

LESSON



Birds to the Rescue

GRACE

Grace means belonging to God.

References

1 Kings 17:1-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-128.

Memory Verse

"My God will meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God was aware of Elijah's needs and took care of him.

Feel confident that God can supply their daily needs.

Respond by thanking God for everything.

The Message



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

There is a famine in Israel and people do not have food to eat. God tells Elijah to go to a brook, a place where there is still some water flowing. God promises to send ravens to feed Elijah. The ravens come, just as God promised. Elijah has food and water all during the famine.

This is a lesson about grace.

We are God's children. God loves us

so much. He knows what we need during good times and bad. He wants to take care of us and see that we have what we need. Giving us what we need is a gift of His grace to us.

Teacher Enrichment

"The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the

FIVE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Raven Feeding</i> B. <i>Dead or Alive?</i>	copies of raven pattern (see p. 140) or paper, scissors, tape or glue or stapler, clothespin (optional), bread, basket, picture of raven, picture of bird feeding young living and dead plants, crackers, cups of water
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 53. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costume, large rock, clothespin or finger puppet ravens, white pieces of paper
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible, paper, marker, clothespin or finger puppet ravens
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Who Gives to Me?</i>	pictures of things God provides
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Sharing My Raven</i>	clothespin or finger puppet ravens

field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain

manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites" (*Early Writings*, p. 56).

How has God provided for you?
How will you share this with the children? Elijah's God is also your God.

Room Decorations

Decorate the room to look like drought-like conditions—rocks, sand, tree branches with no leaves, etc. These decorations (along with others) will be suitable for Lessons 5-9 and 11.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome each student at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Raven Feeding

You Need:

- copies of raven pattern (see p. 140) or paper
- scissors
- tape, glue, or stapler
- clothespin (optional)
- bread
- basket
- picture of raven
- picture of bird feeding young

Help each child make a raven finger puppet or clothespin raven using paper (see p. 140). For a finger puppet, cut out and either tape, glue, or staple wing tips together underneath. Slip child's index and middle finger through opening.

For a clothespin raven, glue or tape clothespin to bottom of raven.

Have the children practice picking up small pieces of bread with their bird and dropping them in a basket. Explain that the type of bird they made is a raven. If desired, the finger puppets can be used later for Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing

Show the children a picture of a raven and a picture of a mother bird feeding her young. Allow response time as you ask: **What do mommy birds usually bring their babies to eat? What do your mommies and daddies give you to eat? In our Bible story today we will see how God used the ravens to bring Elijah bread, not worms, so he would have something to eat. And that leads me to today's message:**



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

Say that with me.

B. Dead or Alive?

Bring in a healthy, living plant (or a silk plant), and a dead or dying plant (or a small branch from a living tree with green leaves and a branch from a dead tree with brown leaves). Set the examples on two different tables. Have children go to each table and inspect the plants. Let them feel the leaves, branches, dirt, etc. Talk about how they look and feel the same or different.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do plants need to grow? How does God supply that? What do you need to grow?** If desired, give each child a small cup of water and a cracker to illustrate the food and water they need to grow. **Who gives you what you need to grow? Our Bible story today is about a time of no rain when all the plants looked like this dead one. We will see how God provided food and water for His friend Elijah. Our message for today is:**

You Need:

- living and dead plants
- crackers
- cups of water



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "God Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 90)
- "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85)
- "God Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 86)
- "Jesus Cares for You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 92)
- "Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 100)
- "Someone Cares" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 170)
- "The Blackbird Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 54)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

A simple offering container with a large red heart made of heavy construction paper glued to it can be used for Lessons 5-9.

Say: **When we bring our offering to Jesus, He can use it to help others all around the world.**

Prayer

Say: **Jesus gives us everything we need. Let's kneel and thank Him for loving us and taking care of us.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- Bible-times costume
- large rock with happy face drawn on it
- clothespin ravens (see p. 140) or raven finger puppets already made in Readiness Activity A
- white paper

If the children didn't make clothespin ravens or raven finger puppets in Readiness Activity A, prepare in advance a clothespin raven for each child (see page 140). See Readiness Activity A for directions.

Select one child to be Elijah and dress him or her in a Bible-times costume. Tell the story in an interactive fashion.

Read or tell the story.

