

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 28
Elijah Proclaims a Drought; Helps a Widow (I Kings 17:1– 16)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord is always trying to reach us, no matter how bad we become.
- B. The Lord can be with us and help us only when we obey Him.
- C. When we care more for self and the world than for the Lord's Word, it is as though our souls shrivel and dry up, as plants do when deprived of water.
- D. Basic correspondences:
 - Israel, the northern kingdom = the understanding
 - Judah, the southern kingdom = the will
 - Elijah = the prophetic Word
 - Baal = self as a god

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. After king Solomon died, his kingdom was divided into two; the southern one was called Judah, and the northern part was called Israel. The northern part, Israel, stopped coming to worship at the beautiful temple at Jerusalem which Solomon had built and set up two golden calves to worship instead. (Do you remember that worshiping statues is called idolatry? This is against the First Commandment.)
 - 2. One after another many evil kings ruled this northern part. Our story for today takes place while Ahab was king of Israel.
 - 3. Ahab was a very powerful king, and he was very bad, too. He set up the worship of the idol, Baal, whom his wife, Jezebel, worshiped. The Word says, "Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him." (1 Kings 16:33)
 - 4. While Ahab was king, the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to warn him there would be a drought (no rain) in the land until Ahab was willing to listen to the Lord. Do you know what happens when there's no rain for a long, long time? First the plants shrivel up and die. Next the streams, brooks, ponds, and lakes dry up so there's little or no water for people or animals to drink. Then the people and animals die because they have no food to eat or water to drink. So you can see that a drought is a very serious problem.
 - 5. Let's read the story from the Word and find out how the Lord took care of Elijah and made sure he had food and water during the drought.

B. Tell/Read the Story: Read aloud I Kings 17:1– 16.

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Literal Sense

- a. What great prophet did the Lord send to warn king Ahab of the coming drought? (Elijah)
- b. What did Elijah tell him? (There will be no dew or rain for years.)
- c. How did the Lord take care of Elijah? (Sent him to hide by the brook Cherith and drink from it, and He sent ravens, morning and evening, with bread and meat.)
- d. After the brook dried up, the Lord sent Elijah to find a widow at Zarephath, in a different country. What was she doing when Elijah found her? (Gathering sticks)
- e. What two things did Elijah ask her to bring to him? (bread and water)
- f. The widow said she had no bread. What did she have? (a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar)
- g. What did Elijah tell her to do with them? (Make a small cake for him first, bring it to him, and then make some for herself and her son.)
- h. What did Elijah promise would happen if she followed his instructions? (The bin of flour and jar of oil would not run out until the drought was over.)
- i. Did the widow do what Elijah said? (Yes)
- j. Who ate for many days during the drought with the widow and her son? (Elijah)

2. Further Ideas

The drought in Israel lasted for 3 1/2 years! By then the people and their wicked king Ahab had suffered a lot and were ready to listen to the Lord. Next time we'll find out how Elijah the prophet got the people to worship the Lord again instead of Baal.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," HYMNAL #158.
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169.
3. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
4. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246. (Hebrew version of #245)
5. "Let the Love Flow", LORI'S SONGS V, WONDERFUL!

B. Activities

1. Act out the story. A narrator reads as the children go through the motions.
 - a. Characters: narrator, Elijah, ravens, widow, widow's son
 - b. Props: blue fabric for stream, bread, meat (torn pieces of brown construction paper), sticks, bin of flour, jar of a little olive oil, wooden bowl and spoon for mixing
2. Ask the children to talk about times they have been really thirsty. Chances are they will begin to feel thirsty as they talk. Have a glass pitcher of water and cups in view and ready for use.
3. Talk about flour and olive oil. Have some on hand. Flour is used for bread and comes from wheat. If possible show the children a stalk of wheat and let them chew a grain. Olive oil is used for bread, oil lamps, soothing and healing wounds, and anointing kings. Show the children some olives and let them sample one if they would like. Flour and olive oil were very important in the ancient world.

C. Projects

1. A Raven to Feed Elijah: see project description in *Sunday School Activity Book* for Lesson 73 (in blue volume).
2. Make unleavened bread. Could be used in the play described above.

Recipe for Unleavened Bread

- 1 cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons olive oil
- 5 teaspoons water

Mix the flour and salt.

Add the olive oil, and rub it in gently with your fingertips or with a pastry cutter.

Press into a pie pan.

Bake at 375 for about 15 minutes.

To serve, break into small pieces.

IV. Teaching Aids

Illustration of Elijah and the ravens at the brook.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3, "Elijah and Ahab" (I Kings 17; 18), pp. 231– 251.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. II, "Ahab and Elijah" (I Kings 17), pp. 336– 345.