



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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Contributor to Wonder Ink

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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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: pipe cleaners, scraps of paper, bendable wax sticks

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Unexpected Creations

Set-up: Put pipe cleaners and scraps of paper in a bin. You can also add bendable wax sticks.

Play: Allow the kids to use the pipe cleaners and papers to create something unexpected and different. They can also use bendable wax sticks.



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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In God's big story today, what is one way God provided for Elijah?** (*water, bread from a raven, flour and oil for bread from the widow, and life to the widow's son*)
- **What two things did the widow need to make the bread?** (*flour and oil*)
- **What did God do through Elijah when the widow's son died?** (*He brought the boy back to life.*)
- **What was unexpected about this story?** (*Ravens gave Elijah food; the widow's flour never went empty; God raised the widow's son from the dead.*)
- **Who gives you food and water? How does this show you are cared for by that person?**
- **If birds could drop any food to you, which food would you choose?**
- **How does God show He cares about you?**

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?**



Faith

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Game: Flour Relay

SUPPLIES: cotton balls (2 bags), jar or box (2), large mixing spoon (2, optional)

Ahead of time, open the bags of cotton balls and find a space for the relay race. Place the jars on one side of the room and the cotton balls on the other. In this relay race, kids will grab one handful of cotton balls and race to fill up the jar of “flour.” Once they put the cotton balls in the jar, they must run back to tag their next teammate to go. Kids can only use one hand to grab the cotton balls and put them into the jar. The first team to fill up its jar wins. You can also have the kids use a large mixing spoon instead of their hands to get the cotton balls.

In our story today, God used an unending container of flour to provide food for Elijah, the woman, and her son. To help us remember how God provided for the people in today's story, we are going to have a relay race where we'll fill a container with pretend flour. You'll be on two teams. The first person from each team will grab a handful of cotton balls (which we'll pretend is flour) and race to the jar to put them inside. But you can only use one hand! Once you put the cotton balls in the jar, race back and tag your next teammate so she can get a handful and fill the jar. The team that fills up its flour jar first wins!

Show the kids how to grab a handful of cotton balls and run to the jar and back. Then say, “Go!” and allow them to play the game.

Look how full your jars are! This game helps us remember God's big story today, when God kept filling the oil and flour to provide food for the widow, her son, and Elijah. God can provide in unexpected ways!

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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Responding in Worship: Drawn to Prayer

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

In this activity, kids will draw ways that God has provided for them, using paper and coloring utensils.

God can provide for us in unexpected ways! Let's think about how God provided for you today. Maybe it was the breakfast you had or a hug you needed. On your paper, draw a simple picture of how God provided for you today. As you draw, tell God, "Thank You" for providing that for you. Allow kids time to draw.

Now think of a food that God has provided for you. Draw that food on your paper and thank God for that food as you draw. Allow the kids to respond and thank God.

Now think of something God has provided for you at your home. Maybe it's your favorite toy or your bed or a family member. Thank God for providing that and draw or shape it. Allow the kids to respond and thank God.

God provided for Elijah in surprising and wonderful ways, and God provides for us too! We can thank God for providing for us.

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.