

General Church Education



Elijah, Prophet of the Lord

I Kings 17:8-16

Lesson 12

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

ELIJAH, PROPHET OF THE LORD

I KINGS 17:8-16

Today we begin a series of nine lessons about miracles in the Word. We will start with miracles in the Old Testament that the Lord performed through His prophets Elijah and Elisha. After that, we will have six lessons about miracles that the Lord performed while He was living in the world. The Lord's miracles, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, give us important information about Him. They teach us about His great power, His tender mercy, and the fact that He understands what we need. He can help all who turn in obedience to Him.

Today's lesson is about the miracle that saved a widow from starvation. The Writings tell us that when widows are mentioned in the Word, they can be thought of as people who are living good lives but have lost sight of the Lord's truth and desire it. We are also told that Elijah represents the Lord as He is in His Word.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord's miracles teach about Him and the life of regeneration.
- Today's story reminds us that there may be times in our lives when we feel drained and empty, without spiritual resources to draw upon. We may even feel hopeless, with no spiritual future, like the widow in today's story. The widow of Zarephath welcomed Elijah into her life, putting his needs before those of herself and her child. Because of that, Elijah was able to fill her needs. The Lord can work the same miracle in our spiritual lives. When we turn to Him in His Word, when we place Him before ourselves, He restores our strength and gives us the resources to overcome our troubles.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Obedience, and the desire that good has for truth, is described by the widow giving the prophet water and then by her making a cake for him first from the little she had. Consequent enrichment in the good of truth is meant when it says that the pot of flour was not used up and the flask of oil did not fail. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9198.7

Furthermore all good with a person is given form by truth, for good flows in from the Lord by an inward path, while truth enters by an outward path. They then marry in the internal man. The outward path by which truth enters lies through hearing and sight into the understanding, but the inward path by which good flows in from the Lord lies through what is inmost in the person into the will. *Arcana Coelestia* 9995.3

ELIJAH, PROPHET OF THE LORD

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord is all powerful.

Before He came into the world, the Lord gave His prophets great powers to do miracles so that people could know about Him.

The Christmas story tells us how the Lord came into the world. We know that while He was in the world, He did many miracles. These miracles helped people to learn about Him and about the life that leads to heaven.

Before His birth on earth, the Lord used people called prophets to teach people about Himself. Sometimes prophets carried messages from the Lord to people who needed to learn how to live a good life. The Lord sometimes gave His prophets power to do miracles. These miracles were another way for people to learn about Him.

One of the most powerful prophets was a man named Elijah. The name "Elijah" means "Jehovah is my strength." Elijah believed in Jehovah, who is the Lord, and he did what the Lord commanded him. Elijah had great power from the Lord because he was chosen as His prophet. One of the jobs the Lord gave Elijah was to warn wicked King Ahab of Israel that bad things would happen to him and his kingdom as a result of the evil things he was doing.

Elijah told King Ahab that the Lord was going to send a terrible drought. This meant that there would be no rain and therefore no food in the land. It happened just as Elijah prophesied.

After the drought came to the land of Israel, the Lord used his mighty power to save Elijah's life. First He sent ravens, or big black birds, to feed Elijah in the wilderness. Next, the Lord sent Elijah to a town called Zarephath. Elijah was to find a widow, a woman whose husband had died. The Lord told Elijah that He had commanded the widow to take care of him and feed him.



Elijah trusted the Lord and made the long journey to Zarephath. Today's story from the Word tells about what happened after Elijah came to the gates of the city and saw the widow gathering sticks to make a fire for cooking.

Elijah was hungry and thirsty after the trip through the dry land that had not seen rain for a long time. Listen to the story to find out how Elijah asked the widow to help him.

Read I Kings 17:8-11.



The widow was going to cook food for herself and her son, but when Elijah asked for water, she immediately started to get it for him. As she started to go for the water, Elijah asked for a "morsel," or little piece of bread.

The drought was very hard. The widow had almost no flour or oil left to make bread with. She told Elijah that she was planning to get it ready for herself and her son. She thought that she and her son would die after they had eaten it because they had no more food left. But they did not die. The woman believed Elijah and the miracle happened just as Elijah had said.

