



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 53

Elijah Trusted— God Provided

Primary Scripture: 1 Kings 16:29 to 17:24

Key Verse: Philippians 4:19, “My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids face challenges. These challenges may be big or small, but all challenges require God's provision. Kids need to see that they serve a big God that can meet any challenge. Kids need to learn that part of trusting in God begins by obeying what God has told them to do. In Elijah's case, he obeyed the command to denounce Ahab and Jezebel even though his life was threatened. The widow also obeyed by first feeding Elijah before feeding her son. She trusted in Elijah's word that God would provide for their needs and he did.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus conquered the power of sin through his death and resurrection. He calls us to trust and obey, receiving the victory that he won for us.

Jesus in us: The power of the Holy Spirit fills us with the presence of Jesus. We have his power to trust and obey.

Jesus through us: The witness of Jesus is evident in our lives when we seek him in all our difficult or trying circumstances.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: two large paper sacks prepared for the illusion, oyster crackers, a paper cross cut out and placed in the bottom of the sack with the crackers

In advance, create the prop for today's illusion by using two large paper sacks from a grocery store. See the directions and pictures in the appendix.

Today we will see how Elijah, one of God's special prophets, faced some BIG problems. He was hunted by a wicked king, had no food to eat, and was left all alone.

Look in my paper bag.

DO NOT TIP THE BAG, as the noise will give away the hidden items, but let a few kids come up and look into the sack to confirm it is empty.

This reminds me of Elijah when he was hungry and in a desert all alone. Have you ever felt like you had a problem that seemed really big? Did you ever feel all alone? Did you ever wonder how it could be fixed?

Even when things seemed really bad, Elijah trusted God. He obeyed God and did exactly what God told him to do, and God provided!

Open the false bottom of the bag and pull out a hand full of oyster crackers.

The one and only God tells us in Philippians 4:19, “My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.”

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Show the bag from the Attention Grabber again.

This bag is amazing! First we looked inside and saw it was empty. Then we reached in and there was food. This reminds me of how God helped Elijah with a serious problem. When Elijah had no food, God provided food for him.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a bag like this that we could just reach inside and God would provide for every problem that we face? What is the worst problem you could ever imagine that you would need God to help you with?

Take some answers from the audience.

The worst problem we have is our disobedience against God. This is called sin. Sin always gets in between God and us. Does God have a solution to fix this problem?

Reach in the bag and pull out the paper cross.

Yes, he does. God sent his Son Jesus to give his life for us. Jesus died on a cross for our sins and rose again. When we trust in Jesus, we have his power that takes away our sin. Because he helps us with this very big sin problem, we can trust and obey him with any other problems we may face.

Let's pray.

Dear God, we think back on this last week. If there is any way that we disobeyed you such as saying unkind words, or not obeying parents or teachers, or hurting someone else, please forgive us. We don't want anything to get in the way of our relationship with you. Help us to trust and obey you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Place a paper bag on the floor.

Let's put our offerings in this paper bag today. Our offering is an expression that says, "Thank you, God, for taking care of all of our problems."

When we give our offerings first to God, we trust that he will provide for us. We will learn more about this in our Bible Event where a widow gave her very last bit of food for God's purpose and God took care of her.

Have kids come forward and place their offerings in the bag. Tell about your current mission project and how God provides for others in need through our giving.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Raven Relay:

Supplies: plastic clothespins, kite string, one chair for each team, paper plate, pieces of bread, baby wipes (optional)

Divide kids into teams of five. Give each team: one plastic clothespin with a six-foot piece of kite string threaded through the metal circle on the clothespin, one chair, one paper plate, and five small pieces of bread.

Explain the game.

We are going to play a game today called Raven Relay. Each person on your team will have a specific role to play in the relay. One person will lie on his/her back. This person is Elijah. He/She will eat the bread brought by the raven or clothespin.

The next person stands on a chair five feet away holding the string with the clothespin on it. Once the bread has been placed on the clothespin, this person will release it allowing the clothespin to slide down the string to another team member below.

Our third person sits beside Elijah on the floor and holds the other end of the string near Elijah's mouth. This person is responsible for dropping the bread from the "raven" or clothespin into the mouth of Elijah. He/she cannot touch the bread, but must squeeze the clothespin to release it. If the bread does not land in the mouth of Elijah, it must be thrown away. Do not take the clothespin off the string.

The fourth person on your team takes the "raven" or clothespin back to the person on the chair so another piece of bread can be picked up and dropped for another feeding. This person simply drags the clothespin back up the string and hands it to the person on the chair.

This person is also responsible for counting how many pieces of bread land in Elijah's mouth.

Our fifth person is responsible for getting a small piece of bread from the plate and putting it onto the clothespin.

NOTE: Be sure the fifth player on each team has washed his/her hands. They are the only ones who will touch the food. Baby wipes would work great.

**The first team to feed Elijah five pieces of bread wins. Are you ready?
Go!**

Play the game. After the first round and winners have been declared, have the teams change places and do it again.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Option #1:

Show the video *Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah* (Nest Family Entertainment Network, 1993). The running time is 16 minutes and 46 seconds. Stop the video when you see Elijah walking in front of the hot sun and wiping his brow.

Option #2: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible Event, telling it from the first person point of view.

Props: chair with a sheet over it to look like a rock, blue tarp or plastic tablecloth on the floor to look like a river

Presenter holds the Bible and introduces Elijah:

Today we have a special visitor. His name is Elijah.

