

# The Ravens Bring Food To Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-7

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 KINGS 17:6

“The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Various items to make an “obstacle course.”

Copies of the “Pet Raven” template, poster board, black construction paper, stick on eyes, black scissors, glue and string (for hanging).

Chalk or dry erase markers, paper and tape.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Walking In Blindness**

In today’s story we will see that Elijah was in the wilderness, all alone, for a long period of time. But he really wasn’t all alone. The Lord was always with him. Sometimes we may feel like we are in a wilderness all alone, but remember that the Lord is always with us. This activity will help us to understand a little better what it was like for Elijah.

Have your children sit on one side of the room against the wall. Choose two “Elijahs” and blindfold them. In the room you will need to place an “obstacle course.” You can put chairs, tables (or desks), or stacks of books throughout the room on the floor. Some of the other kids can sit with their legs crossed to represent rocks and other kids in groups of three can represent trees. All of these things will be the hazards in the wilderness.

Ask the “Elijahs” if they would like to try and walk by themselves across the wilderness. Tell them that there will be rocks, trees, wild animals, etc. in the wilderness. If they would like to try without any help allow them to. See how well they do. If they are having difficulty then you can help (only the teacher should give instructions). After a minute or two allow other children the opportunity to be an “Elijah.” Be sure to move around the course.

When you are done, gather the children together. Ask them what it was like going through the wilderness all alone. What was it like when you had help? This demonstrates what it is like in our lives. We can try to get through life on our own, but it will be full of obstacles. But we can go through life with Jesus who will instruct us on where we should go so that we can stay out of trouble.

## **LESSON TIME!**

In one of the darkest periods of Israel’s history, when the people and the leaders were deep in sin, God raises up one of the greatest prophets in the history of His people, Elijah. King Ahab was not satisfied with the sin of Jeroboam and had introduced the worship of the idol Baal as the national religion. He built a temple to Baal and had appointed many priests to maintain the worship of Baal.

Then when his godless wife Jezebel was persecuting the prophets of the Lord and trying to kill them, God raised up a godly man named Elijah. Elijah was a great man of God for he loved the Lord with all of his heart, soul and mind. He walked in obedience to God, and because he did, God used him mightily.

In this lesson we will see how God begins to use Elijah, and how he had to trust God for everything. **God supplies our every need.**

## 1 KINGS 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

Elijah appears here with no particular introduction. His name means "my God is Jehovah," Elijah was a man of God and he was very bold. He goes to Ahab and declares to him, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be no dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

Now coming before the king was a dangerous thing because the king could have a person killed if he so desired. But Elijah was a man whose life was lived in the presence of the Lord. He knew that his message was from God, so certainly God would take care of him. When he declares that there will be no rain he did not speak on his own authority but on the authority of God. God gave him a message for King Ahab so he had to deliver it to be obedient to Him.

Could you imagine God giving you such a message? It might be kind of scary to deliver a message like that to an evil king. But Elijah was faithful to the Lord. And as we will see, the Lord took care of his every need. We need to trust in the Lord for our every need. **God supplies our every need.**

## 1 KINGS 17:2-3

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

"Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

Now God gives Elijah additional directions. Sometimes we don't always see the big picture of what God is doing in our lives. God might give us just a little bit of information, but we have to be faithful with that direction in order to receive more instruction. Elijah has a choice, to obey or to disobey God. God gives us the same opportunity every day of our lives.

When we choose to obey God it might be kind of scary. Do you think Elijah might have been afraid to go before the king to give him bad news about how it isn't going to rain for a while? He probably was. We need to remember that even though doing the right thing might seem to be scary at times, God will always bless us when we obey.

Elijah was told by God that he needed to hide out until the period of punishment came to an end. God was taking care of his faithful prophet from harm. He was to turn from Samaria to the Jordan and to hide himself at the brook Cherith, which is in front the Jordan.

After a mighty confrontation with the king, he is now led into solitude. There is a great truth here. God knows His plans and Elijah is His servant. To trust in God when it seems to not make sense to us is giving God full control of our lives.

During this time, Elijah is to remain in hiding, just waiting and doing nothing for a period of time. Maybe Elijah thought that it was a waste of time for him to be doing nothing, but God knew it wasn't.

Elijah had no idea how long he would be there. He joins God's great school of training for most of His great men, the school of solitude or the desert. He joins Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist and Paul in this training by God. What God is doing is to work in Elijah's heart during this time in the desert. God is not only concerned about the work that Elijah is called to do, but is very concerned

about the worker. He wants our hearts to be in the right place before we serve him. So sometimes that means he has to get us all alone so He can teach us what we really need to know about serving Him.

