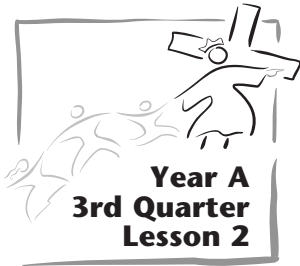


LESSON



Food for Elijah

GRACE

Grace means belonging to God.

References

1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-131.

Memory Verse

"My God will meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God takes care of their needs.

Feel grateful that God looks after them.

Respond by praising God for His care.

The Message



God takes care of our needs.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends Elijah to warn King Ahab of a drought that will come upon his land because of idol worship. Elijah delivers the message and goes away. King Ahab is angry. God tells Elijah to go to the brook Kerith, where he will be safe. God cares for him by sending ravens with food to feed him, and giving him water in the brook.

This is a lesson about grace.

God cares about our safety and our physical needs. He uses miraculous ways and/or other people to do this. He still

provides the miracles of grace to assure our safety and salvation. Children can trust God to take care of their needs. We can all be thankful for God's love and care.

Teacher Enrichment

"Oft-repeated appeals, remonstrances, and warnings had failed to bring Israel to repentance. The time had come when God must speak to them by means of judgments. Inasmuch as the worshipers of Baal claimed that the treasures of heaven, the dew and the rain, came not from Jehovah, but from the ruling forces of nature, and that it was through the cre-

TWO



ative energy of the sun that the earth was enriched and made to bring forth abundantly, the curse of God was to rest heavily upon the polluted land. The apostate tribes of Israel were to be shown the folly of trusting to the power of Baal for temporal blessings. Until they should turn to God with repentance, and acknowledge Him as the source of all blessing, there should fall upon the land neither dew nor rain. . . .

“He [Elijah] did not seek to be the Lord’s messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. . . . The prophet set out at once and traveled night and day until he reached Samaria. At the palace he solicited no admission, nor waited to be formally announced. Clad in the coarse garments usually worn by the prophets of that time, he passed the guards, ap-

parently unnoticed, and stood for a moment before the astonished king.

“Elijah made no apology for his abrupt appearance. . . . Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab” (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 120, 121).

Room Decorations

Hang small white Christmas lights (used last month) from the ceiling to be stars. Use large trees and forest animals to make the scene where Elijah hides. Add some drought-condition items (dead tree branches or brown paper trees [no leaves]) to tape to the walls. Place artificial birds in the trees. Use blue cloth or paper to make a brook.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Book Basket</i> <i>B. Feathered Friends</i> <i>C. Food Corner</i> <i>D. Water Play</i> <i>E. Caring for Baby</i> <i>F. Peekaboo</i> <i>G. Rocking Chairs</i>	board books toy stuffed birds and animals plastic food dishpans or bowls, water toys, plastic aprons (optional) baby dolls, blankets, baby bottles, diapers blanket (optional) adult-size rocking chairs
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	toy musical instruments basket or other container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull toy (optional), small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. Pray to God</i> <i>C. Elijah Helps God</i> <i>D. God Sends the Rain</i> <i>E. God Took Care of Elijah</i> <i>F. God Loved Elijah</i> <i>G. God Sent Food and Water</i> <i>H. Sharing Food</i> <i>I. God Cares for Me</i> <i>J. People Care for Me</i> <i>K. God Cares for Nature</i> <i>L. We're Happy</i> <i>M. We're Thankful</i> <i>N. God Takes Care of Me</i>	Bible "books" toy musical instruments small umbrella, squirt bottle, "fruit" and "tree" "star" lights cotton balls plastic food or small bits of bread felts, felt board, Jesus banners on a stick play cooking equipment

