



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Can Provide in Unexpected Ways

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 17

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Ephesians 3:20

Take a moment and read [1 Kings 17:7–24](#). I love to see how God is faithful to provide in unexpected ways. I love that this widow gives out of her own need, and God provides her with more than she can imagine. I love that Elijah experiences grace through the hand of another and that both are blessed as a result.

I have experienced the same miracle but not necessarily in the same way. Rather, my miracle of having my needs met has been much more through the community of faith who add to my jar. A bit of encouragement here. An anonymous financial gift here. A sprinkle of laughter and a smidge of prayer. A dollop of rides for my kids and a generous serving of text messages and calls.

But here's the thing; just like the widow, we have to make our needs known. We must be willing to say, "I only have this much to give right now" or "I am in need of these things." And I believe the same God who provided for the widow will be faithful to make our jars overflow as well.

How has God provided for you in unexpected ways? Take a few moments and thank the Lord today for the miracle of His provision.

—Christina Embree

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LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**  
**GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Elijah was a prophet during the time of King Ahab. God provided for Elijah's needs through ravens and through the unnamed widow of Zarephath. The widow's son was brought back to life through Elijah's prayers.

**WHAT?**

Israel rebelled against God, and their newest king, Ahab, did more evil things than all the kings before him ([1 Kings 16:30](#)). God caused a famine to come to the land as a consequence of these actions and to convince Ahab that the Lord of Israel is God alone.

**WHERE?**

Kerith Valley, also known as the Jordan Valley, was located just east of the Jordan River. The city of Zarephath was located between Tyre and Sidon and is known today as Sarafand, Lebanon. It is possible Jesus visited there in His journeys ([Mark 7:24](#)).

**WHEN?**

Elijah's experience took place during the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Ahab was the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel and is believed to have reigned between 874–853 BC.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Centuries later, Jesus reminded His disciples that God will care for our needs as He does the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Jesus is our ultimate provision, giving us all we need for eternal life in God by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

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#### Activity: Feather Sensory Bin

**SUPPLIES:** bin or box, feathers, toy food, toy people figures (optional)

Ahead of time, place the play food in the bin or box, then cover with feathers. Allow kids to explore and find the food.

**Look at all these feathers! Let's look at and feel the feathers.** Find one of the pieces of play food.

**Wow! That was unexpected. I found this piece of food. Can you help me find the rest?** Allow kids to find the rest of the play food. You could also have the kids pretend to feed the food to toy people figures.

**It was so fun to find these unexpected foods in our feather bin. The feathers are kind of like feathers on a bird. There are birds in our story today. Our story also talks about food. We'll learn how God provided using birds and food!**

**Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CAN PROVIDE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.****

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD CAN**—*Point up.*

**PROVIDE**—*Open hands and extend arms out (like giving a gift).*

**IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**—*Place hands on cheeks (surprised face).*



10:45 Service

## Belief

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

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### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, we praise You for the ways You provide for us. Help us see You in unexpected ways in God's big story today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

#### Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 201-208

God Watches Over Elijah & Elijah Helps a Widow

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

**God is able to do far more than we could  
ever ask for or imagine.**

— Ephesians 3:20

Review the verse and encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What is one thing God did for Elijah?**
- **What is something good that God has done for you or provided for you?**



## Identity

### LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.*

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#### Activity: Find the Bread

**SUPPLIES:** bread die cuts

Ahead of time, hide the die cut bread around the room.

Today, we learned how God can provide in unexpected ways! God provided bread for Elijah, a woman, and her son so they had food to eat. God provides for us too. Let's play a game to find some hidden bread to help us remember how God provided for Elijah, the woman, and her son. I have hidden some pretend bread around the room. We're going to try to find it. Can you find the pretend bread?

Allow kids to find the bread. You can play a couple more rounds if you have time.

**Our bread was hidden in some unexpected places! Just like we learned today, God can provide in unexpected ways!**

#### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for providing for us.

**Dear God, thank You for all we have and all the ways You have provided for us in the past. Help us continue to thank You for the unexpected ways You will provide for us in the future. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God provide for all your needs and surprise you in unexpected ways this week.