

# The Widow Feeds Elijah

Level A | Lesson 2 | Teacher Overview

**Key Message:** The Lord takes care of me.

**Text:** I Kings 17:7-15

## Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Color Picture: The Widow Feeds Elijah
3. Memory Verse
4. Song: "Love Is Something If You Give It Away"
5. Make: Vessels for the Widow
6. Act It Out: The Widow Feeds Elijah
7. Color: The Widow Feeds Elijah



## I Kings 17:14

“The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.”

# Talk About It

## I Kings 17:7-16: The Widow Feeds Elijah

*Optional:* Bring this story to life by pouring water from a pitcher and into a bowl to demonstrate how the stream stopped flowing and dried up. Show a jar and bowl as you talk about the widow's vessels. Help the children imagine the miracle of the vessels being filled by the Lord!

1. The Lord takes care of each one of us in many special ways. Today we will be talking about a miracle the Lord did to take care of Elijah and about a widow who helped him. A miracle is something that only the Lord can do!
2. When there is no rain for a long time streams dry up. There is no more water in them. Today we get water from a tap, but a long time ago people got their water from rivers, streams and springs. Elijah was living next to a stream so he could drink its good water. But there was no rain for so long that the stream dried up and went away. Imagine what it would be like if you were thirsty and turned on the tap—but nothing came out!
3. The Lord told Elijah to go to a place called Zarephath, where a widow would take care of him. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. What was the woman doing when he got there? (Picking up sticks.) What did she tell him when he asked for a cup of water and some bread? (That she only had a little food, and when it was gone, she and her son were going to die.)
4. The woman helped Elijah. She made him some bread before she made any for herself! Even though she was worried that she wouldn't have enough food for her family, she took care of Elijah. Imagine that you are hungry, and there is only a small amount of food. What would it feel like if another person that you didn't even know, asked you for some?
5. The Lord did a miracle for the widow's family because she was willing to help Elijah. He kept her jar of oil and her container of flour filled until it started raining again. Her family would have plenty of food. The Lord takes care of us too!
6. Let's all say part of this story from the Lord's Word together. I will say part of it, and you repeat 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...."



## Elijah Is Fed by the Widow

Memory Verse: 1 Kings 17:14

“The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.”



Key Message:

**The Lord takes care of me.**

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Memory Verse: 1 Kings 17:14

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Cut in quarters and give one to each student to take home.

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# Love Is Something if You Give It Away

I Kings 17: 7-15: Elijah Feeds the Widow

Use this fun song with actions to bring home the message in today's story!

Love is something if you give it away, *(arms crossed over chest—open as if you are giving away)*

Give it away, *(re-cross and open arms)*

Give it away. *(re-cross and open arms)*

Love is something if you give it away, *(arms crossed over chest—open as if you are giving away)*

You end up having more. *(raise both hands to make circle overhead)*

It's just like a magic penny *(hold one hand out flat and point to it with a finger from the other hand)*

Hold on tight and you won't have any. *(clench both fists)*

Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many, *(extend both hands out and open fists)*

They'll roll all over the floor. *(bend down extending hands to imitate pennies rolling all over the floor)*

Love is something if you give it away, *(arms crossed over chest—open as if you are giving away)*

Give it away, *(re-cross and open arms)*

Give it away. *(re-cross and open arms)*

Love is something if you give it away, *(arms crossed over chest—open as if you are giving away)*

You end up having more. *(raise both hands to make circle overhead)*

Videos of this song being sung by young children doing the actions are available on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com).  
Search for Love Is Something if You Give It Away.

# Make: Vessels for the Widow

## I Kings 17:7-16: The Widow Feeds Elijah

Picture the widow's jar of oil and bin of flour by creating models of them.

### *Supplies Needed for Each Child*

Choose one of the following media (in 2 colors) for your project and make sure you have enough to give each child two (children's) fist-sized lumps of the first color: playdough, plasticine, beeswax or clay.



### *Project Directions*

1. Give each child some of the colored playdough that you have more of.
2. Ask the children what was special about the "bin" and "jar" in today's story (*i.e.* how did the Lord make them special?)
3. Today you will be making a model of what the widow's bin and jar might have looked like.
4. Have them form two balls with the playdough. Press down into the balls to make the hollow space where the flour and oil would be kept. Continue shaping until children are satisfied with their vessels.
5. Give each child some of the second color to make decorations to press onto the jar and bin. If they wish, put some inside the hollow space to look like the oil and flour.

### **Playdough Recipe to Make Ahead of Time**

Make two colors of playdough (one recipe of one color, ½ recipe of another color) using the following recipe:

- 2 cups flour (8 oz, 230 grams)
- 1 cup salt (10 oz, 260 grams)
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups water (16 fl. oz., 0.47 liters)
- 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
- food coloring (2 colors)

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.

# Act It Out: I Kings 17:7-15

## The Widow Feeds Elijah

Teacher narrates the story as the children act it out, pausing until the children are ready to continue. For a small group, have one child on each part. For a larger group invite several children to act the part of Elijah, the widow and her son. You may act it out several times in a row using different children, or have all of the children act it out at once.

### *Props*

Bring the story to life by using a variety of props such as sticks, a bin of flour, a jar containing a little olive oil, a bowl and spoon for mixing and simple costumes. A square of fabric or headscarf is enough to suggest the widow, and a prophet costume from last week's lesson may suggest the prophet Elijah.

### *Teacher's Story Script*

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath...and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks.

And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me;

and afterward make some for yourself and your son.

For thus says the Lord God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