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Pray to God</i>	copies of praying hands pattern (see p. 73), paper, crayons, scissors
	Week 2	<i>Bird Bag Puppets</i>	small paper lunch bags, crayons or yellow construction paper, scissors (see p. 73)
	Week 3	<i>Dry Trees</i>	heavy paper, glue, small, dry twigs
	Week 4	<i>Peekaboo Flour</i>	small containers with lids, glue, colored paper bits, flour
	Week 5	<i>"God Takes Care of Me"</i>	copies of boy or girl pattern (see p. 74), crayons, scissors, paper plates, glue, hole punch, yarn
Snack Center (Optional)			crackers or bread pieces, fruit slices or juice

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young parents as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' He took the children in his arms, and blessed them, and spoke words of encouragement and sympathy to the mothers, and both mothers and children

returned to their homes strengthened and blessed by the divine love of the Master. They loved Jesus, and often repeated to others the story of their visit. They told how the disciples had forbidden them, but how the Lord had had compassion upon them" (*The Bible Echo*, Dec. 15, 1892).

Week 2

When I was pregnant with my second child, I had to take our car to the shop for repairs. I left my 1-year-old with a friend, as I would have to wait for quite a while for the car. Usually I would have taken him to the park while we waited, but it was a drizzly day.

The pavement was a little slick, and suddenly I slid off the road and on to the gravel shoulder. Quickly turning the wheel, I overcompensated, and the

car spun around to the opposite side of the road and flipped end over end down a hill. I was amazed that I was able to crawl out of the car. A nice couple stopped and ran to help me. Thankfully, I had only bruises, and my unborn baby was fine. I praised the Lord that my year-old baby had been at the sitter's! God has promised us that whatever happens, He *will* be with us.

Share about a time you knew God was with you.

Week 3

"Jesus knows the burdens of every mother's heart. He who had a mother that struggled with poverty . . . sympathizes with every mother in her labors. . . . In every grief and every need He will give comfort and help" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 512).

Week 4

I just knew I was a terrible mother. I did such dumb things.

My baby was just learning to crawl. Our home had stairs, and I faithfully put the little gate across the top. One morning I needed to go out for some errands, so I picked up the diaper bag and took down the gate. I planned to pick up the baby and leave. He was on the other side of the room when I remembered that I'd forgotten to write something down. Setting down my armload, I picked up a pen and pad, just to jot down a couple of things.

You guessed it: the baby crawled over to the top of the stairs. Crash, scream, thud, down he went. I dashed down to him, my heart pounding, certain that no other mother could be so negligent. After a trip to the doctor,

head X-rays, and a "He's just fine" I breathed a sigh of relief. Then I berated myself some more for my carelessness.

Why is it that we are so hard on ourselves over the bumps and bruises of parenthood? Yes, we sometimes do dumb things. But I do take comfort in knowing that "as parents pray, and strive to deal wisely with their children, heavenly angels will work in their behalf" (*Review and Herald*, July 12, 1906). I think I have about 600 working for me.

Share a time you did something thoughtless. Are you even harder on yourself than you should be? How do you think God sees you at that moment?

Week 5

Our children were sound asleep when we left to take our friends to the airport. It was only a couple of kilometers from our home, and we wouldn't be gone long. My parents came to stay with the children while they slept.

The plane was late, and we ended up being gone longer than we had planned. As we headed toward home, we were shocked to see our two children, ages 2 and 4, along the side of the road. They had crossed three very busy roads to get as far as they were. We whisked them into the car and hurried home.

Of course, my parents were shocked to see us drive up with the children, who had still been sleeping as far as they knew. The children had let themselves out of the house and wanted to say goodbye to our guests, so they headed to the airport. We knelt together to thank God for His care and protection of our family.

Share a time your children or family were clearly protected by God.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities for the early children on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about Elijah, birds, God caring for us, food, rain, etc.

B. Feathered Friends

Have an assortment of toy stuffed animals, birds, and soft-sculptured objects for the children to hold. Talk about things unique to birds—feathers, beaks, etc., and how to treat birds kindly.

C. Food Corner

Provide an assortment of plastic play food for the children to play with. Talk about the names of each and why our bodies need food.

