



S2.Prophets & Kings: Elijah and the Endless Oil

1 Kings 17:1-16

Multi-age One-Room Sunday School Lesson Plans

Supplies: A pair of scissors per student; at least two 3x5 index cards per student; 1 printed-out maze per student (@ end of the lesson); 1 sharpened pencil per student; *optional:* 1 printed-out picture of Elijah and the ravens per student (@ the end of the lesson).

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- For the opening question, I'm going to ask you a question and then we'll go around the circle and say our names and then give our answer to the question.
- I'll ask the question and then I'll answer first, ok?
- Here's the opening question: *What's something you think you do not have enough of?*

GO AROUND THE CIRCLE

TELL

- During this session, we're going to be talking about the prophets and some of the first kings of Israel.
- All of the stories that we're going to hear and talk about in this Session are from the Old Testament. That means these things happened well before Jesus was born.
- The story we're going to read today is about a prophet named, "Elijah." He lived about 800 years before Jesus lived
- Last week, we read and talked about King Solomon and his wisdom. This week's lesson introduces to us the prophet, Elijah, who appeared about 60 years after King Solomon died. The king in this story is King Ahab, who is considered one of the worst kings in the history of Israel.

READ 1 Kings 17:1-16 (The Message)

1 And then this happened: Elijah the Tishbite, a prophet from among the settlers of Gilead, confronted King Ahab: "As surely as God lives, the God of Israel before whom I stand in obedient service, the next years will be a total drought – not a drop of dew or rain will fall unless I say otherwise."

2 God then told Elijah, 3 "Get out of here, and fast. Head east and hide out at the Kerith Ravine on the other side of the Jordan River. 4 You can drink fresh water from the brook; I've ordered the ravens to feed you." 5 Elijah obeyed God's orders. He went and camped in the Kerith canyon on the other side of the Jordan. 6 And sure enough, ravens brought him his meals, both breakfast and supper, and he drank from the brook. 7 Eventually the brook dried up because of the drought.

8 Then God spoke to Elijah: 9 “Get up and go to the town of Zarephath in Sidon [a country outside of Israel] and live there. I’ve instructed a woman who lives there, a widow, to feed you.” 10 So he got up and went to Zarephath. As he came to the entrance of the village he met a woman, a widow, gathering firewood. He asked her, “Please, would you bring me a little water in a jug? I need a drink.” 11 As she went to get it, he called out, “And while you’re at it, would you bring me something to eat?” 12 She said, “I swear, as surely as your God lives, I don’t have so much as a biscuit. I have a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a bottle; you found me scratching together just enough firewood to make a last meal for my son and me. After we eat it, we’ll have no more food and we’ll die.”

13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t worry about a thing. Go ahead and do what you’ve said. But first make a small biscuit for me and bring it back here. Then go ahead and make a meal from what’s left for you and your son. 14 This is the word of the God of Israel: ‘The jar of flour will not run out and the bottle of oil will not become empty before God sends rain on the land and ends this drought.’” 15 The widow went right off and did just as Elijah asked. And things turned out as he said they would – daily food was had for her and her family. 16 The jar of meal didn’t run out and the bottle of oil didn’t become empty: God’s promise fulfilled to the letter, exactly as Elijah had delivered it!

ASK/TELL

- At the very beginning of the story, what did Elijah tell King Ahab there wasn’t going to be enough of? (water)
- When Elijah went to Kerith Ravine, what did the ravens bring him? (breakfast and supper)
- Later in the story, what does the woman tell Elijah that she doesn’t have enough of? (flour and oil)
- At the end of the story, do you think she has enough flour and oil?

TELL

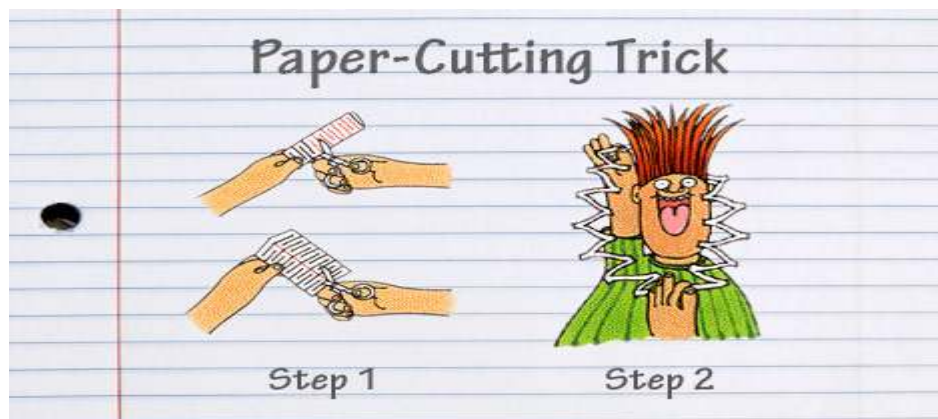
- In this story, one of the things that’s being pointed out is that the characters who think they don’t have enough, actually do have enough.
- They find out that they have enough as they trust God, and share what they have with each other.
- We’re going to start out today with a simple “trick” to help demonstrate this idea of what appears to not be enough actually being plenty.

