

Upper Elementary

Elijah and the Ravens

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ carton of eggs
- ☐ large plastic bag
- ☐ backward Bible verse printout
- ☐ hand mirror
- ☐ two bowls
- ☐ two small spoons
- ☐ two small jars (same size)
- ☐ flour (check ahead for allergies)

Romans 8:28

We know that all
things work together
for good for those
who love God, for
those who are called
according to His
purpose.

Topic:	Elijah and the Ravens
Intro:	Ask for a volunteer to stand on the carton of eggs.
	What do you think will happen? We assume the eggs will break, but they don't. Eggshells very hard on the top so that it is hard to break them.
	Put a few eggs on their sides inside a plastic bag and have another volunteer stand on them. They break!
	When the eggs are facing up, they are safe, but when they are on their sides, they are very delicate.
	Hold an egg upward.
	Like eggs, when we are looking up to God, we are stronger.
	Hold it sideways.
	When we are looking at the things around us, we are weaker. We want to keep our focus on God, even when everything around us looks scary.
1 Kings 16:29-33	In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel. Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Ahab the son of Omri did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight above all that were before him. As if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He raised up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did more yet to provoke Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.
	By marrying a foreign princess, Ahab was making his alliance with her father's kingdom stronger. But God wants us to marry someone who worships Him, too, so that husbands and wives can help each other grow closer to God. God had forbidden the Israelites to marry people who worshipped statues, because He knew it would become tempting.
	Ahab and Jezebel would be remembered as Israel's worst rulers. It wasn't enough to encourage the Israelites to worship a false god. They wanted to kill any prophet who preached about God to the people. They didn't want anyone worshiping God in all of Israel.



Elijah and the Ravens

1



1 Kings 16:29-33
In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel. Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Ahab the son of Omri did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight above all that were before him. As if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He raised up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did more yet to provoke Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.



In ancient times, having the son of one king marry the daughter of another king was a way to connect both countries and make them stronger. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess whose father was very powerful.



1 Kings 17:1-7	Elijah the Tishbite, who was one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." Then Yahweh's word came to him, saying, "Go away from here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is before the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook. I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to Yahweh's word, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith that is before the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. After a while, the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.
	Elijah's name means "my God is Jehovah." He had been chosen by God to be His prophet and spread His message. King Ahab was not an easy person to talk to and Elijah's message was one he would not want to hear. We don't know if Elijah had ever spoken to the king before this, but coming before him was very intimidating. How would you feel if God gave you a job to do that was incredibly dangerous? Would you obey?
	God provided for Elijah when he needed to hide from Ahab. He provided for him through a natural means: water from the creek; and through a supernatural means: ravens bringing him food. Sometimes God uses supernatural miracles to take care of us, and other times He uses natural things to take care of us.

HOLY BIBLE

1 Kings 17:1-7

2

Elijah the Tishbite, who was one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." Then Yahweh's word came to him, saying, "Go away from here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is before the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook. I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So, he went and did according to Yahweh's word, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith that is before the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. After a while, the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

How did God provide for Elijah?

He got food from the _____.

He got water from the _____.



supernatural
gift from God

natural gift
from God

The water from the creek was a

☐
☐

The food from the ravens was a

☐
☐

1 Kings 17:8-12	Yahweh’s word came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you.” So, he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and said, “Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink.” As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” She said, “As Yahweh your God lives, I don’t have anything baked, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jar. Behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”
	When the creek dried up, do you think Elijah still trusted that God would take care of him? Why do you think God didn't just send more water to the creek? (He had other plans for Elijah) Do you think it would have been as easy for Elijah to follow God's instructions if the creek were still giving him water? Sometimes, God has to take something away from us to make us be willing to make a change. If we are too comfortable, we want to just stay where we are and not do anything different. If God takes something away from you, you can pray about why, and see if maybe it is because He wants to get your attention.



1 Kings 17:8-12

Yahweh’s word came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you.” So, he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and said, “Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink.” As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” She said, “As Yahweh your God lives, I don’t have anything baked, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jar. Behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

If the creek had not dried up, do you think the decision to leave to the widow’s house would have been as easy for Elijah? _____

How could the creek drying up help Elijah feel ready to move on to a new place?

