



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 3

God Miraculously Provides For Elijah

Take Home Point: *Trust God to take care of you.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Kings 16:29 – 17:16

Key Verse: Proverbs 3:5, "Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Elijah's warning to Ahab.
- God's provision for Elijah in the wilderness and the widow at Zarephath.
- God provides for us, as we trust in him.
- God often uses the least likely means to provide for us.
- God's ultimate provision for us is in Christ.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident in God's willingness to provide for them.
- Eager to trust God with all their needs.

We will help kids do:

- Discuss how God has provided for them while having a snack.
- Discuss how God can be trusted, even when he doesn't answer prayers just the way we want.
- Pray and silently give God any worries or concerns with which the student needs to trust him.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids discuss how God has provided for them. The “snack” will set up the story of how God miraculously provided for Elijah in the desert.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plate or bowl of liquid or soft margarine • shaker or tub with cinnamon and sugar mixture • a flour tortilla
Large Group 	3 8 10 11	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Gets the Scoop on God Providing”—Jerry is totally appalled by the discoveries of a bone, a feather, and a jar of oil found in the sand. He cannot imagine how these items relate to a Bible event. Video: <i>The Animated Stories From the Bible: Elijah</i> —illustrating the events found in I Kings 16:29-17:16 Puppet Presentation Conclusion – Jerry discovers how God provides and gives us our greatest provision found in Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry dude, the puppet • a tub of sand, at least six inches deep, labeled, “Sands of Time” • a feather from a bird or something that reminds you of a raven • large key with the discovery point written on a paper slip, “<i>Trust God To Take Care of You.</i>” • a candy bar (attached to key with string or tape) • a bottle or jar of olive oil (<i>Option:</i> if you can find “The Never Empty” water pouring trick from a magic or novelty store, it will be a big hit in telling your story.) • a dog bone • video and jacket from: <i>The Animated Stories from the Bible, Elijah</i>, Animated Bible Stories II, 1993. (<i>from www.nestfamily.com</i>) Show video from opening until 13 minutes into it.
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a “footprints in the sand” snack as they discuss how God provides for all their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poem, “Footprints” (p. 13) • plate or bowl of liquid or soft margarine • shaker or tub with a cinnamon and sugar mixture • ½ tortilla for each kid • footprint template (p. 14) • paper plate • napkins • wet wipes

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: Plate or bowl of liquid or soft margarine, bowl or shaker with cinnamon and sugar mixture, a flour tortilla, napkins.

Tear the tortilla into enough strips for each child. As each shares about the following topic, let them spread a little butter on their tortilla strip and dip into the cinnamon and sugar mixture.

Tell about a time that God provided for you.

Give an example of God's provision from your own life. Think of a time when you experienced a remarkable provision such as God providing an unexpected check in the mail or it could be an ordinary means of provision such as the money you receive for the work you do everyday. Help kids tell their stories by encouraging all to listen well. Tell of both exceptional ways and ordinary ways God has provided.

Dip a piece of "bread" (tortilla) into the "oil" (butter) and then the sugar and cinnamon mixture as you say:

Our Bible event today is about how God miraculously provided for Elijah using "bread" (hold up tortilla) and "oil" (point to butter) while he was hiding out in the desert (point to sugar and cinnamon mixture which looks like sand).

Today we will learn to **trust God to take care of you.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: "Jerry Dude Gets the Scoop on God Providing"—Jerry is totally appalled by the discoveries of a bone, a feather, and a jar of oil found in the sand. He cannot imagine how these items relate to a Bible event.

Video: *The Animated Stories From the Bible: Elijah*--- illustrating the events found in I Kings 16:29-17:16

Puppet Presentation Conclusion – Jerry discovers how God provides and gives us our greatest provision found in Jesus.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 1 Kings 16:29-17:16 in their Bibles.

What did Ahab do to make the Lord God of Israel more furious than all the kings of Israel before him? (1 Kings 16:31-33. *He married Jezebel; worshiped the god, Baal; and made poles dedicated to the goddess, Asherah.*)

What warning did Elijah give to Ahab? (1 Kings 17:1-2. *The God of Israel will not let there be any dew or rain for the next few years.*)

How did God first provide for Elijah while he was hiding beside the river? (1 Kings 17:6. *Ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the stream.*)

The stream dried up and God sent Elijah to Zarephath. How did God provide for the widow and Elijah? (1 Kings 17:14. *Until the Lord would send rain, the widow's jar of flour and the jug of oil would never be empty.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think the widow felt when she was asked for bread and water knowing she had only enough for her family for one last meal? (*She was worried about her and her son's survival. It didn't make sense to give away her last food to the prophet. Maybe she felt hopeless. Maybe she had faith in God and the prophet Elijah, whom God sent.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: Plate or bowl of liquid or soft margarine, shaker or tub with a cinnamon and sugar mixture, ½ flour tortilla for each kid, paper plate, napkins, wet wipes, a copy of the poem: "Footprints." Optional: footprint template

Pick one child to close his or her eyes and hold both hands out with palms up. Say:

Keep your eyes closed. I'm going to put something in your hand. After I do, I want you to rub your hands together.