D. Water Play

Provide dishpans or large bowls filled with a small amount of water. Supply the children with small toy boats, water wheels, plastic fish, cups, or other objects to play with in the water. You may want to provide plastic aprons, or large plastic garbage bags with holes for head and arms cut out, for the children to wear to protect their clothing. Talk about why we need water.

E. Caring for Baby

The children can hold and rock baby dolls, change their "diapers," pretend to feed them with a bottle. Talk about how God gave us mommies and daddies to care for us.

F. Peekaboo

Play peekaboo with the children, using your hands or a blanket. Talk about how Elijah had to hide from bad King Ahab.

G. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents may sit and rock their child.

3 GETTING STARTED

You Need:

- ☐ toy musical instruments

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 1).

Good morning,
 Good morning,
 Good morning, we say;
 We're happy, so happy
 to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus is so happy that we came to Sabbath School. He loves us very much. It's so nice to see each other. Are you glad that it's Sabbath? Let's sing with our instruments.** Distribute musical instruments such as bells, drums, sticks, cymbals, etc. Sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 5) or "Sabbath Is a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 235).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 On this bright Sabbath morning.
 —Edith Smith Casebeer

Sabbath is a happy day,
 Happy day, happy day,
 Sabbath is a happy day,
 I love every Sabbath.
 —Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to be talking about how God takes care of us. Let's say thank You to Jesus for caring for us and giving us families to take care of us.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use this adaptation of the fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
 I have eyes that close for prayer,
 I have hands that fold in prayer.
 Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have children repeat your words. Then sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
 Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet each visitor and sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 25) or "We Have a Visitor" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 24).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!
We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!

—Janet Sage

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D. Offering

You Need:

- offering basket or other container

Say: **Some families don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering helps other families learn that Jesus loves them.** Place on

the floor a basket or container in which the children may place their money while singing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring
On this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus.
May it help someone, we pray.
Amen.

—Norma June Bell

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, we want other families to know You love them. Please use our money to do that. Amen.

E. Birthdays

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has had a birthday. Who has had a birthday?** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or use an animal pull toy to pull around the room in front of the children while you sing. It would stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

Assist child in dropping coins into artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday, we're
so glad.
We will see how many (he/she) has
had.
As we count the money we are told,
(*count*)
Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age)
years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 38) or "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 39).

Just (age) years old today,
Just (age) years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
(Child's name)'s (age) years old
today.

—C. Harold Lowden

You Need:

- artificial birthday cake
- candles
- matches
- pull toy (optional)
- small gift (optional)

Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you!

—Janet Sage

Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

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EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- Bible “book” for each child (see activity for instructions)

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus.

Say: **It’s time to read our Bible words. Let’s look inside our Bible books** (open your Bible book). **In our Bible we read that God takes care of us. Can you find the picture of Jesus in your Bible?** Sing “I Open My Bible Book and Read” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 27) or “I Open My Bible Carefully” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 28) while the children are looking at their Bible books.

I open my Bible book and read,
He keeps me, He keeps me.

—Johnie B. Wood

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I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus’ love;
I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus’ love.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Yes, the Bible tells us that God loves us and takes care of us. The Bible also tells the story of a man named Elijah. Elijah loved and obeyed God. God took care of Elijah when he didn’t have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need.** Sing and do the actions to “All Our Needs” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), which is our memory verse song, but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward*.)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others*.)
All your needs, (*Point to others*.)
All your needs; (*Point to others*.)
My God (*Point upward*.)
Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others*.)
Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying*.)
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse song several times.

B. Pray to God

You Need:

- toy musical instruments

Say: **One time, a long time ago, the people where Elijah lived stopped praying to God. Their bad king told the people to pray to idols instead. Idols are statues made of wood or stone. Wood and stone can't hear prayers; only God can. Idols can't take care of us; only God can.** Sing "I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 228) while kneeling down, bowing head, closing eyes, and folding hands.

I talk to Jesus every day,
When I pray, when I pray;
And Jesus hears me every day,
When I pray, when I pray.

