

# 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 lesson, the prophet Elijah was in the wilderness, all alone, for a long period of time. But, he really was not all alone. The Lord was with him. Sometimes we may feel like we are in a wilderness all alone—we need to 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 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. Or, 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!

King Ahab seemed even more intent on the destruction of Israel than Jeroboam. He 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. King Ahab’s godless wife, Jezebel, was persecuting the prophets of the Lord and trying to kill them. During this time, one of the darkest periods of Israel’s history, when the people and the leaders were deep in sin, God raised up one of the greatest prophets in the history of His people, 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, God calls Elijah to a sort of “time out” that he might learn to trust and obey God. It will be a time of preparation to be a “man of God.” He will learn that God supplies every need. **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 went to King Ahab and declared, "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 he knew he must be obedient and was confident 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.

Can you imagine God giving you such a message to deliver to an evil king? It might be kind of scary! But, Elijah was faithful to the Lord.

## 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 do not always see the big picture of what God is doing in our lives. God might give us just a little bit of information. We must be faithful with that direction in order to receive more direction. Elijah has a choice, to obey or to disobey God. God gives us the same opportunity every day of our lives.

After a mighty confrontation with the king, he is now led into solitude. Elijah was told by God to hide out until the period of punishment came to an end. He was to turn from Samaria to the Jordan and to hide himself at the brook Cherith in front the Jordan. God was protecting his faithful prophet from harm.

God led Elijah into the desert to hide. He had no idea how long he would be there. He may have thought this desert time would be unproductive, time wasted. Though such a move may not have made sense to Elijah, he had given God control of his life and was willing to trust that God had good plans.

There in the desert, Elijah joined God's 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. Remember, God looks on the heart. God was not only concerned about the work that Elijah was called to do, He was concerned about the worker.

God wants to work in our hearts and teach us. He wants our hearts to be in the right place before we serve him. That may mean, we need times of solitude and aloneness in preparation for serving Him. May we be patient as God prepares us to be useful to Him. He wants us to be more like Jesus, and that is a life-long process.

God has great plans for your life. Seek Him and ask Him to show you what those plans are. Perhaps, 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.

### 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: He would feed him every day and take care of all of his needs. Elijah was to drink from the brook and be fed bread and meat from the ravens in the morning and in the evening. Even though there was 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—a natural way. He was to receive his water every day from the brook. The other, was the ravens, coming every day to feed him some bread and meat—a supernatural way. Sometimes God works in our lives through natural things; and other times, He works supernaturally, or through the miraculous.

Obeying and trusting God in the wilderness, Elijah learned that God would, indeed, take care of him. God can furnish a table in the wilderness! His food was provided on a meal-to-meal basis, teaching him not to be worried about tomorrow and to be content with what he had.

In Matthew 6:31, we read, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” **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.

Why would God allow this little brook that had given Elijah water to dry up? Elijah would learn more lessons about reliance on God, even when circumstances look bleak and as though God is no longer intervening. Elijah was learning and will continue to learn 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. God would use that dry brook—an uncomfortable, adverse circumstance—to move Elijah in a new direction and ministry. In our next lesson, God would call Elijah to Zarephath where a widow would provide for him.

At times, we can experience a “drying up” of things in our lives. God is a loving and caring Father who delights in those who do put their trust in Him. We can be confident all things are working together for God’s good purpose (Romans 8:28) and that **God supplies our every need.**

Elijah was being prepared by God to do a wonderful work for Him. What is God preparing you for? 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 you can serve the Lord.

## 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 does not, 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.