Sprinkle a small amount of the sugar and cinnamon mixture in the hands.

Okay, rub your hands together. Can you tell us what that feels like without opening your hands or eyes?

It may feel scratchy and sticky.

Does it feel good? Do you want to guess what it is? Yes, it is the cinnamon and sugar mixture.

Provide a wet wipe to help clean the hands.

Did you know there are things that happen in our life that seem sticky or rough? Sometimes it might even seem like God isn't there. But think about this poem as I read it. Close your eyes and imagine.

Read "Footprints in the Sand."

Have you ever felt that way? Let's talk about it as we make a footprint snack.

Give each child a paper plate and ½ tortilla.

To make a footprint on the tortilla: have kids spread the margarine on the outside of their closed fist to make a footprint stamp.



Press their buttered fist onto the tortilla and use their finger to stamp butter onto the tortilla making the toes. (Option: Use the footprint template to make the butter design.)



Then have kids sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on the buttered tortilla and shake off the mixture that does not stick to the butter.

Let kids clean their hands with wet wipes. Now they can enjoy their tortilla while continuing the discussion.

We know that we are supposed to trust God. It will



help us understand how to trust him when we understand how we trust other people.

Sometimes people do things that disappoint you and that makes it hard for you to trust them. For example, someone might not keep a promise or a secret you trusted him or her with. Maybe someone else does not love or treat you the way you want. At times like this, it is very hard to trust.

Tell about a time when someone disappointed you and made it hard for you to trust them again? It could be a friend or maybe even a parent or a teacher or another adult.

Some of the examples might be: *I told my friend a secret and she broke my trust. Some might be more personal and impacting such as a parent who divorced and left. This is a time in which the adults need to be sensitive by listening carefully and not trying to give a lot of advice but validate the children's feelings about times of disappointment.*

This next question is something every person whether they are young or old will sometimes ask: When times are hard, will God still take care of me? Can I still trust him?

Maybe Elijah was feeling like that when there was no water in the land and it was a hard time for him too. Could he still trust God to take care of him? What did God do? *(He provided with the ravens, and he provided with the oil and flour that never ran out.)*

What can we learn from this Bible event? Will God provide for us? Tell about a time that was hard or difficult and yet God provided.

After you listen to the stories, discuss how ultimately God provided by giving us Jesus.

Even when it doesn't seem like God is answering our prayers just the way we want, we can still trust him. God gives us this promise in our key verse from Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding."*

We can **trust God to take care of us*. Just like God provided for Elijah, God is always with us. And best of all, he gave us his own Son Jesus, so that no matter what, we can be friends with him forever.

Closing Prayer:

Invite the kids to pray personally and quietly after you have prayed the opening portion.

Dear God,

Each one of us needs to learn to **trust you to take care of us*. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that we can be forgiven and we can be friends with you forever. We can always trust you. But we would like to talk to you quietly, in our hearts, about some of the things that might be bothering us. We want to trust you to hear our prayers about these things and answer them the best way possible. So now we pray quietly.... (give time for quiet prayer)...in Jesus' name, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

Trust God to Take Care of You

Discovery Digs – Dramatic Characterization

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *a tub of sand, at least 6 inches deep. Label it, "Sands of Time"*
- *a feather from a bird or something that reminds you of a raven*
- *a large key with the discovery point written on a paper slip wrapped around it: "Trust God to Take Care of You"*
- *a candy bar (attached to key with string or tape)*
- *a bottle or jar of olive oil (Option: if you can find "The Never Empty" water pouring trick from a magic or novelty store, it will be a big hit in telling your story.)*
- *a dog bone*
- *video jacket from the Elijah video*

NOTE: Today's lesson includes a 13-minute video. Therefore, the puppet and dramatic sections must move very fast and be very brief.

Jerry Dude Gets the Scoop on Trusting God

Puppet Presentation

Jerry: Whoa, gnarly we're back here at Kingdom Quest. Hey dudes and dude-ettes, it's me, Jerry the surfer dude, back from last week. I'm really diggin' your town for summer vacation but still miss the beach. It's cool though. Like we've got sand with us today because we are chillin' with the Discovery Dudes out here. Let's welcome Dr. C.M. Goofagain. I guess I'll just call him, Dr.G. Would you come out here please? Hey, Dr. G. - dude!