—Jacqueline McDonald

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Say: **God hears us when we pray. God is powerful and loving and good to us. We can show our love to God by praising and worshipping Him. Let's sing and make some nice music to God.** The children can use toy musical instruments (or play imaginary instruments mentioned in the song and clap on the beat for remainder of the song) while they sing "Making Music" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 220).

Praise Him with the trumpet, play it
loud and clear,
Then the drums and cymbals, so
ev'ryone can hear!
We're making music for the Lord!
We're making music for the Lord!

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C. Elijah Helps God

Say: **God needed Elijah to do a special job for Him. God asked Elijah to take a message to King Ahab. Elijah didn't ask why. He just did as God asked because He was God's helper. He wanted to do what God asked him to do.**

God still wants people to take messages to others, to help Him tell others about Jesus. Do you want to be God's helper? Do you want to do what He asks? Let's sing about it. Sing "Two Little Eyes" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 306).

Two little eyes to look to God,
Two little ears to hear His Word;
Two little feet to walk His ways,
Hands to serve Him all my days.

One little tongue to speak His truth,
One little heart for Him in youth;
Take them, O Jesus, let them be
Always willing, true to Thee.

—Anonymous

D. God Sends the Rain

You Need:

- small umbrella
- squirt bottle
- "fruit" and "tree"

Say: **God needed Elijah to do a special job for Him. God asked Elijah to tell the king that it wouldn't rain until the people began praying to Him again. So that's what happened. It didn't rain for many, many days. Do you know why? Only God can send the rain.**

Sing "The Raindrops Fall" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 94) while you hold a small umbrella over each child's head and spray water on the umbrella from a squirt bottle (or flick a few drops of water onto each child's hand).

The raindrops fall with a pitter, patter,
pit,
Pitter, patter, pit,
Pitter, patter, pit,
The raindrops fall with a pitter, patter,
pit,
Showing God's great love.

—Mildred Adair

Say: **I'm so glad that God sends the rain. Why do we need the rain? That's right, the rain makes things grow.** Sing "I Like to Eat an Apple" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 167) while picking an apple off a tree (you can use plastic fruit hanging on an imitation tree, or felt fruit and tree). The children then place the fruit in a basket.

I like to eat an apple, picked from the
apple tree.
Dear Jesus sends the sun and rain to
make them grow for me.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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Say: **Without rain things would**

turn brown and die. That's what happened to the plants and flowers and trees when God didn't send the rain. But still the people didn't pray to God.

E. God Took Care of Elijah

Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)
All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)
My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)
Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)

—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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F. God Loved Elijah

You Need:

- "star" lights

Say: **Because it didn't rain, the bad king was angry at Elijah. God told**

Elijah to go live for a while by a brook. Elijah slept outside at night. Elijah could see the moon and stars that God had made, and he was reminded that God loved him. Turn off lights and turn on the "star" lights. Sing and do motions to "God Made Us All" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 73).

God made the moon that shines at night,
He made the twinkling stars so bright;
God made the big, round, shining sun,
God made the children, ev'ry one.
—Bertha D. Martin

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G. God Sent Food and Water

You Need:

- cotton balls

Say: **God made sure there was some water in the brook for Elijah to**

drink. And He did something very special to feed Elijah. He sent birds to feed him! They were big, black birds called ravens. Every morning and every evening they brought Elijah food.

Give each child a cotton ball or other small object to represent a piece of bread. Allow them to pretend they are ravens and flap their arms like a bird to “fly” the bread to you. Sing “The Blackbird Song” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 54).

Where are you going, Blackbird,
Blackbird,
Where are you going, Blackbird?
“I am going to help Elijah,
Haven’t you heard? Haven’t you heard?”

What do you have there, Blackbird,
Blackbird,
What do you have there, Blackbird?
“I have food to feed Elijah,
Haven’t you heard? Haven’t you heard?”

