

God Takes Care of Elijah

A Widow Feeds Elijah

I Kings 17:8–16

Bible Point: God takes care of His people.

Experience: What is the hungriest you have ever been?

Study: I Kings 17:14

Examine: Discuss what hunger feels like. If you were hungry, would you ever share your last morsel of food? Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how the widow took care of Elijah first and God met her family's needs.

Apply: For each family member, secretly collect one personal item (e.g., hat, shoe, hair bow, book) and place the items in a bag. Family members take turns blindly selecting one item from the bag, naming its owner, and relating two actions that person does that reveal love for them. Then they name two ways God reveals His loving care for them. Join hands and say a prayer of thanksgiving for God taking care of His people.

Life Application: I will testify how God takes care of me.

Pray: If your family has any immediate needs, cover them in prayer, thanking God for providing for you. As a family, make a list of things you are thankful for, and then pray over it.

God Hears Elijah's Prayer

God Heals the Widow's Son

I Kings 17:17–24

Bible Point: God honors the prayers of His preachers.

Experience: Have you ever had a desperate need? Who did you ask to help you? What happened?

Study: I Kings 17:24

Examine: Discuss people who serve as spiritual leaders for your family, such as pastors, children's ministers, and so on. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God answered Elijah's prayer by resurrecting the widow's son.

Apply: Identify several things your pastor might pray about (e.g., sick people, children, police officers, the lost, and missionaries). Find household objects to represent those prayer requests. Form a prayer circle and pray for each need. Explain how, just like God answers our pastor's prayers, God answers our prayers when we all believe and pray in Jesus' name.

Life Application: I believe God answers my pastor's prayers.

Pray: Pray a hedge of protection around your pastor and spiritual leaders. Thank God for putting them in your life. Prayerfully consider if your family is going through anything that could benefit from your spiritual leaders' prayers. Thank God for giving us the body of Christ—the church.

God Shows His Power over Baal

God Sends the Fire

I Kings 18:17–39

Bible Point: God is God alone and has all power.

Experience: If you wanted to catch something on fire, how would you do it?

Study: I Kings 18:37

Examine: Discuss how some people in the world do not follow Jesus and worship other gods. Sometimes God asks us to stand up to those people. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God sent fire from heaven when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.

Apply: Look outside to play a few rounds of Twenty Questions. Then work together to look for twenty things God made. Use your senses: what do you see, hear, smell, and feel around you? God is above, below, and all around us. But there is only one God, and His name is Jesus. Right where you are, thank God that you know who He is.

Life Application: I will serve the one true God.

Pray: Thank God for calling your family and revealing Himself. Make a promise to serve Him, no matter what comes against you. If there is anything that has become more important than Him in your lives, prayerfully discuss ways to restore a right relationship with God.

God Sees Ahab's Actions

Ahab Steals Naboth's Vineyard

I Kings 21:1–24

Bible Point: God sees everything and responds to both good and evil.

Experience: Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else?

Study: I Kings 21:20

Examine: Discuss how, when people in power see something they want, they might do anything to get it. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God punished Ahab and Jezebel after they stole Naboth's vineyard.

Apply: Write your names on slips of paper and put them in a bowl. In another bowl, write actions like, "Pull hair," "Give high five," "Give hug," "Stick out tongue," and "Say, 'I love you.'" One at a time, members choose a name and action. Then they go with the selected person to another room where they choose to perform the action or not. When they come back, they reveal if the action was followed. God sees our choices even when others do not. Discuss how we should choose behavior that pleases God.

Life Application: I will make good choices.

Pray: Because we have all done things we should be sorry for, thank God for His mercy. Dedicate your lives to Him, committing your hearts to make good choices.

God Honors Elisha's Persistence

Elisha Follows Elijah

I Kings 19:16; II Kings 2:1–15

Bible Point: God honors those who follow Him with persistence.

Experience: Have you ever been so determined to do something that you would not give up?

Study: II Kings 2:2

Examine: Discuss what it means to follow a spiritual leader. Who are some spiritual leaders in your family's lives? Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God doubled Elisha's anointing because he followed Elijah closely.

Apply: Demonstrate hammering a nail into wood. Pause once the nail stands independently. Ask how many houses would get built or how sturdy buildings would be if builders stopped hammering at this point. Demonstrate how persistence is required to fully drive in the nail. Allow everyone a turn at hammering. Discuss how God honors us for following Him and His leaders with persistence. Following God is the best way to build strong lives.

Life Application: I will follow God.

Pray: Thank God for the spiritual leaders in your lives. Commit to follow God and His leaders by reading the Bible, praying, and making good choices every day.

God Honors the Widow's Obedience

The Miraculous Flow of Oil

II Kings 4:1–7

Bible Point: God takes care of those who obey Him.

Experience: Have you ever obeyed instructions that seemed strange or inconvenient?

Study: II Kings 4:1

Examine: Discuss how a family might be affected by the death of the husband/father, especially if he is the primary moneymaker. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God provided for the family when they obeyed Elisha's unusual instructions.

Apply: Create 8–10 note cards of actions for family members to do together (e.g., fluff sofa cushions; do ten sit-ups; fill a cup with water; give a high five; shout hallelujah). The last card should lead to a stash of yummy treats. Did anyone want to give up? Did anyone complain about silly instructions? While enjoying the treats, discuss how God takes care of those who obey Him.

Life Application: I will obey God.

Pray: Thank God for the Spirit of truth, which shows us how to obey Him. Thank God for the promises He has given us, and commit to follow His Word by obeying the spiritual authorities He has placed in our lives.

