

## Bible background

1 Kings 17:1-16

## Aim of lesson

To show how God cares for those who love and trust in him.

## Preparation required

It will make your ravens more stable if you stick them on plain card before the lesson. To complete the ravens you will need black crayons (preferably wax), scissors, a stapler and some string. You will also require a small jug, a jar and a little bread and butter.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children what they have eaten in the last day or two. How would they feel if they had not eaten? What would happen if we had no water? Most of them will have seen famine victims on television and will realise the seriousness of drought.
2. Tell the class that God had promised to send the rain they needed in Israel as long as the people were good and worshipped him (Deuteronomy 11:13-17), but the kings who followed Solomon were not all good. Explain briefly the wickedness of Ahab in leading the people away from God. God decided to stop sending the rain and chose a man call Elijah to tell Ahab.
3. Talk about Elijah's role as a prophet and point out that he had no fear of facing Ahab because God was with him. Try to paint a word picture of the simply-dressed, rugged but confident man of God, facing the fine clothes and haughty bearing of the evil king. Discuss with the children how Ahab would have reacted to Elijah's words and tell them that Ahab's hatred of Elijah grew as the drought lengthened, until Elijah was forced to hide.
4. Ask the children why they think Elijah hid by a brook and help them to imagine the loneliness and hunger he must have felt. Describe how God cared for him by sending ravens with meat and bread twice a day.
5. Explain that the drought got so bad that the brook dried up, but God did not forget Elijah. Describe Elijah's 75 mile journey, which must have taken nearly a week, and the scenes of devastation he would see on the way. As you graphically describe the incident at Zarephath point out the sad situation of the widow and how she showed great trust in Elijah's words by giving him her last meal. Tell the children that the meal probably consisted of flat bread baked like a biscuit and dipped in oil, which was the equivalent of our bread and butter. Emphasise that the continuing supply of flour and oil was no conjuring trick but a miracle that only God could have done. Using the jug, jar and bread and butter the children could revise the story by acting out the events.
6. If there is time, an older class could also hear how the widow's son died and was raised.
7. Make up the ravens on the activity sheet. They could be made into a class mobile or taken home individually.

## Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture, either as a group or individually, of Elijah by the brook being fed by ravens or Elijah and the widow making or sharing the meal. (You may even be able to manage both, depending on the size of the class and the amount of help you have available.) Precut the necessary shapes so that the children can simply glue them down and the customise their picture by adding detail with crayons or felt tip pens.
2. Make some cakes out of salt dough, playdough or Plasticine.
3. Cut out pictures of food from magazines and let the children stick them on to paper plates or circles drawn on paper. Alternatively the children could draw food on to the plates.

## Relevance to the children's lives

The widow was very kind to Elijah and shared her last meal with him. Are the children good at sharing and why is it important that they should be?

## Prayer/Song

God provided food and drink for Elijah, and he provides ours. Teach verse 1 of 'Thank You God', Sing to the Lord No. 26 for the children to use as a prayer.

## Verse

'You are the God who performs miracles.' Psalm 77:14.