EXPLAIN ACTIVITY/CRAFT Part 1

- [hold up a 3 x 5 inch index card]
- I have a question for you: Who here thinks I can cut a hole in this card large enough that I’ll be able to fit my head through it? Who thinks I can and who thinks I cannot?
- I’m handing out two index cards to each of you.
- With one of those index cards, grab a pair of scissors and try to cut a hole into the card that will allow your head to fit through it.
- [Let them try]
- Ok, now that you’ve tried to get your head through a really small hole, do you still think that it’s possible?
- How about I show you a certain way you can cut the card so that your head will have plenty of room to make it through the opening. Ready?

EXPLAIN ACTIVITY/CRAFT Part 2

1. Fold the file card in half lengthwise.
2. Next, with the card folded, turn the card so that the fold is directly before you.
3. With the scissors, close to the left-hand end of the card, make a perpendicular cut through the fold and stop the cut about a quarter-inch from the other, "open" side (as demonstrated in the picture).
4. Next, rotate the card 180 degrees so that the fold is opposite of you and the "open" side is closest to you. Make a perpendicular cut starting on the "open" side and stopping a quarter-inch from the fold. This cut should be close to and parallel to the first cut.
5. Next, turn the card 180 degrees, (folded-side nearest to you) and make another perpendicular cut through the fold stopping a quarter-inch from the open side.
6. Keep repeating this alternating pattern of cuts for a total of 13 cuts.
7. Once you've finished this, then *very* carefully open the card (it'll take some work because the cut edges "grab" each other)
8. With the card opened, slip the scissors *inside* the first cut and **WITHOUT CUTTING the TWO END sections**, cut down the line caused by the fold
9. Now, gently stretch the card as far as it will go and put it over your head. (see graphic below):



TELL

- Pretty cool, yeah?
- And for a little while, I bet you thought it couldn't be done.
- This is one of those moments when you originally thought you didn't have enough space in the card, but it actually turned out that you had more than enough space.
- Often times, we think we don't have enough but that's because we're not very good at being aware of what we actually have.
- But the more we pay attention to God, the more God helps us to see what we actually have.

- In the story, we see that Elijah who has practice paying attention to God can see what the woman actually has, even though she doesn't see it.
- Even though she can't see what she has, she does something pretty amazing: She trusts Elijah, and does what he, a complete stranger, says to do.
- Let's do a couple more of activities that will hopefully demonstrate to us how we're not necessarily very good at seeing what we have.

EXPLAIN 2nd ACTIVITY

- So we're going to do a maze. I'm passing it out to you right now.
- While we're doing the maze, without counting outloud, I want you to put your hand up when you think 3 minutes have passed. You're trying to raise your hand as close to the 3 minutes as possible, but you're also trying to do the maze correctly and as quickly as possible. Any questions? OK...ready, set, go!

DO Maze and Time Activity

NOTES:

- When you say go, start the timer.
- When a student raises their hand, write down the actual time next to their name.
- Wait until everyone's hand is up before talking to the class.

TELL

- Alright, it looks like everyone is done. Let's see how everyone did with guessing when 3 minutes passed: (share names and times)
- So for those of you who raised your hands early, you had more time than you thought you did, didn't you!
- But others of you didn't raise their hands until after the 3 minute mark.
- So even though we're all here experiencing the same amount of time, some of us thought we had more time and others thought we had less time. Pretty weird, huh?

If there's time...

EXPLAIN 3rd Activity

- This is similar to the other activity that we just did.
- Grab a partner.
- And now you're going to see how many times you and your partner can walk across the room.
- One of you will walk across the room, tap the wall and come back to your partner.
- Then you'll slap hands with your partner who will then walk across the room, tap the wall and come back and slap your hand.
- This process will continue until you and your partner think 2 minutes have passed.
- Then you'll both sit down.

DO 3rd Activity

NOTE: Do the same thing with the watch and note-taking as you did with the 2nd activity.

TELL

- Again, some of us thought we had more time, others thought we had less.
- Often times, we are just not very good at knowing what we actually have.
- Sometimes what we think of as “not enough” is just enough.
- And sometimes what we think of as “just enough” is more than enough.
- The woman had more because she trusted what Elijah said about God providing enough.
- But in order for the woman to *experience* having enough, she had to actually *do* the thing that was being asked of her.
- That is what is to happen with us too. That in order to trust that God has given us enough, we have to actually *act* like we have enough. That means we do like the woman did, and share what we have with one another.

CLOSING PRAYER

TELL

- This is a "repeat after me" prayer.
- After I say a line, then you say the same line as a class.
- Let's pray:
 - Dear God (Dear God)
 - Thank you for giving us so much (Thank you for giving us so much)
 - We are sorry... (We are sorry)
 -that we can't always see... (that we can't always see)
 -how much you've given us. (how much you've given us)
 - Help us to see like Elijah could (Help us to see like Elijah could)
 - and trust like the woman in today's story (and trust like the woman in today's story)
 - Thank you for loving us. (Thank you for loving us)
 - Amen (Amen)



Elijah Fed by Ravens



You are Elijah. God told you to go to a place where you would be fed by ravens. Find your way through the maze to the raven where you will be fed starting right here

