



Aim: To hear how God looks after Elijah and helps him to help others



God, provided a way for his prophet Elijah to survive during the long drought that God sent to show the evil King Ahab who was really in control. When Elijah obediently arrived in Kerith Ravine, East of Jordan, food was delivered by ravens - birds who are known to not even feed their own young, were chosen to feed God's servant.

When the water from the brook had run dry, God told Elijah to move on and find a woman who God had primed to feed him. She was found pitifully gathering wood for a fire to bake bread for her last meal with her son before death struck. We may sometimes wonder at God's timing and his choices but, because of her willingness to help and God's intervention, and because Elijah was bold enough to ask for help as the Lord had commanded, all was well. Reminiscent of the magic porridge pot fairy tale, God provided a never ending pot of oil and bag of flour. The woman, her son and Elijah ate their fill. However, it wasn't long before the next trial. God allowed the woman's son to fall ill and die. Understandably, the distressed woman hurled accusations and vented her feelings about God and Elijah. Again, God intervened. He answered the heartfelt pleas of Elijah and saw his faith and the woman's distress. The boy came back to life, and finally, the woman believed that Elijah was a prophet of the one true God. I wonder what it takes for us to truly believe?



Put an umbrella up and ask the children to gather together. Rain is coming. Sing 'I hear raindrops' together then 'create a storm' working from one finger tapping another up to hands clapping loudly then getting quieter again. Add rain maker instruments or other percussion instruments if you have them.



In our game today we made a rain storm. A long time ago some people thought they could change the weather if they prayed to a weather god called Baal. Our story tells us what God did about this problem and how he looked after his friends who needed help. Read God feeds Elijah, pg. 76 and God helps a family, pg. 77. Bearing in mind dietary requirements, give out small pieces of bread where appropriate in the story



*I wonder what food the raven birds brought for Elijah
I wonder what the lady thought when Elijah asked for food
I wonder how the lady felt when she saw that her son was alive again*




Print out pictures of the stories

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elijah-ravens/>

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elijah-widow/>

Explore what is happening on the pictures and how they make you feel. Find a favourite, find one you give a clue about and sequence them to help retell the story. Use 2 sets of the same story from different artists to play matching games. Play find the picture memory games, etc. If you are doing this as part of a service, put the pictures up on screen with numbers and ask everyone to work out which order the numbers go in to tell the story correctly



- **Make raven finger puppets like the one illustrated, out of black sugar paper or using the template below. Stick on an orange beak and googly eyes. Cut out finger holes for fingers (legs) Use for retelling the story.**
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- **Water paintings: Encourage everyone to create water paintings. Use small buckets of water and paint brushes. This works well outdoors, painting on dry flagstones, walls etc. but can work well on sugar paper.**
 - **Water play. Offer sensory play with a water trough and toys. You could add food colouring or glitter to the water for extra fun. Must be a well supervised activity.**
 - **Make and bake bread. Use oil in your mix to remind the children of the story. (You could use a bread mix to make it easy)**



Today we are going to use the signs for please and thank you in our prayer. Lets practice them first.

<https://youtu.be/cjZVMj3B7XE>

Thank you (sign)

For giving us the rain to wash and grow things and to drink

Thank you for giving us all kinds of yummy food.

Please help those who need more rain

Please help those who need more food

Amen (Roll arms up for a slow loud amen, together)



- **My God is so big**
- **Nothing's too big**
- **May the God of Hope (action song)**

<https://youtu.be/yXZYzXNjEY>



Watch a short clip of the story: <https://youtu.be/orp4ZT9710Y>

Water plants outside or carrot tops in a dish every day.

Leave a measuring jug outside and check the level together every day for a week to help take notice of the rain fall.

Make a gift of cakes or cookies together to give to someone.