God Honors Elisha's Instructions

Naaman Is Healed

II Kings 5:1–14

Bible Point: God uses preachers to give people instructions.

Experience: Have you ever tried to do things your own way instead of obeying instructions?

Study: II Kings 5:8

Examine: Discuss how leprosy affected people in biblical times. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God healed Naaman of his leprosy once he followed Elisha's unusual instructions.

Apply: Discuss how baptism in Jesus' name is like Naaman's washing in the Jordan River. Change the game of Simon Says to Pastor Says, and identify things your pastor says that are good to obey. Discuss how God uses preachers and pastors to give people instructions. Write a thank you note to your pastor. Thank your pastor for listening to God and loving your family.

Life Application: I will obey my pastor.

Pray: Thank God for the instructions to be healed through baptism in Jesus' name. Pray for God to bless your pastor, and then commit your hearts to follow his instruction.

God Takes Care of the People

The Syrian Army Provides Food

II Kings 6:24–7:16

Bible Point: God provides for His people.

Experience: How hungry would you need to be to eat a donkey's head? How would you prepare it?

Study: II Kings 7:9

Examine: Discuss how leprosy was treated in the Bible. Then discuss how, in war, armies sometimes surround cities to starve them into surrendering. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read how God provided food for His people by scaring away the Syrian army.

Apply: Distribute paper and crayons. Have everyone draw a living thing that God created. Family members describe their drawings and how God takes care of the living thing they drew. Then family members turn over their papers to draw self-portraits, and then tell how God takes care of them.

Life Application: I can trust God to provide for me.

Pray: Make a list of things God provides for us, and then thank Him because we can trust Him to take care of us. If there is anything that your family needs, earnestly pray for these things as a family and watch how He provides.

Joash Repairs God's House

The People Bring Their Offerings

II Kings 11:1–3, 12; 12:1–14; II Chronicles 24:1–14

Bible Point: God blesses offerings given to His work.

Experience: Have you ever given money or time to help someone?

Study: II Kings 12:15

Examine: From an age-appropriate Bible, read II Kings 11:1–3 and discuss how some people choose to stop following God. Then read verse 12 and discuss what it would be like to be named king at the age of seven. Then read 12:1–14 and discuss how Joash returned the hearts of Israel to God.

Apply: List ways to support God's house (e.g., giving financially, picking up trash, pulling weeds, providing Sunday school snacks). Decide as a family how to give to the Lord by supporting your church in an extra special way this week.

Life Application: I will give to the Lord.

Pray: Thank God for your church. Commit your hearts to offering time and money as needed to the work of God.

Uzziah Seeks the Lord

King Uzziah's Choices

II Kings 14:21; 15:1–7; II Chronicles 26

Bible Point: God will prosper those who seek and obey Him.

Experience: Have you ever chosen to disobey? What were the consequences?

Study: II Chronicles 26:5

Examine: Discuss how, each day, we make a choice whether we want to follow God. Then from an age-appropriate Bible, read about the blessings Uzziah experienced when he followed God (II Chronicles 26:1–15). Discuss how his kingdom suffered by his choice not to follow God (26:16–23).

Apply: Play hide-and-seek, giving everyone a chance to be the seeker. Then open a Bible to Psalms for a game of word-and-seek. Call out a word repeated many times in Psalms (e.g., God, rejoice, sing, praise, mercy, soul). Once the word is found, read the verse aloud. Discuss how we can be God seekers and how God prospers those who seek and obey Him.

Life Application: I will seek and obey the Lord.

Pray: Make a commitment to seek and obey God's Word. Identify some of the temptations that might come along, asking God to keep us from these temptations and to deliver us from evil. Thank God for letting us follow Him and for the promise of eternal life.

Josiah Values God's Word

The Law Is Discovered

II Kings 22:1–23:25; II Chronicles 34

Bible Point: God expects us to obey His Word.

Experience: Have you ever found a hidden treasure?

Study: II Kings 22:13

Examine: Discuss the importance of the Bible. Why is it important for people to understand what it says? Then from an age-appropriate Bible read about Josiah's reaction when the Word of God is discovered in II Kings 22:1–23:25.

Apply: Each family member brings a favorite book to the table and tells a little about the book and why it's a favorite. Discuss how, in addition to reading our favorite books, we should always make time to read the Bible. Discuss the importance of knowing what is in the Bible and obeying God's Word.

Life Application: I will obey God's Word.

Pray: Stack the Bible on top of the other books, lay hands on it, and pray that God will help you obey everything His Word says.

God Delivers Judgment

Jerusalem Is Destroyed

II Kings 24:10–25:21; II Chronicles 36:11–21

Bible Point: God kept His Word and punished His people for their disobedience.

Experience: Have you ever been punished for not obeying?

Study: II Chronicles 36:16

Examine: Discuss how parents love their children by disciplining them. Relate this to how we are God’s children, and sometimes He must discipline us. From an age-appropriate Bible, read about the punishment and fall of Jerusalem in II Chronicles 36:11–21. Discuss how God always warns His children before disciplining them.

Apply: Gather mixing bowls, spoons, and a chocolate chip cookie recipe. As each person reads an ingredient, add a similar-looking ingredient to the bowl—baby powder for flour, dog food for chocolate chips, cotton balls for eggs, salt for sugar, shampoo for oil, vinegar for water, and so on. Mix; then ask who wants to taste. Discuss bad choices. Obedience matters. Disobeying God’s Word is like NOT following a recipe—the results will be awful. Now make delicious cookies and enjoy.

Life Application: I will keep God’s Word.

Pray: Thank God for loving us enough to discipline us. Prayerfully commit your heart to following God’s Word.