1 Kings 17:13-16	Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go and do as you have said; but make me a little cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward make some for you and for your son. For Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of meal will not run out, and the jar of oil will not fail, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the earth.'" She went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, he, and her household ate many days. The jar of meal didn't run out and the jar of oil didn't fail, according to Yahweh's word, which he spoke by Elijah.
Hand Mirror & Backwards Bible Verse	Show children the Bible verse written backward. Does it make sense? Look at it through the hand mirror to understand it. We often don't understand why we are going through a difficult situation. But then later, we realize what God wanted us to learn through it.



1 Kings 17:13-16

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go and do as you have said; but make me a little cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward make some for you and for your son. For Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of meal will not run out, and the jar of oil will not fail, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the earth.'" She went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, he, and her household ate many days. The jar of meal didn't run out and the jar of oil didn't fail, according to Yahweh's word, which he spoke by Elijah.

How did God provide for the widow?

Her jar of _____ didn't run out.

Her bottle of _____ didn't dry up.



Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose.

1 Kings 17:17-24

After these things, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, you man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to memory, and to kill my son!" He said to her, "Give me your son." He took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the room where he stayed, and laid him on his own bed. He cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, have you also brought evil on the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" He stretched himself on the child three times, and cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, please let this child's soul come into him again." Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the room into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that Yahweh's word in your mouth is truth."



1 Kings 17:17-24

After these things, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, you man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to memory, and to kill my son!" He said to her, "Give me your son." He took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the room where he stayed, and laid him on his own bed. He cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, have you also brought evil on the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" He stretched himself on the child three times, and cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, please let this child's soul come into him again." Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the room into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that Yahweh's word in your mouth is truth."

How did God provide for the boy?

He made the boy start _____ again.

Have you ever thought you had gotten something, only to have it taken away? Imagine if the principal announced that you had won an award, then when you got on stage to receive it, said it was a mistake and the wrong name was read. What if you won a game by one point, only to have the referee change the decision after watching an instant replay. This is how the woman felt. She had accepted the fact that she and her son would starve to death. Then God provided for them through Elijah. Now it seemed like God was just teasing her, giving her a way for her son to live only to let him another way. But God was showing again that we need to trust in Him to provide for us.

Throughout this story God provided for His children when they needed help. He provided special delivery birds, never-ending baking supplies, and even supernatural CPR! The Bible reminds us that if we focus on obeying God, He will take care of all our needs.

Split the group into two equal teams. Set up two bowls filled with enough flour to fill each of the jars. Place one spoon next to each jar. Have everyone stand against the opposite wall, or behind a chair. When you say “go,” the first child in line will go to the table, get the spoon, and take one spoonful of flour and place it in the jar. Then they will set down the spoon and return to the line to tag the next child to do the same. The next child may not go until their hand is tagged. Keep going until one team has their jar completely filled. If there are not enough children for two teams, just do a relay, instead of a relay race.

Closing:

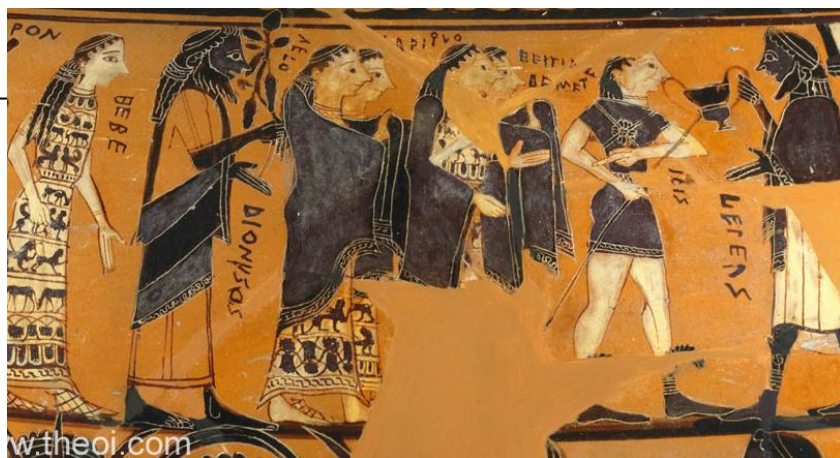


Elijah and the Ravens

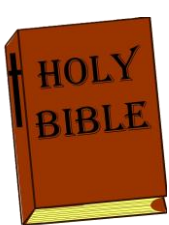


1 Kings 16:29-33

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel. Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Ahab the son of Omri did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight above all that were before him. As if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He raised up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did more yet to provoke Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.