Who sends you to him, Blackbird,
Blackbird,
Who sends you to him, Blackbird?
“Jesus sends me to Elijah,
Haven’t you heard? Haven’t you heard?”

Why does He send you, Blackbird
Blackbird,
Why does He send you, Blackbird?
“All because He loves Elijah,
Haven’t you heard? Haven’t you heard?”

—Janet Sage

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God took care of Elijah when he didn’t have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too. Sing and do the actions to “All Our Needs” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)

All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)

Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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H. Sharing Food

You Need:

- plastic food or small bits of bread

Say: **God took care of Elijah. When it didn't rain for such a long time and the brook didn't have any more water in it, God told Elijah what to do. He sent him to a town where a mommy and her son lived.**

Elijah asked the mommy for a drink of water and some bread to eat. The mommy told Elijah that they didn't have much food left. But Elijah told her that God would give them enough food. So she trusted God and gave Elijah her last bread.

From then on there was always a little bit more of flour and oil to make more bread. God did take care of them. Wasn't it nice that that mommy shared her bread and trusted God to take care of them? It's nice when we share our food too.

Use plastic food for the children to share with their parent. Sing "I'll Share My Only One" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 275), but change the words as noted below.

If I had a (name food) and you had none,
I'd share with you my only one,
For Jesus wants me to, and I love you.
—Rosalie Blackmore. Adapted.

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God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too. Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*,

no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)
All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)
My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs (*Point to others.*),
Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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I. God Cares for Me

You Need:

- felts
- felt board
- Jesus banners on stick

Say: **Just as God took care of Elijah, God takes care of you too. How does Jesus take care of you? He gives you a home and food and clothing.**

Have the children place on the board felts of houses, food, and clothing items. Sing "Yes, Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 118).

Yes, Jesus cares for me.
Yes, Jesus cares for me.
He gives me my home and my food and my clothing.
Oh, yes, Jesus cares for me.
—Enid G. Thorson

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Say: **Jesus is watching over you and keeping you safe, too. Let's wave our Jesus banners to remember that while we sing together.**

(Jesus banners can be made by gluing a felt flag with Jesus' face on it to a wooden stick.) Sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 103).

Jesus loves me; Jesus loves me;
I'm so glad; I'm so glad.
He will never leave me; He will never
leave me.
I feel safe, I feel safe.

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J. People Care for Me

You Need:

- play cooking equipment

Say: **God used birds and other people to take care of Elijah. God uses your family and other people to take care of you.**

Let's give a hug to the person who brought you to Sabbath School while we sing. Sing "Jesus Gave Me a Mommy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 251).

Jesus gave me a mommy (daddy, grandma, etc.),
She says, "I love you."
Jesus gave me a mommy,
She says, "I love you."
—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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Say: **How does your family take care of you? They cook good food**

for you, they give you clothes to wear, they tell you Bible stories, they play with you and love you. Let's pretend you are your mommy or daddy cooking good food. Supply play cooking pots, bowls, spoons, etc. Sing "My Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 252).

My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
I love my family.

My fam'ly takes good care of me,
My fam'ly takes good care of me,
My fam'ly takes good care of me,
I love my family.

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God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too. Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)
All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)
My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)

Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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K. God Cares for Nature

Say: **God takes care of even the things outside, like trees and flowers and animals, just as He takes care of you. Let's pretend we're trees and flowers while we sing.**

Children stand up, hold hands over head, and sway back and forth for trees; nod head for flowers. Sing "Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 100).

The tall green trees are swaying,
In the breeze, in the breeze;
I think that they are saying,
Jesus cares for me.

The pretty flowers are nodding,
In the breeze, in the breeze;
I think that they are saying,
Jesus cares for me.

—Mary E. Schwab

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God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave Elijah what he needed. God will give you what you need too. Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)
All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)
My God (*Point upward.*)

Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)

Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)

—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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L. We're Happy

Say: **Because Jesus cares for us, we can be happy. Let's clap our hands while we sing.** Sing "I Am Happy as Can Be!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 214), but change the words as noted below.