Read I Kings 17:12-16.

In our next lesson we will learn how the Lord performed another great miracle to help the widow of Zarephath.

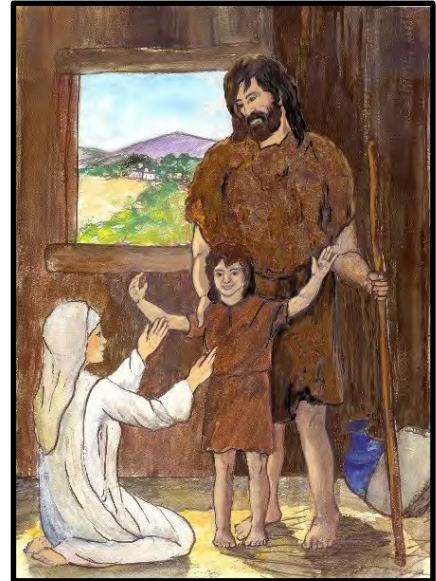
DISCUSSION

- The widow in today's story showed her love to the Lord by caring for Elijah, who was her "neighbor" in the story. So the Lord performed a miracle to save the woman and her son from starvation. What did He do? (*He created a supply of oil and flour that would not end until the drought was over.*)
- The Lord has all power in heaven and on earth. Each miracle that the Lord performed through His prophets and each miracle that He did while living in the world shows us something special about Him and His almighty powers. Can you think of some things that we can learn about the Lord from the miracle that He performed through Elijah to save the widow? (*Possible answers - The Lord has the power to do miracles, He has power over the things of nature, He loves us, He understands when we need help, He wants to take care of us.*)
- There are many stories in the Word that tell about the Lord doing miracles by creating food and drink to nourish people. Can you remember any of these stories? (*Possible answers - The Lord fed the Children of Israel in the wilderness with manna and quail: Exodus 16, The Lord made water come from a rock to quench the thirst of the Children of Israel: Exodus 17, The Lord fed 5,000 hungry men besides women and children: Matthew 14, Jesus fed 4,000: Mark 8, Jesus turned water to wine at a wedding: John 2.*)
- The widow in today's story loved the Lord and followed His commandments. Can you think of something that she did that showed this? (*Answers include - She shared her food with Elijah, she served Elijah first, she helped him when he was in trouble.*)
- The widow listened to the words of Elijah and trusted that what he said was true. Because she did this, the Lord was able to give her the food that she and her son needed to be healthy and not die. By obeying Elijah, she was obeying the Lord's commandments as well.
- Do you think the Lord could do a similar miracle for us? When we listen to the Words of the Lord, trust that they are true and obey them, the Lord will feed our spirits and keep our spirits healthy. In our last lesson, we read about the Two Great Commandments. Can you tell which of these commandments the widow was obeying? (*"Love your neighbor as yourself."*)

ELIJAH, PROPHET OF THE LORD | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.
O Lord, You are my God.
I will exalt You,
I will praise Your name,
For you have done wonderful things.
For You have been a strength to the poor,
And a strength to the needy in his
distress.
Isaiah 25: 1 and 4



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- This is the Day
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-this-is-the-day-2/>

Projects

- Make bread to feed Elijah
- Picture to color

Make Bread to Feed Elijah

This simple flat bread is more like the bread that the children of Israel ate than the bread we eat today. This recipe is like the Holy Supper bread adults eat when they take communion. It is made from the simple ingredients that the widow had in her home.

Supplies needed

- mixing bowl(s)
- measuring equipment (or pre-measured ingredients)
- fork(s) to mix dough
- pan to cook bread in (large flat pan)
- oven
- plate for serving
- napkins

Ingredients

- 1 cup (90 grams or 3.2oz) white or whole wheat flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon (5 grams or 0.2oz) salt
- 3 teaspoons (15ml or 0.5fl.oz) olive oil
- 5 teaspoons (25ml or 0.9fl.oz) cold water

