

GOD CARES FOR ELIJAH

1 Kings 16 – 17

Lesson Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 **"But my God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion printed in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: God is able to take care of all your needs, so trust Him and ask for His help.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have any of you been in a serious accident and had to go to the hospital? (Let them tell of their experiences.) Who took care of you in the hospital? (Doctors and nurses) In many poor countries, the hospitals do not have nurses take care of you like they do in America. Members in your family or friends must come to the hospital to take care of you. They even have to bring food for you to eat. In America, we trust the doctors to close up our wounds and fix our broken bones, if we are in an accident, and nurses to care for us while we are healing. We trust in their skill and care to make us well again. That is why we go to the hospital

Our Bible story today tells us how God cared for the needs of Elijah. He was not sick, but he depended on God to care for him when there was not much food in the land.

HE (for Authority): Elijah was a man of God. God wanted him to know that all of his needs (for food, clothing, home, health) would be taken care of if he trusted in Him. Our memory verse for today tells us that we, too, must trust in God to take care of all of our needs: "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). All Christians need to learn this verse and use it in their lives when they need God to take care of all their needs. (Maybe you will want the children to list their needs. Write them on the whiteboard or have pictures of needs that you think they might suggest and tack them up so they can see them throughout the lesson. Be careful to separate "needs" from "wants." This exercise will set the stage for the lesson.) **Word and phrases to explain in the verse:**

"Supply" – provide, satisfy

"Need" – something that you must have (not something that would like to have)

"According to His riches" – by the riches that God has

"In glory" – in heaven

SEE (for Apperception and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. This lesson tells us about Elijah and how God cared for him because he was willing to trust in Him for His help.

I. The Evil of Ahab (16:1-34)

Ahab was in a long line of evil kings that ruled the ten northern tribes of Israel. Judah had some good and some evil kings, but all of Israel's kings were evil. Ahab was more evil than all of the kings of Israel that came before him. He was made worse by Jezebel, his wife, the most wicked woman recorded in the Bible. She was from another country and she brought the worship of Baal to Israel. Baal was a vile god that corrupted the morals of the people. The people liked Baal because he encouraged them live a sinful life. As a result of their sinful lives, God punished Israel for worshipping this awful god. He kept the rain from falling on their land for 3½ years (James 5:17). That showed them that Baal could not supply their basic needs.

WE: We should learn from this story that no one, but God, can give us all that we need. We must not depart from Him and trust in ourselves, in other people or in false gods to take care of us. It is God that is Ruler of the whole world, so He is the only One that can supply our needs when we trust in Him. It is natural for us to trust someone that we can see, but you must learn to trust God even though you cannot see Him. Learn to go to Him and ask Him to take care of your needs every day.

I. The Example of Elijah (17:1-24)

A. At the Brook of Cherith (17:2-7)

God gave Elijah the power to stop the rain from falling in Israel. God told Moses 600 years before the days of Elijah that it would not rain if the people forgot Him (Dt 28:23-24). Now God was going to keep His word. Then He sent Elijah to tell Ahab that there would be no rain in Israel until he said it would come. Elijah knew this would happen because he fully trusted God to do it. With no rain to water the crops there soon would be no food for the people to eat. Baal was no help to the people. He could not make rain, because he was a false god. As a result many people would die from hunger for their sin against the true God. Their worship of Baal did not supply their needs; instead they would suffer for their sins.

WE: We can learn from this that the gods and heroes of this world that we might honor and worship are unable to feed us. It is God that we should worship, because He controls the weather. He sends the sunshine and rain and makes food for us to eat. You should trust Him to supply everything that you need.

God knew Ahab would try to find Elijah and kill him for the drought that He had sent to Israel. So He sent Elijah to a deserted place where there was a brook called Cherith. It was there that God supplied his daily needs for food and water. He drank water from the brook and sent birds (ravens) to feed him meat and bread every day. Since God is the Creator of the entire universe, He could tell the birds what they were to do and they would do it. Ahab was not able to find him. God supplied Elijah's need for protection.

WE: We can trust God to protect us and to feed us, because He is all powerful and has all the riches in Heaven to supply our needs. Will you trust God to meet your needs as Elijah did?

B. With the Widow of Zarephath (17:8-24)

When the brook of Cherith dried up, God had another plan to protect and to feed Elijah. He told Elijah to go to Zarephath, which was in a country next to Israel. There God had a widow (a woman whose husband had died) who would take care of him. Elijah obeyed God and went to Zarephath. At first, the widow did not believe that she could take care of Elijah. She only has enough for one small meal for her and her son (17:11-12). But Elijah told her to make him a small cake first and then make one for her and her son, because God would provide enough flour in the barrel and enough oil in the small jar to keep them fed until the Lord would send the rain upon the earth (17:13-14). She believed Elijah and God kept flour in her barrel and oil in her jar (17:16). Some after Elijah had come to the widow's house, her son got sick and died. She had already lost her husband and now the death of her son was too much for her. She did not know what to do.

WE: We will have problems that will crush us, but we have to keep trusting the Lord to supply our need. He will take care of us somehow. We may never understand why some things happen to us, but God knows what is happening to us and He will meet our deepest need.

Elijah knew what to do. He trusted in God to bring the widow's son back to life again. He prayed to God and asked Him to meet this need of this poor widow. God heard and answered his prayer and the son was made alive again.

WE: We have people like our fathers and mothers or nurses and doctors to help you when have a serious accident and are in the hospital. But we need to ask God to use them to meet our need to be healed. He wants us to ask Him to meet our needs and He will answer our prayers.

BE (for Action): Israel sinned against God and trusted Baal to take of them, but when it did not rain and the people had no food, they were beginning to learn that Baal could not supply all of their needs. But God supplied Elijah's needs because he trusted in him. Can you tell me how God supplied Elijah's needs? (God sent birds to bring him food each day and he had water from the brook; God protected him from Ahab; God gave flour and oil to the widow so she could feed him; God raised the widow's son back to life when Elijah sincerely prayed.) God will supply your needs, too, if you really trust Him. If you believe that, I want you to tell Him that you trust Him to take care of you. (Give the children an opportunity to pray and tell God that they really trust Him to supply all of their needs. If you know that some of your pupils are unsaved, you could invite them to trust Jesus Christ to take away their sin and be saved. Then their greatest spiritual need will be supplied.)