God looked down from heaven at King Ahab. God watched King Ahab bow down in front of the idol Baal. An idol can be just a big rock like this one *[show rock to children]* or an image made of wood or something else.

"Bring us lots of rain, O Baal!" King Ahab prayed to the idol.

King Ahab prayed to the idol Baal every day. King Ahab even built a temple for the idol Baal so everybody could worship him.

God looked down on His special people. Many people believed there was no one faithful to God. But God knew about faithful Elijah and quite a few more who were just as faithful.

God spoke to Elijah and gave him an important message for King Ahab. Elijah walked quickly to see King Ahab. Elijah said to the king, "The God of Israel has sent me to give you a message. He says there will be no dew or rain for the next few years, except if I say so." Then Elijah hurried away.

Where should I go now? Elijah thought, looking up and down the road. *King Ahab is very angry with me!*

God spoke to Elijah, "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook." God knew that King Ahab would look for Elijah. Ahab

wanted to kill him. "You can drink the fresh water from the brook," God continued. "I will send ravens to feed you."

Elijah ran down the road toward Kerith Brook. Then he made camp in a hidden place by the brook.

Just as the sun began to disappear behind the mountains, Elijah heard birds calling. Big black birds. *Caw! Caw! Caw!* The birds were carrying food for him. *[Children can pretend to be ravens and "fly" around the room using their clothespin ravens or raven finger puppets (made in Readiness Activity A); use a small white piece of paper to represent bread.]*

The ravens dropped the food they were carrying on a rock near Elijah. *[Children drop paper near Elijah.]* Then they flew away. *[Birds fly back to their seats.]*

Elijah smiled as he watched the birds disappear in the distance. He bowed his head and thanked God for the food.

Elijah picked up his supper. Then he looked at the sky in the direction the ravens had flown. God had promised to care for him, and the ravens had come. "I wonder what will arrive for breakfast," he may have wondered.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When you are hungry, do you ask a rock to give you food? Why not? Who feeds you? God uses our parents and others to give us the things we need. Let's say thank You to God.** Have the children repeat after you: **"Thank You, God, for giving us the things we need." That makes me think of today's message. Let's say it together:**



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

Bible Study**You Need:**

- Bible

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 17:1-6. Point to the passage and say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the entire passage, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? Who was the message from? What message did God give to Elijah? Did Elijah obey God? Where did Elijah go? Where did he get water? Where did he get food?**

Memory Verse

Turn to Philippians 4:19, point to the text and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"My God will meet all your needs."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

In advance, write each word of the memory verse (and text) on a separate sheet of paper. Place the eight pieces of paper in the proper order in the front of the room. Ask children to take turns using their clothespin or finger puppet ravens and "fly" up to pick up one piece of paper. Allow them to "fly" once around the room and return the paper to you. When they do, read each word, and return it to its place in order. When all papers have been returned, read the memory verse and have the children repeat it. Repeat this exercise until the children can say the verse without help.

You Need:

- Bible
- paper
- marker
- clothespin
ravens or
raven finger
puppets

3

Applying the Lesson**Who Gives to Me?****You Need:**

- pictures of things God provides (water, sunshine, rain, etc.)

Prepare in advance pictures of things God provides for us such as rain, sunshine, water, food, clothes, parents, friends, church, etc. As you show each picture, say: **This is a picture of one way God gives us what we need. Can you tell me what it is? How does it help us?** Continue until all pictures have been shown.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What are needs? What are some of our needs every day? Discuss needs (food, water, air, sunshine, rest, clothing,

someone to love us, etc.) versus wants (toys, candy, games, etc.). **Can you think of anything else you need that God gives you?** (home, medicine, etc.) **How does it make you feel to know that God takes care of you and your family? God gave Elijah what he needed and He gives us what we need because He loves us so much. Let's remember:**



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Sharing My Raven**

Give the children their clothespin/finger puppet raven to take home. Ask them to think of someone who needs to know or to remember that God loves us and gives us everything we need. After each child names someone, tell them to use their raven this week to tell the story of Elijah and the ravens to that person.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **God is using you to share His love with**

someone else. Think of that person right now. Let's practice what to say. Encourage one or two children to respond so the group can hear them. Ask: **How do you feel about sharing your Bible story with someone else? What do you think they will say when you tell it to them? Don't forget to tell them that:**



God loves us and gives us everything we need.