I am happy as can be!
I am happy as can be
For ev'rything that Jesus does for me!
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too. Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God (*Point upward.*)
Will meet all your needs, your needs,
(*Point to others.*)
All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
All your needs; (*Point to others.*)

My God (*Point upward.*)
 Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)
 Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)
 —Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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M. We're Thankful

Say: **Because God does so many wonderful things to care for us, we need to thank Him. Let's march around in a circle while we sing a song to God to thank Him.** Sing "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 221), but change the words as noted below.

Thank Him, thank Him, all you happy children,
 He is love, He is love;
 Thank Him, thank Him, all you happy children,
 He is love, He is love.
 —Anonymous/Adapted

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N. God Takes Care of Me

Say: **We don't need to worry about anything because God is with us all the time, watching over us and loving us. Let's stand and do the motions of working, playing, walking, running, sleeping, and waking while we sing together.** Sing "God Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 90).

God takes care of me,
 God takes care of me,
 When I work and when I play,
 Yes, God takes care of me.

God takes care of me,
 God takes care of me,
 When I walk and when I run,
 Yes, God takes care of me.

God takes care of me,
 God takes care of me,
 When I sleep and when I wake,
 Yes, God takes care of me.
 —Rebecca Edwards-Lesser

5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)**Week 1*****Pray to God*****You Need:**

- copies of praying hands pattern (see p. 73)
- paper
- crayons
- scissors

Parents can assist their children in coloring the praying hands pattern. Then the parents can cut them out and write “Pray to God” on them. Talk about how prayer is talking to God.

Week 2***Bird Bag Puppets*****You Need:**

- small brown paper lunch bags
- crayons or yellow construction paper
- scissors

Have parents help their children draw a bird’s eyes and beak on the flap of the bottom of the folded bag OR these may be cut from construction paper and glued to the bag. Children can help color the bird. Show the children how to put their hand into the bag to make their bird puppet move its head.

See page 73 for an illustration.

Week 3***Dry Trees*****You Need:**

- heavy paper
- glue
- small dry twigs

Parents can assist their child in gluing the small twigs (to represent trees) onto the paper to make a dry tree scene. Talk about how trees can’t live without water and how happy you are that God sends the rain to take care of the trees.

Week 4***Peekaboo Flour*****You Need:**

- small containers with lids
- glue
- colored paper bits
- flour

Give each child a small container with a lid (film canister, margarine tub, etc.). Parents can help children glue small bits of colored paper onto the outside of the container. Then put a small amount of flour into each deco-

rated container and talk about how God kept the widow supplied with a small amount of flour every day. The children may play peekaboo with the container—open the lid, peek in, then close it.

Week 5 (or optional activity)***“God Takes Care of Me” Door Hanging*****You Need:**

- copies of boy/girl pattern (see p. 74)
- crayons
- scissors
- paper plates
- glue
- hole punch
- yarn

Parents assist their children in coloring either a boy or girl pattern picture. Then the parent cuts it out and helps their child glue it onto a paper plate. A hole punched at the top and yarn strung through and tied will make a door hanging. Parents write the words “God takes care of me” on the plate.

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack can be provided each week, such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice. The children may enjoy acting as Elijah and drinking water and eating bread cubes to simulate food the ravens may have brought.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **I'm so glad God takes care of us. He gives us all we need. Let's sing our memory verse song one more time.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85), but change the words as noted.

My God (*Point upward.*)
 Will meet all your needs, your needs,
 (*Point to others.*)
 All your needs, (*Point to others.*)
 All your needs; (*Point to others.*)
 My God (*Point upward.*)
 Will meet all your needs, (*Point to others.*)
 Thank You, thank You, Lord. (*Put hands together as if praying.*)
 —Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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Say a short prayer thanking God for watching over us. Close with singing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
 But first a prayer we pray,
 "Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
 Again next Sabbath day."
 —Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

Food for Elijah

References

1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-131

Memory Verse

“My God will meet all your needs” (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

The Message

God takes care of our needs.