God wants to work in our lives and teach us. Sometimes when things don't happen right away, or we wonder why God is taking so long to begin to use us, remember to be patient and know that He is working in us. He wants us to be more like Jesus, and that is a life-long process. Know that God has great plans for your life so seek Him and ask Him to show you what those plans are. **God supplies our every need.**

1 KINGS 17:4-6

"And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

The Lord gives Elijah a promise...that He would feed him every day and take care of all of his needs. Elijah is to drink from the brook and the ravens would bring him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening. Even though there is a drought in the land, God would take care of him! **God supplies our every need.**

God used two ways to take care of him. One was the brook, which was a natural way. He was to receive his water every day from the brook. The other way God took care of him was a supernatural one. The ravens were to come and feed him some bread and meat. Sometimes God works in our lives through natural things and other times He works supernaturally, or through the miraculous.

Elijah is obedient to God. He heads out into the wilderness and trusts God to care for him. Elijah learned that God would take care of him, for God is our great Provider. His food was provided on a meal to meal basis, teaching him not to be worried about tomorrow. He learned to be content with what God gave him. Here we see that God can furnish a table in the wilderness. As God takes care of the sparrows, He uses the birds to care for His own. Never wonder whether or not God loves you or me. He loves His people and desires to take care of us all the time. We must learn to be content with what He gives us. **God supplies our every need.**

Can you think of a time that God supplied the needs of your families? (Teachers, perhaps you could take a few moments to allow the children opportunity to share experiences of how God has provided for them.) It is pretty amazing to see how God has taken care of each one of us.

## **Pet Raven**

With this craft, your children will be making a raven that will be carrying food (the child's favorite Bible verse). You will need poster board, black construction paper, stick on eyes, scissors, glue and string (for hanging).

Using the template provided, paste the raven onto a piece of poster board. Next, cut out the body of the raven from the poster board. Make a vertical slit on the back of the bird. Using another piece of black construction paper fold it into 1/2" to 1/2" sections (like a fan). After completing this, insert the piece of construction paper

into the slit. Put on “stick on” eyes on the head of the bird. Next, cut a slit into the raven’s beak. On a separate, small piece of paper have the children write out their favorite Bible verse. Insert the paper into the beak of the bird. Finish by attaching string to the back of the bird at each hole for hanging.

Explain that the word of God is spiritual food for us. God has provided His word to us so that we can grow in Him.

### 1 KINGS 17:7

**And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.**

After some time this brook dried up because there was no rain. In the drying up of the brook, Elijah learns some valuable lessons in God’s school. Why would God allow this little brook, which had given Elijah water to dry up? Elijah learned lessons about how we need to continue to rely on God even if things look like they aren’t going right.

Elijah learned to live by faith at Cherith and learned not to trust in the gift, but to trust in the Giver. God desires us to depend on Him, not on the gifts He gives us. At times we can experience the “drying up” of things in our lives. He is a loving and caring Father who delights in those who do put their trust in Him. **God supplies our every need.**

When the Lord has a special job that He wants us to do, remember that He will always supply our every need. God has very special plans for every person’s life. Sometimes as a child you may think that you are too young to be used by the Lord. Paul told Timothy, “Don’t let anyone despise your youth.” You are never too young to be used by the Lord.

Maybe God would have you tell a friend or someone in your family about Jesus. Maybe He wants you to collect soda cans to give the money to a missionary. There are all kinds of wonderful ways that we can serve the Lord. Elijah was being prepared by God to do a wonderful work for Him. What is God preparing you for?

## Scrambled Words

For Older Children: Find 20 (or more) words from today's story (for example: false prophet, Ahab, raven, brook, etc.). Before class write them on a piece of paper. Next to the words scramble them up (this paper will be for your use only). On one side of the chalkboard write the list of 20 "scrambled" words. On the other side, write the list of real words.

Have your children stand in line and have them each take a turn. See if they can each guess a scrambled word. Have them draw a line from the "scrambled" word to the "real" word.

For Younger Children: Do a variation and make it a Memory Game. Find 10 to 20 words that you can represent in a simple picture (for example: king, bird, rain, rock, etc.). Draw these pictures on one side of the chalk/dry erase board before class. Draw the same pictures in a different order on the other side of the chalk/dry erase board. Cover each picture with a piece of paper and tape. Have the children line up and each take a turn choosing one square (paper) from each side. The teacher should lift the paper on the first side to reveal the picture. Put the paper back down. Next, lift the paper on the other side that the child has chosen. If it matches, remove the paper and congratulate the child. If it doesn't, have them go back to the end of the line to take another turn, but tell them to make sure that they remember where those pictures are. Keep playing until all of the pictures are revealed.

Use this activity as a review of the lesson material. Ask the children where each of the words used on the board fit into the story.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of acknowledgment that the Lord will supply our every need and that we can trust in Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