Open the Bible.

The Bible tells about him in 1 Kings 17. He was a prophet. That means he told people that they needed to follow God.

In today's Bible Event, the people did not follow God. Instead they prayed to stone statues. Can a stone help you? NO! Can a stone give you food to eat? NO! Can a stone love you and care for you? NO! These stones were not God.

God wanted the people to know that he was God and that he was the one who gave them everything they needed. But the people no longer loved him and worshiped him, so God sent a drought and famine to the land. There was no rain for a long time, and, because of this, the food did not grow. God wanted the people to turn back to him, to love him, and to thank him for everything good.

Elijah, the faithful prophet, never stopped loving and serving God. God took care of him in a very special way. Let's have Elijah come now and share his story with us.

Elijah enters, sits on a rock and begins to tell his story.

There was a very wicked king who lived in my country. His name was King Ahab. He did not love God. Instead he worshiped the stone god Baal and wanted all the people in his country to worship Baal also.

God was angry. He decided to stop sending rain. After a while without the rain, the ground and rivers dried up. People could not grow any more food, nor was there water to drink. I told King Ahab this would happen if he chose not to follow God. He and his wife Jezebel became very angry with me and wanted to kill me.

I always loved and served the one true God. Because I served him, God took care of me. He told me to go to the Cherith River. I obeyed him.

Walk to the blue tarp that is set up as a river.

While I lived by the Cherith River, God not only gave me water to drink...

Pretend to drink the water.

... but food to eat. It was amazing!

Stand up and pretend the birds are feeding you.

Every morning God sent ravens to me. They carried bread and meat in their beaks, which they placed in my hands. Again at night, the ravens would return to feed me.

I am so thankful to God for taking such good care of me. But there was another person I saw God take care of.

God told me I was to go to Zarephath.

Walk back towards the rock.

He told a widow to feed and take care of me. As I entered the city, I saw her and asked her for water to drink and bread to eat.

She only had enough flour to make one more small loaf of bread. I knew she was afraid. God told me to tell her, “Until the Lord sends rain on the land, the jar of flour will never be empty and the jug will always contain oil.”

She obeyed. She used the rest of her flour and oil to bake bread for me first.

Pretend to eat the bread and drink the water.

It was amazing! God did just as he promised. Her jar of flour never emptied, and the jug of oil remained full. We serve an amazing God!

This isn't the only miracle that happened with the widow. Her son was very sick and died. I was very sad.

Walk over to the side and pretend to pick up the boy.

I prayed that God would return life to this boy. God heard my request and made the child come alive again! Amazing!! God is faithful.

Once again I was called to go see King Ahab. But that part of my amazing story is for next week. Please remember that if we trust God, he will provide.

Application:

After the video or drama, ask the following questions:

What was God's curse on Israel? *(There would be no rain the next few years.)*

Why did Jezebel want to kill Elijah? *(She thought he was responsible for the drought and famine.)*

Where did Elijah go after he spoke to Ahab? *(He went into the wilderness.)*

How did God take care of Elijah in the wilderness? *(God provided a spring of water and he had the ravens bring food to Elijah.)*

Who did Elijah help in Zarephath? *(A widow and her son.)*

When the widow only had one meal left, whom did she choose to feed—her son or Elijah? *(Elijah.)*

What two miracles happened with this widow? *(Her grain and oil never ran out, and her son was raised from the dead.)*



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Ask some kids to share a big problem they have faced. Ask kids how they could pray for that problem or help them see how God has already taken care of them. Say:

Part of trusting God is to be obedient to whatever he asks us to do.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- bag prepared for the illusion (see appendix)
- oyster crackers
- a paper cross cut out and placed in the bottom of the sack with the crackers

Power of the Cross

- sack from *Attention Grabber*

Offering:

- paper sack

Learning Game

- plastic clothespins
- kite string
- one chair for each team
- paper plate
- pieces of bread
- baby wipes (optional)

Bible Presentation:

Option #1:

- Show the video *Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah* (Nest Family Entertainment Network, 1993). The running time is 16 minutes and 46 seconds. Stop the video when you see Elijah walking in front of the hot sun and wiping his brow. Order from www.nestfamily.com. Link to Children's Bible Stories in the left margin. Type in "Elijah" in the search box. Order as instructed.

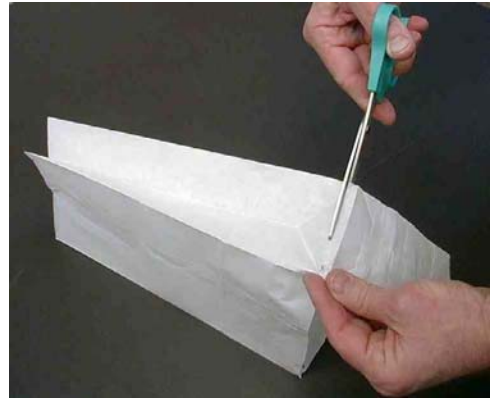
Option #2:

- a costumed adult presents the Bible Event, telling it from the first person point of view
- chair with a sheet over it to look like a rock
- blue tarp or plastic table cloth on the floor to look like a river

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Appendix
Directions for illusion

Take two large paper sacks. Cut out the bottom of one bag, leaving a small lip approximately one-half inch in size on the short side.



Fold the lip down and tape it to the inside of the other paper bag.



Lay the oyster crackers under the false bottom of the bag.

