

LESSON



Miracle Oil

GRACE

Grace means belonging to God.

References

1 Kings 17:7-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 129-131.

Memory Verse

"He is our God and we are . . . under his care" (Psalm 95:7, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God cares for them through other people.

Feel that they can trust God and His people to care for them.

Respond by asking confidently for God's care.

The Message



God uses others to love and care for us.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

During a time of famine, God tells Elijah to go to a widow who will give him food. The widow is not eager to give the last of her food to God's prophet, but decides to do so. God blesses her for being His helper. God provides for her. Her oil and flour last all through the rest of the famine.

This is a lesson about grace.

We belong to God. He cares about

us just as much as He cared about Elijah. He knows what we need and often uses other people to see that our needs are met.

Teacher Enrichment

"For a time Elijah remained hidden in the mountains. . . . God bade His servant find refuge in a heathen land. . . .

"God sent him to this woman to find an asylum in her home. . . .

"In this poverty-stricken home the

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| 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>Obstacle Course</i> B. <i>Caring for Babies</i> | blindfold, obstacle course guest mother and baby or baby doll, baby-care items |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 63. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | container with red construction paper heart attached |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | sticks or twigs, large rock, containers with flour and oil, flat bread, Bible-times costumes, adult man and woman |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible, flat bread |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Who Helps You?</i> | pictures of or objects representing community helpers |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Thank-you Cards</i> | copies of thank-you illustration (see p. 141), art supplies |

famine pressed sore; and the pitifully meager fare seemed about to fail. . . . But even in her dire extremity, she bore witness to her faith by a compliance with the request of the stranger who was asking her to share her last morsel with him. . . .

"Wonderful was the hospitality shown to God's prophet by this Phoenician woman. . . . 'She, and he, and her house, did eat many days' " (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 129-131).

How has God blessed you? How will you bear witness of your faith to the children this week?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5. Add the Palestinian home items described in Lesson 1. Be sure to include a simple table with a container of flour and a container of oil placed in the center. You might also add a few slices of flat bread or pita bread.

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. Obstacle Course

You Need:

- obstacle course
- blindfold

Prepare in advance a simple obstacle course, using chairs, books, or other large objects. Divide the children into groups of two and instruct one to wear a blindfold (if children are resistant to this idea, suggest they close their eyes or cover them with their hands) and the other to lead their friend safely through the course. Give each child an opportunity to lead and to be led.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was it like when you couldn't see where you were going? How did you feel when you were leading someone through the maze? Which did you like better? Why? It is fun to help someone else, isn't it? Today we are going to learn about Elijah, a man God used to help someone else. Our message for today is:**



God uses others to love and care for us.

Say that with me.

B. Caring for Babies

You Need:

- guest mother with baby or baby doll
- baby-care items

If possible, have a mother bring in her infant. If not, use a baby doll. Prepare in advance some things needed to care for babies: diapers, food, bottles, lotion, wipes, etc. Talk with the children about the care of babies and what they need us to do for them.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Babies need a lot of care, don't they? Isn't it special that God uses moms and dads and friends to help take care of the baby? How does it feel to help take care of a little baby? I'm glad babies have big people to take care of them. God planned it that way. And that leads me to today's message:**



God uses others to love and care for us.

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

- "Jesus Cares for You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 92)
- "God Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 90)
- "Little Bird Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 169)
- "Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 279)
- "I Like to Eat an Apple" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 167)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **One of the ways that God uses us to care for other people all around the world is our Sabbath School offerings. The money that you put in the offering today will help people all over the world to know that God loves them.**

Prayer

Say: **God has promised to give us everything we need, not everything we want. What are some things that we need to ask God for today?** Allow the children time to share their requests. Say: **We can trust God to hear our prayers and then do the best thing for us.** Encourage each child to ask God for what they need.

You Need:

- offering container with red construction paper heart attached

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

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Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- sticks or twigs
- large rock
- containers with flour and oil
- flat bread
- Bible-times costumes
- adult man and woman

Characters

Elijah, the widow, the widow's son

Props

table, chair, containers with flour and oil

Setting the Scene

In advance, place the sticks and twigs around the room. Invite a guest to come dressed as Elijah to tell the story. Have someone else dressed as the widow. Select a child to be the widow's son and have them dressed in a Bible-times costume also. (This is a good opportunity to involve teens in your Sabbath School program.)

Elijah walks to the front of the room and invites the children to join him on the floor for the story. The widow should be in another part of the room near a table with the containers of flour and oil nearby. Her "son" should sit near her.

Elijah: I want to tell you about a special time when God kept me from going hungry! Have you ever been really hungry? *[Wait for responses.]* I was very hungry and thirsty! All the water in the brook had dried up and the ravens stopped bringing me food. I knew that God's people were still worshipping idols.

