

**THEME FOR UNIT 10:** God Loves Us  
**UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 4:8

# GOD CARES FOR ELIJAH

## BIBLE BASIS

God provides a widow to feed Elijah (1 Kings 17:8-16).

## BIBLE TRUTH

God takes care of us.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

God is love. 1 John 4:8

## LESSON AIM

Students will thank God for taking care of them.

1

### LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Talk about people who care for children



**Materials:** "Woolly Lamb" Teaching Aid 3 prepared before class

2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures a story of how God provided for Elijah
- Review with questions

**Materials:** Bible, "God Cares for Elijah" Teaching Aid 4

3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the Bible memory verse with a poem
- Color a picture of a family

**Materials:** *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 2, crayons, Sticker 2

4

### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about how God takes care of a family
- Play a game to remember who God provides to care for children

**Materials:** *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 2



**This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.**



## Understanding the Bible

Jesus' first recorded sermon in His hometown was a sermon about racial prejudice. In His local Jewish synagogue He began talking about how God was at work outside "our kind of people," the Jews (see Luke 4:25-29). He began (in Luke 4:25-26) talking about how God's work isn't at all confined to "our kind of people," the Jews. That's when He mentioned the story that you're teaching today (1 Kings 17:9). This story took place outside of Israel—up north in Phoenicia.

Notice how talking about race relations got Jesus into very hot water. Some of His fellow Jews wanted to murder Him (Luke 4:28-29). Jesus didn't dodge tough issues.

As a result, you don't want to miss the point that Elijah (a Jew whose name carried the Hebrew names of God [E] and LORD [Yah or Jah, short for *Yahweh* in Hebrew]) was crossing racial boundaries when he reached out to the widow in the story.

Elijah, the most famous of all the Old Testament nonwriting prophets, prophesied during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel. Israel had forsaken the Lord. Jezebel's marriage to Ahab had resulted in widespread Baal worship in Israel.

Elijah told King Ahab and the Israelites that they would be punished with a drought, then a famine. Then God had Elijah hide near a brook and sent ravens to feed him. When the brook dried up, God told Elijah to go to Zarephath, where a widow would give him food. Zarephath, in Phoenicia, was enemy territory ruled by Jezebel's father.

Bible-time widows had no security, no status, and almost no rights. They lacked necessities and often were exploited.

Elijah found the widow preparing to make a last meal for her son and herself. She would mix oil and flour to make dough, then bake it on an oven called a *tannur*.

The widow was kind to Elijah. She immediately went to get him a drink of water. When Elijah asked for some bread to eat, she showed respect for the God of Israel in her reply (1 Kings 17:12). Even though she did not have enough food for her son and herself, she believed God would provide as Elijah said (vss. 13-14) and made a small cake of bread for him first. Her obedience made her the recipient of a miracle, for her supply of oil and flour continued as needed.

The widow's faith was commendable. Even Jesus mentioned her in Luke: "There were many widows in Israel. . . . Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath . . ." (Luke 4:25-26).

## Understanding Your Students

Preschoolers constantly depend upon adults. At church, you give them crayons, help them with their projects, and lead them through their class time.

Today your students will hear how God provided food and water for Elijah. You will teach your preschoolers that God takes care of them.

Preschoolers learn from concrete experiences. Because they cannot "see" God throughout their day, they often are not aware that He provides for their needs. They will begin to discover God's love and care as you lovingly and patiently guide them and teach them today.

## CLASSROOM TIPS

Try these activities to help your students become more aware of how God fulfills their needs.

- Encourage your children to name people who take care of them such as families, teachers, and babysitters. Remind the children that God gives them these caring people because He loves them.
- You can help your students thank God for things they can touch and see such as the clothes they are wearing or the food they are eating. For example, tell a student her red dress is pretty and help her say, "Thank You, God, for giving me my pretty red dress."
- Praise God for the children He has put in your care each Sunday. Pray that God will help you meet each child's individual needs. God will give you the wisdom and patience you need to help children learn that God takes care of them.

## WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Play a song from the DisKit CD to gather children for worship. You may choose "Celebrate His Love" or "God Loves Me."
- Collect offerings. Have children repeat a prayer of thanks to God for the offering.
- Pray with your class. **Dear God, we thank You for taking care of us. You give us food, clothes, people who love us, and all the other things we need to be healthy. We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



## BEFORE CLASS

Greet each child by name. **I am happy you are here today. God gave you parents (or friends) who bring you to Sunday school. God uses your parents to take care of you. Today we will learn some other ways God cares for us.**

The children who have offerings will be proud to give their offerings by themselves. Direct them to mark the attendance chart by coloring in a square, drawing a happy face, or adding a small sticker. Then lead them to the first activity of the day.

## GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the lesson of how God takes care of us.



**Arts and Crafts:** Invite children to draw a picture of their breakfast on a piece of paper. You could also use paper plates. This coloring helps children begin thinking about food. **Giving us food is one way God takes care of us.**

**Home Living:** Feed dolls. **Our parents fed us when we were babies. God gives us families to care for us.**

**Table Play:** Encourage children to use toy food and dishes to set the table and serve food to each other. This dramatic play introduces children to the idea of serving as the widow did for Elijah in today's Bible story. **We will learn about a woman who God used to help take care of someone.**

# 1

## Life Need

5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will talk about people who care for them.

