

48. Elijah Brings a Little Boy Back to Life

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

48. Elijah Brings a Little Boy Back to Life

- a. This is one of the most poignant stories in all the Word. Focus on how the widow felt and what she did.
- b. Think how she felt as she was gathering a few sticks to make a fire, then make a cake from the food she had left, and then slowly she and her son would starve to death. Imagine how unhappy she felt, especially for her son.
- c. Yet when Elijah asked for water, she right away got up to go and get him some. She thought of what he needed.
- d. What did she think when he asked for food? They had just a tiny meal left.
- e. But she trusted him—and this is important—she made a small cake for him first! She and her son were both so hungry but she fed the prophet first.
- f. It was because she did so that his promise came true, and they had food for months from their little jar of oil and their little bin of flour. You can ask them to imagine her going to the jar and the bin each morning, and looking in it, and while it seemed empty the day before, it now had enough for that day. “Give us this day our daily bread.”
- g. Then her son dies. She thought he was going to live because they had food, and then he died. She actually

thought that the Lord was punishing her by letting her son die.

- h. You might tell the children that when the boy died it meant she would die too. In those days when a woman got old, the only way she could live was if her husband or her son could work and look after her. If her son was dead, she would once again, in time, starve to death.
- i. Tell your children how she was holding her boy in her arms. She thought it was for the last time, and Elijah said, “Give me your son.” How could she let him go? But Elijah took him out of her arms, and called to the Lord, and the Lord made the boy live.
- j. Can they imagine how the woman, who must have been terribly sad, felt when Elijah brought him down and gave him to her, and said, “See, your son lives.”
- k. Imagine how happy Elijah was! A day that had been so terribly miserable turned into a day of great happiness.

Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss; Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt; Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Brings a Little Boy Back to Life

So Elijah went to Zarephath and he found the woman. He called to her, “Please bring me a little water in a cup and a little bread in your hand.” She said, “I have no bread, just a little oil and a handful of flour. I was going to make a small cake for myself and my little boy. After that we will have no more food and we will die.” Then Elijah said to her, “Do not worry, Go and do as you have said but make me a small cake first and bring it to me. Then make some for yourself, for the Lord God says that the jar of meal and the bottle of oil will not empty until the famine is over.”

And it was as the Lord said. The flour jar never emptied and the oil bottle never ran out, and Elijah and the woman and her little boy had food to eat.

And it was after this that the little boy became sick, so very sick that he died. And the woman said to Elijah, “Man of God, have you made my son die?”

Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” And Elijah took the boy out of her arms and carried him to the upper room in the house where he lived, and he laid the boy on his own bed. Then Elijah stretched himself upon the child three times. And he called to the Lord and said, “Oh, Lord my God, I pray you let the soul of this child return within him.”

And the Lord heard Elijah, and the soul of the child returned into the little boy and he breathed again. Then Elijah took the child to his mother, and Elijah said, “See, your son lives.”

And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are really a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”

I Kings 17

