

***Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten***

**Lesson 2.27: ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW — 1 Kgs. 17: 8-16**

**TEACHER PREPARATION**

Read over 1 Kings 17: 8-16.

**WORSHIP CIRCLE**

**STORY AND DISCUSSION**

This is a story about a certain prophet. A prophet is someone who hears what the Lord says, and tries to tell all the people what the Lord wants them to do. This prophet's name was Elijah.

While Elijah was the prophet in Israel, there came a terrible drought. Do you know what a drought is? It means a long time when there is no rain, and no food can grow. When the drought started, the Lord wanted to take care of Elijah. He told Elijah to go and stay by a little brook, or stream. There Elijah could drink from the brook, and the Lord would bring food to him in an amazing way. Every morning and every evening the Lord sent ravens, big black birds, which brought bread and meat for Elijah to eat.

So Elijah had plenty to eat, and he stayed there by the brook. But after a while the brook dried up because there was no rain. Now Elijah would need to go somewhere else to find water. Of course, the Lord was still watching over Elijah, so He told Elijah where to go. He said 'Go to the city of Zarapheth, and there will be a widow to help you.' A widow is a woman whose husband has already died.

So Elijah went to the city of Zarapheth, and when he came to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." The widow turned to go get some, and Elijah called to her again and asked, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

The widow answered and said, "I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin and a little oil in a jar." She told Elijah that she was gathering sticks to make a fire, so she could make a cake out of her last bit of flour and oil and cook it for her and her son. After that, she thought she and her son would die, because they would have no more food.

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. First make a small cake for me, and then make some for yourself and your son." Then Elijah told the widow an amazing thing. He told her "The Lord says that your bin will never run out of flour, and your jar will never run out of oil, until this drought is over."

The widow did as Elijah asked. Even though her food was almost gone, she was nice enough to share it with Elijah. And because she was so kind, the Lord performed this amazing miracle for her. No matter how much flour and oil she took out of her bin and her jar, more always appeared, and filled the bin and jar right up again. In this way, the Lord make sure that the widow, her son, and Elijah had enough food until the drought was over.

## **RECITATION**

Now we will say something from this story in the Lord's Word. I will say a part, and you repeat it after me.

“The bin of flour  
was not used up,  
nor did the jar of oil  
run dry,  
according to the Word  
of the LORD...”

## **PROJECT**

### **Ahead of time:**

Make two colors of playdough (one recipe of one color, 1/2 recipe of another color) using the following recipe:

2 cups flour    2 cups water  
1 cup salt      2 Tbls. oil  
4 tsp. cream of tartar    2 tsp. food coloring

Combine dry ingredients in a saucepan. Mix liquids and gradually stir into dry. When smooth, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until a ball forms. Remove from heat and knead until smooth.

### **Doing the project:**

1. Give each child some of the colored playdough that you have more of.
2. Ask them what was special about the “bin” and the “jar” in today’s story (*i.e.* how did the Lord make them special?)
3. Tell them that they will make a model of what the bin and the jar of the widow might have looked like.
4. Have them form two balls with the playdough, or any shape they would like their bin and jar to be. Have them press down into the balls to make the hollow space where the flour and oil would be kept.
5. Give them some of the second color to make decorations to press onto the jar and bin. They could also put some inside the hollow space to be the flour and the oil.