Before class, put Wooly Lamb together following the directions on the back of the teaching aid. This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about how God provided a widow to feed Elijah.

When the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, introduce the Wooly Lamb puppet.

Put the Wooly Lamb puppet on your arm. **Wooly came to visit today. Let's say "hello" to Wooly.** Give the children time to greet Wooly.

*(Have Wooly whisper in your ear.)* **Wooly says he would like us to play a guessing game with him. Wooly is going to tell us about someone very special to him. He wants us to guess who that person is. Is everybody ready to play? Tell us a clue, Wooly.**

*(Let Wooly whisper in your ear.)* **This person takes care of Wooly. He shows Wooly where to find things like grass to eat and water to drink. Who do you think the person is?** Let children guess. If they guess the shepherd, encourage them to listen for more clues to find out if they are correct.

*(Have Wooly whisper again.)* **Wooly has another clue. This person makes sure Wooly has a warm place to sleep at night and keeps him safe. Who do you think it is?** Let the children guess again.

**Wooly's special person is his shepherd. The shepherd takes care of Wooly by giving him the things he needs to grow healthy and stay safe. We all have people who care for us. Let's talk about who cares for you.** *(Set Wooly aside.)*

**Who takes care of you?** (Because preschoolers depend on so many people for different things, they can have a wide variety of answers. These may include their parents, babysitters, teachers, grandparents, or other family members. Encourage children to think about less obvious answers such as friends, neighbors, and siblings. Accept all answers.)

**How do they take care of you?** (Accept all the answers the children give. They may talk about food to eat, clothes to wear, keeping them safe, taking them places, and loving them.)

**Many people take care of us. Today we're going to learn that God takes care of us. Our Bible story today tells us about one of God's helpers, a man named Elijah. As you hear the story, listen for how God takes care of Elijah.**



Wooly Lamb  
Teaching Aid 3

Wooly Lamb Puppet  
Teaching Aid 3  
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# 2

## Bible Learning

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn God provided a widow to feed Elijah.

In advance, fold the “God Cares for Elijah” Teaching Aid 4 on the broken line so that Picture 1 is showing. Show Picture 2 when indicated below. Open your Bible to 1 Kings 17.

### Bible Story

Today’s story comes from the Bible. It is found in the book of the Bible called **1 Kings**. (Show the children where 1 Kings is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to 1 Kings as you tell the story.)

The Bible tells us about a man named **Elijah**. Elijah loved God. He traveled around telling people about God. (Pat your knees.)

But the king where Elijah lived didn’t love God. Because of the bad things the king did, God didn’t send any rain to the land where Elijah lived. Food couldn’t grow without rain. Many people, including the king and Elijah, were hungry. (Rub your stomach.)

Elijah knew that God would take care of him. One day, God told Elijah to go to a certain town. A woman who lived there would give him food and drink.

Elijah went toward the town. (Pat your knees.) When he got close to the town, Elijah saw a woman collecting sticks. He asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water to drink? I’m thirsty.”

The woman went to get him some water.

Elijah called out to her, “Please bring me a piece of bread, too.”

The woman said, “I don’t have any bread. I only have a small amount of flour in a jar. (Hold out left hand.) I only have a little oil in a jug. (Hold out right hand.) I am gathering sticks so I can go home and make one last meal for my son and me.”

Elijah told her, “Don’t be scared. Go home and make the bread. But first make a little bread for me. Make it out of what you have. Then make some for your son and yourself.”

Then Elijah told her some wonderful news about God. “God will take care of us. God will

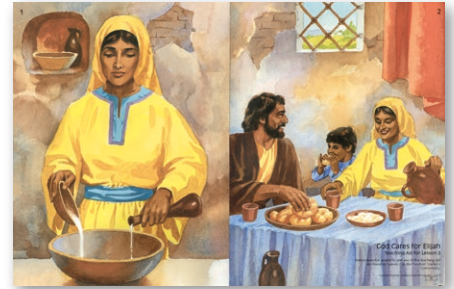
make sure the jar of flour will not be used up. He will make sure that the jug will always have oil in it. There will be flour and oil to make bread until God sends rain to the land.”

(Show Picture 1.) The woman hurried home to bake bread as Elijah told her. She put all of the oil and flour into a bowl. She

stirred and kneaded the flour and oil. (Move arms in and out as if rolling dough.) Soon the dough was ready to bake. She made bread for Elijah first, then for herself and her son.

(Show Picture 2.) Look at all the bread on the table! They had plenty to eat!

God did just as He promised He would do. (Raise arms above head.) The jar of flour had flour in it each day. There was also oil in the jar. Elijah wasn’t hungry anymore. God cared for Elijah by having the widow feed him. God gives us people to feed and clothe us. God cares for us, too.



“God Cares for Elijah”  
Teaching Aid 4

### Bible Story Review

To check for children’s understanding of today’s Bible story, have them answer these questions.