Mei Ling sees the baby bird. Mother bird brings food for the baby bird. A long time ago birds brought food to a man.

God told Elijah to take a message to King Ahab. So Elijah told the king: “God says, ‘No rain for one-two-three years!’” (*Count on your child’s fingers.*) King Ahab (*point to the king*) is angry at God. He is angry at Elijah, too. (*Point to Elijah.*) Elijah is God’s friend. God will hide Elijah.

Run, Elijah, run! The king is looking for you. (*Shade your eyes; look around.*) Run and hide, Elijah. (*Run with child around the table.*)

Where is Elijah? (*Child points to Elijah.*) Hiding, hiding. Elijah is hiding from mean King Ahab. (*Together, hide behind a chair and finish reading this page.*)

The king cannot see Elijah. Nobody can see God’s friend. (*Shade eyes, look around.*) But God can see Elijah. God takes good care of His friend. (*Clap.*)

Shh! (*Finger to lips. Whisper.*) Listen, listen. What does Elijah hear?

Elijah hears the water. (*Point to the water.*) Elijah hears wind in the trees.

And God hears Elijah pray. (*Clasp hands in prayer.*) Rest, Elijah, rest. Rest by the water.

Drinking, drinking. (*Pretend to drink.*) Elijah has lots of water. But where is

Elijah’s food? (*Point to Elijah and the bare rocks around him.*)

There is no food for Elijah. No bread. No rice. No potatoes.

See the big, black birds. They fly in the sky. (*Pretend to fly.*) Big, black birds bring food for Elijah. They bring bread. (*Pretend to eat.*) Yum-yum-yum! The birds brought bread for Elijah to eat. (*Clasp hands in prayer.*)

“Thank You for the bread. Thank You, God, for sending the big, black birds.”

It is time to sleep. Elijah kneels and talks to God. (*Kneel and close eyes.*) “Thank You, God, for this safe place. Thank You for the water. Thank You for the big, black birds and for the food. Thank You for loving me. Amen.” (*Hug your child.*)

Every morning and every night big birds fly to Elijah. (*Pretend to fly.*) Big birds bring him bread.

For one-two-three years there is no rain. (*Count on your child’s fingers.*) The trees dry up. (*Point to a dry leaf.*) The water dries up. (*Try to drink from an empty glass.*)

But God takes good care of Elijah. “Thank You, Jesus. You love Elijah, and You love us.”



Do & Say

1. Play a hiding game such as Elijah hiding from King Ahab. Sing a song of thanks to Jesus for taking care of your family.

2. Look at pictures of birds in a book; find a raven. Thank Jesus for the birds we enjoy.

3. Sprinkle water on your child while he or she is in the bathtub. Talk about how God sends the rain. Thank God for the rain

4. Take a walk and name all the things that need water to grow. Thank Jesus for good water that makes things grow.

5. Watch it rain. Go outside afterward and notice how the water soaks into the ground. Or let your child use an umbrella and walk in the rain.

6. Look at pictures of firefighters, police officers, etc., and talk about how they keep us safe.

7. Find a picture of an angel and talk about how angels watch over us. Tell your child about his or her guardian angel.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

8. Pretend you are birds and fly to each other with a cracker in your "beak." Thank Jesus for your food.

9. Drink a glass of water and talk about how good it is for your body.

10. Visit a brook or stream and talk about how Elijah lived by a brook.

11. Visit an aviary, pet store, or zoo to see different kinds of birds.

12. Notice all the different kinds of bread at the grocery store. Let your child pick a favorite. Or let your child help you make bread.

13. Let your child use a doll to pretend to be a mommy or daddy. Talk about and count the ways your child can show kindness at home.

14. Help your child say a thank-You prayer to God for your family.

15. Ask your child to pretend to do things such as run, sleep, eat, etc. While they do, ask, "Is God taking care of you?" Then say, "Yes, God is taking care of you."