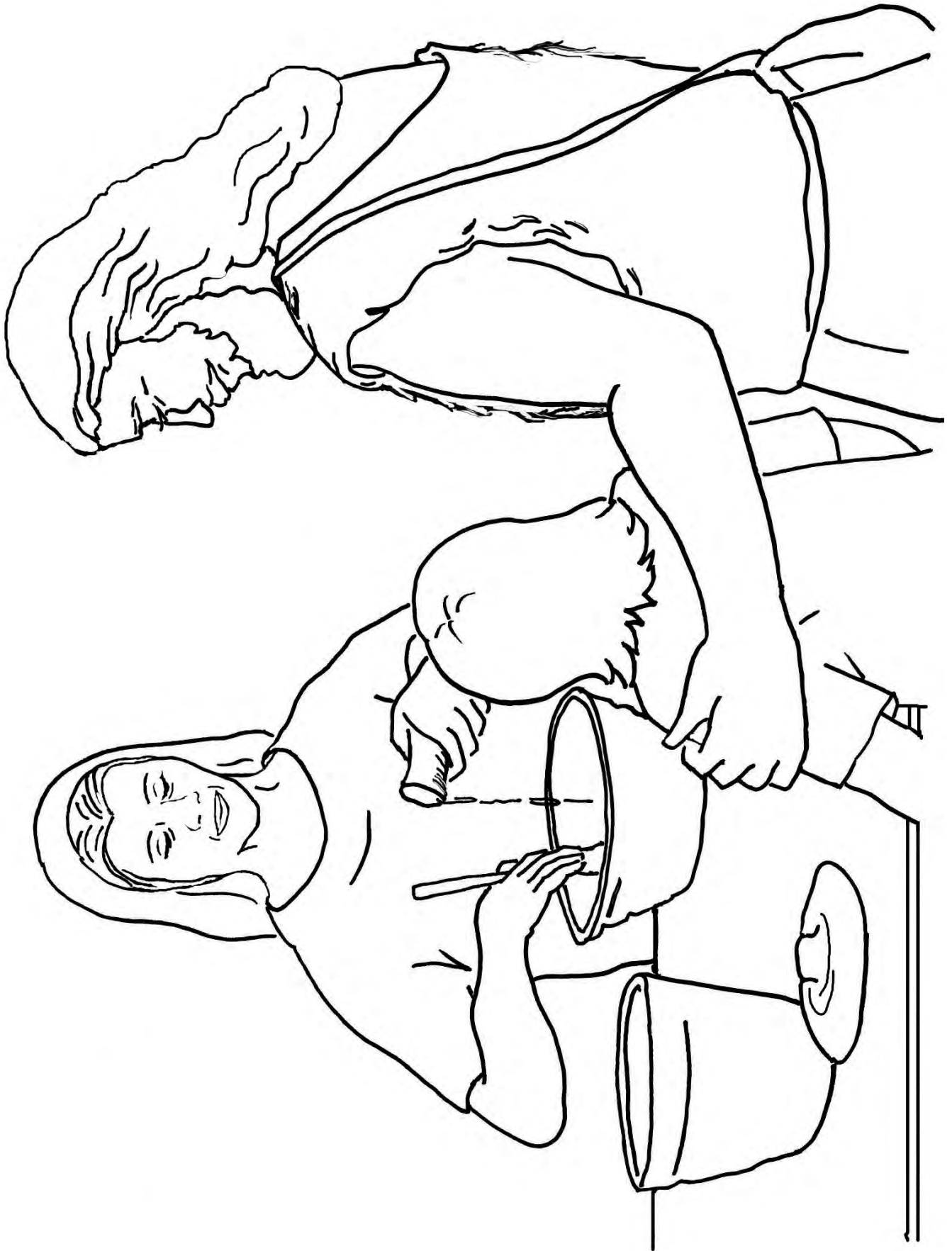
Note: For a group of children you may want to multiply this recipe. As you mix the dough, you may need more flour or water depending on how hot or cool the room is when you make the bread. You want the dough to be just wet enough to pat into a whole, but not too wet to handle.

Preparation

Note: Wash and dry hands before starting this activity.

Directions

1. Mix the flour and salt in a mixing bowl.
2. Add the olive oil and blend gently with fingertips or a fork.
3. When the texture of the dough holds together, press into flat circular shapes on a flat pan or cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes until just browning.
5. To serve break into small pieces and offer round on a plate.



Recitation Award | Lessons 12, 13, 14