An idol is just like this rock. *[Show the rock and let the children hold or touch it.]* Do you think that this rock could give you what you need? God wanted the people to know that only He could help them. Idols could not. So He decided to send no more rain until the people started asking God for help instead of

the idol. So there I was with no food or water—very hungry and thirsty. But God was still taking care of me. He told me to go to a place called Zarephath, and He would have a widow feed me. A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

Oh, look! *[Point to the widow.]* There she is over there. Let's go over and she can tell you the rest of the story. *[Have the children follow Elijah across the room to sit near the widow. She now finishes the story.]*

Widow: I was so surprised when I saw Elijah walking toward my house. Everything was very dry, and there was hardly anything to eat or drink. I was outside picking up sticks to build a fire so that I could cook my last meal. Would you like to help me gather some sticks? *[Ask the children to go around the room and bring back some sticks.]*

Thank you for gathering those for me.

When Elijah came I had only this much flour *[show the flour]* and this much oil *[show the oil]*. He asked me to use it to make bread for him. I had planned to give the bread to my son, but I decided that God wanted me to help His servant.

When the bread was finished *[show the bread]*, I gave it to Elijah. *[Give the bread to Elijah.]* Elijah promised me that if I gave him the bread, God would give me all the food I needed until it began to rain again.

I am so glad that God sent Elijah to me and that I gave Elijah my bread. God gave me all the flour and oil that I needed to feed me and my son until it began to rain again. Isn't God good? He sent Elijah to help me just when I needed him the most.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Elijah felt when he had to ask a poor widow for food? Do you think the woman wanted to give the last of her bread to Elijah? How did God use the widow to help Elijah? How did God use Elijah to help the widow? How do you think she felt to be used by God to help someone else? Remember our message? Let's say it together:**



God uses others to love and care for us.

Bible Study**You Need:**

- Bible

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 17:7-16. Point to the passage and say: **This is where today's story is found**

in God's Word, the Bible. Read the entire passage aloud, pointing to each verse as you read.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did the brook dry up? Where did the Lord tell Elijah to go when the brook had no more water? For what did Elijah ask the widow? Did she help Elijah? How?**

The Bible says the widow never ran out of oil or flour. Why didn't she run out?

Emphasize God's care. Help the children understand that God gave Elijah and the widow what they needed.

Memory Verse

Turn to Psalm 95:7 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.**

Read the text aloud. **"He is our God and we are . . . under his care" (Psalm 95:7, NIV).** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Form two groups. Have them stand in a line facing each other. One line points upward and repeats after you: "He is our God." The other line holding pieces of bread extends the bread in an offering gesture as they repeat: "and we are under his care." Both sides together say: "Psalm 95:7." Do this several times, allowing each side the opportunity to repeat both segments of the verse. Have children who are holding bread* divide their bread and offer half to another child. Or put the bread in a baggie (one for each child) and give the second line two baggies. At the end of the exercise, they may share one baggie with someone who does not have one.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

You Need:

- Bible
- flat bread*

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Applying the Lesson**Who Helps You?****You Need:**

- pictures of or objects representing community helpers (doctor, nurse, police-officer, firefighter, etc.)

Hold up the pictures, one at a time, and have the children identify the helper and tell how they help us. Encourage the children to share experiences with these and other community helpers.

Allow response time as you ask: **Who are some other people that God uses to help us? What do they do to help us? Let's thank God for sending these people to take care of us and show us how much He loves us.** Let each child repeat after you: **Jesus, thank You for**

using [child fills in the name of the person] **to love and care for me. Amen.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Tell me about someone who helped you today. What did they do? How does it feel knowing that God is using all these people to take care of us? God must love us very much to give us so many people to take care of us. So let's remember:**



God uses others to love and care for us.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Thank-you Cards**

In advance, copy the thank-you illustration (see p. 141) on white paper, one for each child. Distribute the copies and art supplies. Have the children make thank-you cards. Adults assist as needed.

Say: **Since God has given us special people to take care of us, let's make something special to say thank you to them.** Help each child write the name of the person of their choice on the card.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What will you say when you give your card to someone this week? How do you think these people will feel when you give them this gift? Remember to tell them that you know that Jesus uses them to love and care for you. Maybe you can say our message to them. Let's say our message again:



God uses others to love and care for us.

You Need:

- copies of thank-you illustration (see p. 141)
- art supplies

Closing

Say: **Elijah helped the widow feel God's love. Today we learned that God shows us He loves us through other people. Let's tell Him thank You for all the people that He uses to show His love to us.** The children may pray or a teacher may say a prayer for the group.