Dr.G.: **Hi, Jerry.**

Jerry: Why don't you pull something out of that gnarly sand today that reminds us of today's lesson?

Dr.G.: **Well, first I'll bring a volunteer from the audience to pull something out, also.**

The volunteer comes forward and stands to the side. Dr. G. then pulls out a bone.

Jerry: Major gross me out, dude! Like what is that...a bone? I mean, like did you bury someone in there?

Dr.G.: **Not quite. This reminds me that the land was as dry as a bone in today's Bible event. King Ahab worshiped Baal. Baal was supposedly a god who could control the weather. The prophet Elijah warned Ahab not to follow Baal. If Ahab disobeyed, Elijah told him that the true God, who could really control the weather, would stop the rain for several years. So the land became dry as a bone.**

Now, will the volunteer please reach in to the Sands of Time and find the key for the secret of the day?

Jerry: Watch out for grodey bones, dude! Unless, you've got a dog that needs a gnarly snack!

The volunteer pulls out the Discovery Key with a candy bar attached.

Jerry: Wow, totally awesome! A candy bar for your dog, man!

Dr.G.: **Not quite, Jerry. This candy bar is for the brave volunteer. But it might remind you of today's discovery point. (Addressing volunteer)**

Will you read it?

Student: **Trust God to take care of you.*

Jerry: *That's totally cool. Like I can trust God to like, totally take care of me. But is there more in the sand, Dr. G?*

Dr. Goofagain pulls out the raven feather.

Dr.G.: **What is this? A bird feather?**

Jerry: *Whooooooooa! Bones and bird feathers! Where is this thing taking us, man?*

Dr.G.: **Into the Bible, my dear lad. Now let's see what else?**

Next, Dr. Goofagain pulls out the olive oil or optional "Never Empty Water" jug.

Jerry: *What's that?*

Dr.G.: **It is a jar of olive oil. This is another clue to our Bible event today.**

Jerry: *Now you're freak'in me out! Bones, oil, bird feathers? What does this have to do with *trusting God to take care of you?*

Dr. Goofagain shows the video jacket to the kids.

Dr.G.: **Watch and see. This video is based on 1 Kings 16:29-17:16. It will help you connect the clues of how God provided for Elijah. Remember, *trust God to take care of you.**

Jerry: *That's like totally in the groove, dude. I'll be right back. I'm going to get some popcorn.*

Jerry exits and volunteer returns to his/her seat.

Video

Show the video, *The Animated Stories from the Bible, Elijah* from opening for approximately 13 minutes.

Jerry Dude Gets the Scoop on Trusting God

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Jerry: So Dr. G., dude, what did you notice about the story of God providing for Elijah?

Dr.G.: Well, first I noticed that God had the power to not provide.

Jerry: Whoa. You mean, like when the king and his whole land that had no rain?

Dr.G.: Absolutely. God was warning them to turn to him by not providing.

Jerry: (Makes a warning noise) Caution, caution, caution. Don't turn away from God. King Ahab, like you are being totally dufus.

Dr.G.: But then, consider how remarkable it was when God did provide for Elijah.

Jerry: Yeah, like with the ravens and also making the oil never run out. I sure would like to have something like that, but I would want a candy machine that would never run out. Totally awesome.

Dr.G.: I don't know if God will give you that. But God does provide for what you need the most.

Jerry: Like I said. The candy.

Dr.G.: No. Even more than that. More than food and water.

Jerry: Yeah. Candy.

Dr.G.: No, as a matter of fact more than anything to eat.

Jerry: Like food?

Dr.G.: Yes, like food.

Jerry: What's that?

Dr.G.: You need a relationship with God. And when he gave you his Son Jesus, he gave you the power of forgiveness for anytime you disobey him. That means you can always go back to God. He then gives you the power to not be a "totally dufus"—as you say.

Jerry: So do we get food today?

Dr.G.: Well, we might have some snacks in our small groups.

Jerry: Totally gnarly! Let's split.

Dr.G.: **Would you close us in prayer first?**

Jerry: Yes. Dear God, Thank you so much that we can trust you to take care of us for all that we need. Especially thank you for Jesus. Some of the ways you provided for Elijah was totally awesome. Help us trust you to be totally awesome when you provide for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

One night I dreamed I was walking
Along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints.
Other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that
During the low periods of my life when I was
Suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints,
So I said to the Lord, "You promised me,
Lord, that if I followed You,
You would walk with me always.

But I noticed that during the most trying periods
Of my life there have only been
One set of prints in the sand.

Why, When I have needed You most,
You have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have seen only one set of footprints
Is when I carried you."