1. Where did God tell Elijah to go? (Pat knees as you ask the question.) (To a town.)
2. What was the only food the woman had left in her house? (Hold out left hand, then right hand.) (Flour and oil to make bread.)
3. How did God take care of Elijah? (Move arms in and out as if rolling dough.) (The children may give the simple answer that He had a woman make bread. Encourage them to expand their answer to see that God kept supplying flour and oil for bread.)
4. Who takes care of us? (God takes care of us.)



# Bible Application

10 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn that God takes care of them.

## Bible Memory Verse

This month's action rhyme has the Bible memory verse, "God is love." You may say the words and act out the movements for the children and let them repeat each line as you pause. If you can, go through the rhyme more than once. The children will probably imitate your words and actions. Some younger children may simply watch.

**God is watching when I jump.**

*(Jump.)*

**He listens when I pray.**

*(Fold hands as if praying.)*

**God is love; I know it's true.**

*(Hug self; open arms wide.)*

**He's with us every day.**

*(Join hands.)*

**Our Bible memory verse is in this rhyme. Let's say the verse together: "God is love" 1 John 4:8.**

Have the class stand. **God told Elijah to go to a certain town. Let's pretend to walk to that town.** *(Walk your class to a corner of your room.)*

**Let's say our Bible verse: "God is love" 1 John 4:8.**

**A woman at the town took care of Elijah. Let's pretend to walk with her to the well to get Elijah a drink of water.** *(Move your class to the opposite corner of the room.)* **God cared for Elijah by giving him water to drink. Let's say our Bible verse: "God is love" 1 John 4:8.**

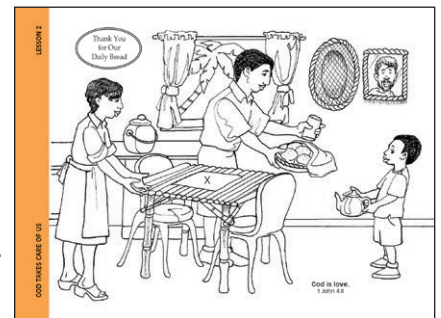
**God kept flour and oil in the jars. God took care of Elijah by giving him food to eat. Let's sit back down and say our Bible verse one last time.**

Lead your children back to where you started. After they are seated, say the verse together again.

**God cared for Elijah by having the poor woman feed him. God cares for us by giving us people to feed and clothe us.**

## Handcraft

Before class, remove Lesson 2 from Make-It/Take-It. You will also need Sticker 2 found in the center section of the booklet. Let your children choose crayons to color their pictures.



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 2

**In our story today, Elijah, a poor woman, and her son needed food. Who helped them have food? (God.)**

Show your children how to place the sticker of the food on the X.

**Every day when you sit down at the table, you have good food to eat. Who makes the plants grow so we can have food to eat? (God.) And God gives us families who cook the food for us and serve us.**

**God takes care of us.**



# 4

## Life Response

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will thank God for taking care of them.

Read aloud to your students "God Cares for Us" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 2, back.

### Present-Day Story

It was Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Johnson was preparing lunch for Anthony and Tiana. She invited a family from church to come and eat too. Anthony and Tiana were so hungry. They couldn't wait to eat. But they had to wait.

"Children, go and play," said Mrs. Johnson. "I am still preparing food and our guests won't be here for a little while."

"Who is coming over?" asked Tiana.

"A new family from church. The dad lost his job, and they do not have a lot of money for food," said Mrs. Johnson.

"So we are sharing some of our food with them?" Anthony asked.

"Yes, and they have children about your age," said Mrs. Johnson.

The children were excited. They played until the family came.

Everyone sat down to eat. Anthony prayed, "Dear God, thank You for giving us food to eat and share with our new friends. Thank You for taking care of us. In Jesus' name. Amen."



*My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 2 (back)

### Closing Activities

**God used Tiana and Anthony's family to help feed another family.** Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. **In today's Bible story, we learned that God took care of Elijah. He sent Elijah to a certain town to see a woman. God made sure Elijah had food to eat by giving the widow flour and oil to make bread.**



*My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 2 (front)

**God still takes care of people today. Who does God take care of? (God takes care of us.)**

**What are some ways we know that God takes care of us? (Children may say giving us food and clothes. Point out that God took care of Elijah through the woman. Encourage children to think about people who take care of them such as parents and teachers.)**

Gather your students to play a short game.

Ask your children to raise their hand when you name someone that God provides to take care of them. You may mention moms and dads, babysitters, grandmas and grandpas, teachers, farmers who grow food, grocers, etc.

**There are many people God gives us to take care of us. Our families help us by giving us food to eat, just like the poor woman gave Elijah food to eat. God gives us our families to take care of us.**

Pray with the children. **Dear God, You give us food to eat and families to take care of us. Thank You for moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, farmers, and grocers who help us have food to eat. Amen.**

Make sure that each child has his handcraft picture of a family and this week's *My Sunday Pictures* lesson card. As the families arrive, mention how God provides that parent or other caretaker to bring the child to church.

Say a personal goodbye to each student. **Be sure to thank God for taking care of you this week.**