In ancient times, having the son of one king marry the daughter of another king was a way to connect both countries and make them stronger. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess whose father was very powerful.

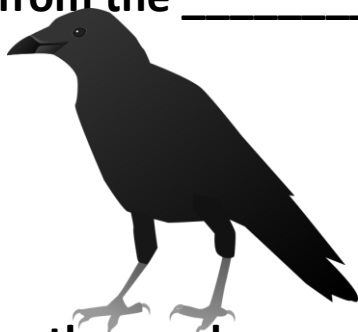


Elijah the Tishbite, who was one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." Then Yahweh's word came to him, saying, "Go away from here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is before the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook. I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So, he went and did according to Yahweh's word, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith that is before the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. After a while, the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

How did God provide for Elijah?

He got food from the _____.

He got water from the _____.



**supernatural
gift from God**

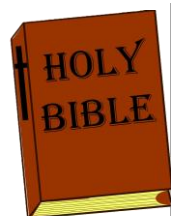
**natural gift
from God**

The water from the creek was a

☐☐

The food from the ravens was a

☐☐

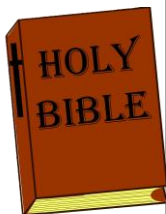


1 Kings 17:8-12

Yahweh's word came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you." So, he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink." As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." She said, "As Yahweh your God lives, I don't have anything baked, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jar. Behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

If the creek had not dried up, do you think the decision to leave it and go to the widow's house would have been as easy for Elijah? _____

How could the creek drying up help Elijah feel ready to move on to a new place?



1 Kings 17:13-16

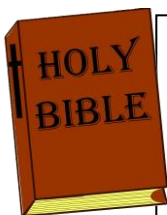
Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go and do as you have said; but make me a little cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward make some for you and for your son. For Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, ‘**The jar of meal will not run out, and the jar of oil will not fail, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the earth.**’” She went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, he, and her household ate many days. The jar of meal didn’t run out and the jar of oil didn’t fail, according to Yahweh’s word, which he spoke by Elijah.



How did God provide for the widow?

**Her jar of _____
didn’t run out.**

**Her bottle of _____
didn’t dry up.**



1 Kings 17:17-24

After these things, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, you man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to memory, and to kill my son!" He said to her, "Give me your son." He took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the room where he stayed, and laid him on his own bed. He cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, have you also brought evil on the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" He stretched himself on the child three times, and cried to Yahweh and said, "Yahweh my God, please let this child's soul come into him again." Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the room into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that Yahweh's word in your mouth is truth."

How did God provide for the boy?

He made the boy start _____ again.

Elijah and the Ravens



Name: _____

E	L	I	J	A	H	J	A	K	L	P
Q	W	E	E	R	T	Y	I	U	I	O
S	C	Z	Z	A	S	D	R	G	F	H
T	H	X	E	W	L	K	A	U	C	T
A	E	C	B	P	O	J	M	J	V	E
T	R	V	E	O	H	R	A	N	B	H
U	E	B	L	E	A	R	S	I	X	P
E	H	N	U	I	H	Y	T	H	S	O
S	S	N	E	V	A	R	O	P	I	R
M	L	K	J	H	B	G	F	D	S	P
R	C	R	E	E	K	E	W	Q	A	S
T	Y	R	E	G	N	E	S	S	E	M

ELIJAH

AHAB

JEZEBEL

RAVENS

CREEK

CHERESH

SAMARIA

ISRAEL

WORSHIP

STATUES

MESSENGER

PROPHET