You Need:

- clothespin raven or raven finger puppet made in Readiness A

Closing

Ask the children to take turns praying that God will help them to share with the person of their choice this week. They may need to repeat the prayer after you. Example: **"Jesus, please help me to tell this story to _____! Thank You for giving me everything I need. Amen."**

STUDENT LESSON

Birds to the Rescue

References

1 Kings 17:1-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-128

Memory Verse

"My God will meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

The Message

God loves us and gives us everything we need.

When you're hungry, who feeds you? God fed Elijah in a special way.

King Ahab, the king of God's own special people, was worshipping idols! God watched King Ahab bow his head in front of the idol Baal.

"Bring us lots of rain, O Baal!" King Ahab prayed to the idol. "Give us rain so our food will grow in the fields, and we will have plenty to eat."

King Ahab prayed to the idol Baal every day. He even built a temple for the idol Baal so everybody could worship him. And many people did.

Was there anyone left who *wasn't* worshipping Baal? Was there anyone left who really loved God? Was there anyone God could use to tell His special people to return to worshipping the true God? Yes, there was! Elijah and several others.

So God spoke to Elijah. God gave Elijah a very important message for King Ahab.

Elijah walked quickly into King Ahab's palace. Elijah spoke loudly, "My God says there will be no dew or rain for the next few years unless I say so. Before King Ahab could think of anything to say, Elijah hurried out of the palace.

Where should I go now? Elijah thought.

King Ahab is going to be very angry!

God spoke to Elijah again. "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook," He said. God knew that King Ahab would try to kill Elijah. "Drink fresh water from the brook," God continued, "and I will send ravens to feed you."

Elijah hurried to Kerith

Brook. He sat on the ground and thought about all that had happened.

Just as the sun began to disappear behind the mountains, Elijah heard birds calling. *Caw! Caw! Caw!* Big black birds swooped down. The ravens dropped the food they were carrying on a rock near Elijah. Then they quickly flew away.

Elijah watched the birds disappear. *Amazing!* he thought. *When God said He was going to send ravens to take care of me, He meant it!*

Elijah bowed his head and thanked God. He sat on the rock and picked up his supper. Then he looked at the sky in the direction the ravens had flown. God had kept His promise. God always keeps His promises.



Do and Say

Sabbath

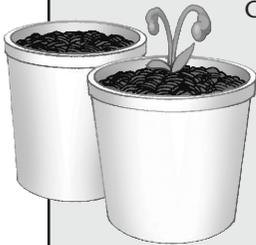
Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Write each word of the memory verse on individual pieces of paper. Let your child pretend to be a raven “flying” to pick up each paper. As each is retrieved, read each word, completing the verse. Ask the child to repeat it. Use the papers each day.

On a rainy day or night, set out a cup to catch the rain. Then measure how much rain fell. Ask: Why do we need the rain?

Sunday

Read 1 Kings 17:1-6 together. Ask: What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? What did God tell Elijah to do?



Help your child use two paper cups with some dirt in them to plant a few fast-growing seeds. Ask: What do seeds need to grow? Have your child water only one, but place both cups by a window. Throughout the week, remind your child to water only the one plant.

Monday

Read the lesson story together. Ask: What did God give Elijah besides food? (safe place to live, water) Encourage your child to share the story with someone.

Tuesday

Help your child act out the lesson story, using props such as toy birds, water, and bread. Help your

child count some things God has given your family. Thank God for His care.

Wednesday

Feed birds some bread or cracker pieces. Ask: How would you feel if birds fed you today?

To thank God that He gives us what we need, sing a thank-You song. Or sing “The Blackbird Song” on page 63 of the Bible Study Guide.

Thursday

Talk about caring for pets. Help list the things that pets need (food, water, love, etc.). Discuss how God gives us what we need. Sing a song about God’s care.



Friday

During family worship, read about Elijah in *Prophets and Kings*, page 121 (first and second paragraphs).

Look at the seeds you planted Sunday. What is happening to those you watered? How about those you didn’t water? Explain that no water causes a drought, and that is what happened in Elijah’s time.

Sing songs of thanks for God’s care. Say the memory verse together.