Prepare for next week: Ask your pastor for the name and address of a church member who is sick or homebound.

STUDENT LESSON

Miracle Oil

References

1 Kings 17:7-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp.129-131

Memory Verse

“He is our God and we are . . . under his care” (Psalm 95:7, NIV).

The Message

God uses others to love and care for us.

Paige sat on the porch, ready to bite into her last cookie. Her friend Julie came running over. Uh-oh. What should Paige do? When Elijah was hungry, someone shared with him.

Elijah had been camping at the little brook for a long time. But the water no longer splashed merrily along. There had been no rain. And the water in the little brook was almost gone.

Elijah studied the clear blue sky.

Not a rain cloud in sight. Elijah knew why. God’s special people were still praying to Baal for rain. God wanted them to understand that He was the one who sent rain—not an idol. It would not rain until God said so.

Suddenly God spoke to Elijah. “Go to the village of Zarephath,” He said. “A widow there will feed you.” (A widow is a woman whose husband has died.)

Elijah quickly started down the dusty road to Zarephath.

When Elijah reached the village gates, he saw a woman gathering small sticks. Elijah was hot and thirsty from his long, long walk. “Would you please bring me a cup of water?” he asked the woman. “And please bring me a little bread too.”

The woman turned to Elijah. With tears in her eyes she said, “I don’t have any bread in my house. I have only a handful of flour and a little oil. I am going home to make a fire with these

few sticks. I will cook one last meal for my son and me. Then we will die, because we will have nothing left to eat.”

Elijah smiled at the woman. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Go ahead and cook the meal, but first make me a little loaf

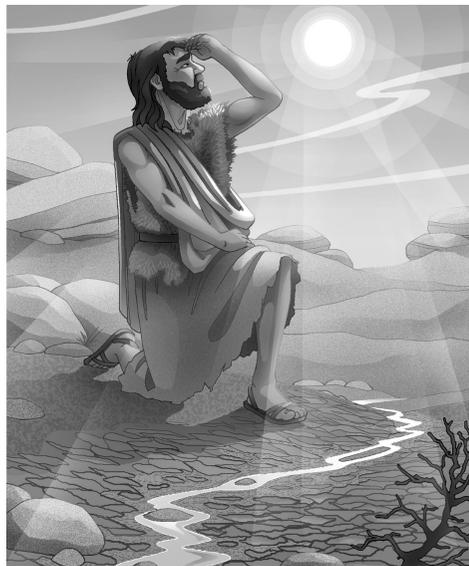
of bread. God promises that there will always be plenty of flour and oil in your containers, and you will not run out of food until He sends the rain again and new food begins to grow.”

The widow believed the words of the Lord. So she did as Elijah asked. She went home and began to cook.

Elijah sat and sipped his water as the widow made a

little loaf of bread for him. He watched as she measured the right amount of oil and flour. He saw her mix them together to make bread dough. Soon he could smell the bread as it slowly baked. What a treat it was to have good, fresh bread again.

For more than three years there was no rain, and nothing could grow. But the widow’s flour and oil never ran out. God had provided food and water in the past. And He would provide it now for Elijah and for the kind widow and her son.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Read the lesson story and review the memory verse each day this week. Say: "He is our God"; then your child responds "and we are under his care." Say "Psalm 95:7" together.

Sunday

Together, find and read 1 Kings 17:7-16, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Why did God tell Elijah to leave the brook? Why was the widow gathering sticks? What two things would the widow use to make bread?

Make or share some bread together.

Monday

Read the lesson story. Ask: Why do you think the widow did what Elijah asked? How do you think she felt as they were eating her last bit of food?

Encourage your child to share their thank-you card with the person they chose in Sabbath School. (Or help them make one for someone God uses to love and care for them.)

Tuesday

Sing a sharing song and act it out with two toys. Ask: What would you do if you had only one toy? Who shared with Elijah? Thank Jesus that you have something to share.

Wednesday

Ask your child to think of all the people God uses to love and care for them. Make a list and count the people. Thank Jesus for each one.

Thursday

Have your child help you make bread or muffins. Together, share the results with someone (neighbor, friend, etc.). Save some for tomorrow night.

Friday

During worship tonight, read about the widow's faith in *Prophets and Kings*, page 129 (second paragraph) and page 131 (first paragraph). Ask: Why didn't the flour and oil run out?

Start a family prayer journal. Have each person draw a picture of a specific need; then pray together about each one. Leave a place to record answers to these prayers. Sing a prayer song; then thank God for taking care of your family.

Share the bread or muffins made yesterday with your family.

Say the memory verse together.

