids time to draw.

You can switch to allowing the kids to draw in the flour on a tray using the play dough (pretend "bread dough") and allow them to draw with their fingers or make a shape in play dough of the food they want to thank God for providing. Or you can let the kids continue to draw on the paper.

**Now think of a food that God has provided for you. Draw that food on your paper and thank God for that food as you draw.** Allow the kids to respond and thank God.

**Now think of something God has provided for you at your home. Maybe it's your favorite toy or your bed or a family member. Thank God for providing that and draw or shape it.** Allow the kids to respond and thank God.

**God provided for Elijah in surprising and wonderful ways, and God provides for us too! We can thank God for providing for us.**

## Closing Game: Find the Bread

**SUPPLIES:** pieces of play bread (3 or 4); OR optional: brown or tan paper (3–4 sheets)

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.

**"Today, we learned how God can provide in unexpected ways! One of the ways God provided was through oil and flour to make bread. Have you ever baked bread before? God took care of Elijah, the widow, and her son with bread. To help us remember that God also cares for our needs, 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.

**Our bread was hidden in some unexpected places! Just like we learned today, God can provide in unexpected ways!"**