

Lesson 14

A Trusting Widow and Son

I Kings 17:1–16

Memory Verse

“Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you”
(I Peter 5:7)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define the meaning of Elijah’s name

Locate on a map Zarephath and the Mediterranean Sea

Describe what it means to “cast all your care upon God”

Express in their own words how they will trust God to help them with their problems and their needs

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific details

Teacher’s Bible Study

In order to keep peace in the land, King Solomon married the daughters of foreign kings. The women he married brought with them their foreign gods. This resulted in the Israelites worshipping the false gods and forgetting the one true God. Not only did many of the Israelites turn from God, but Solomon did as well.

When Solomon died, the kingdom divided into two kingdoms. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was ruled by the heirs of David and Solomon; the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was ruled by others. Both these kingdoms had had many kings and most of them were evil. The kingdom was divided in 931 B.C.

About fifty-seven years later, Ahab, an evil king began to rule the Northern Kingdom. Ahab did more to anger God than all the kings of Israel before him. Ahab was the seventh king of Israel. He was a strong political as well as military leader who defeated Syria twice. Ahab was the son of Omri. The Bible does not speak very much about the reign of Omri (I Kings 16:23–27).

Jezebel, the Phoenician princess, was Ahab’s wife. Jezebel was not an Israelite. She was evil. She brought pagan gods to Israel and led the people to worship them. She persecuted the prophets of God and killed many of them.

This week’s story, in I Kings 17, is the first time we meet up with the prophet Elijah. There is not too much said about Elijah’s background in the Bible. He was a settler in Gilead, which is east of the Jordan River near a community called Tishbe. His name means “Yahweh Is God.” Elijah was a man of prayer and he had deep concern for his nation (James 5:17).

Fertility faith is the Baal worship that Ahab and Jezebel promoted. Baal was to guarantee rain and crops. When Elijah challenged Baal, he challenged the very core of Baal’s so-called strength.

Elijah had the courage to face his fears and trust in God. In preparing for this week’s lesson, read about others in the Bible who did the same.

Abraham	Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–8
Isaac	Genesis 26:17–33
Jacob	Genesis 32:1–13; 33:1–17
Moses	Exodus 15:22–27
Hannah	I Samuel 1:1–23

We must follow their example and cast our care on God (I Peter

Presenting the Bible Story

Kings 17:1

God brought this drought to Israel because they turned from Him and were worshiping pagan gods (Deuteronomy 11:16,17). The god, Baal, was believed to be in control of the weather. When God withheld the rain, He was showing that He alone controlled nature.

I Kings 17:2–5

*Elijah obeyed God;
he knew God would
be his faithful Provider*

After the dramatic announcement that Elijah made to Ahab, God told him to leave Samaria. The exact location of the Brook Cherith is not known. During the rainy season, it was one of many brooks that would flow. After the rains when weather turned hot, it would dry up. God wants each of us to look to Him to provide for our needs. God is concerned about our every need (Luke 12:28-30).

I Kings 17:6–7

God miraculously provided for Elijah. The Hebrew word for “bread” (*lehem*) means food in general. This could include berries, fruit, nuts, and so on. The drought lasted three and a half years (Luke 4:25; James 5:17).

I Kings 17:8-11

*Elijah was told that
a widow would feed
him (Luke 4:25–26)*

Now God allowed the brook to dry up, and He sent Elijah to Zarephath. Zarephath was a small town on the Mediterranean coast between Tyre and Sidon. Zarephath was known for its beautiful glass industry. Deep purple dyes were harvested from sea snails and murex seashells and were extracted from certain plants in the area. The dyes were used to make brightly colored glass.

I Kings 17:12–16

*Only the true God
could provide flour
and oil during a drought*

Normally, widows were poor people. When a country was hit with hard times, widows were often the first to suffer. In Bible times, a woman was usually left with nothing when her husband died. It was Israelite law that called for the dead husband’s sons or brothers to take the widow in and care for her. In this particular case, all may have been dead.

The oven used by the widow to bake the bread may have been called a *tannur*. This was oven-shaped like a pottery jar. Sticks were placed inside the jar and lit; the dough was plastered on the outside and baked.

The widow recognized Elijah as an Israelite. Elijah’s request was a test of the widow’s faith. Her obedience to Elijah showed her faith in the Word of God. Her faith was rewarded by God when He provided flour and oil. There is no need too great or too small which God cannot supply. God does not promise to provide our wants, but if we rely on Him, He certainly will provide our needs (Philippians 4:19).

Art and Activities

Explore with your students the following questions:

Always close your class with prayer

Teaching Activities

Young children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

Older children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

Explore the Subject

1. Was there ever something you felt you really needed and God did not supply it?
2. Does this mean that God does not keep His promises?
3. God nourished Elijah physically. How did God nourish Elijah's faith?
4. How did God provide for the widow and her son?

Respond and Reinforce

1. How does God care for us?
2. Discuss memory verse.

Activity Page

A Trusting Widow and Son I Kings 17:1-16

Read the scriptures and then find the words listed below in the puzzle.

The words may run diagonally, up, down, across, or backwards.



ELIJAH

CHERITH

WIDOW

OIL

CRUSE

GILEAD

BROOK

STICKS

WASTED

FEAR

AHAB

RAVENS

WATER

NOT

NOT

DEW

FED

BREAD

FAITH

MERCY

RAIN

ZAREPHATH

MEAL

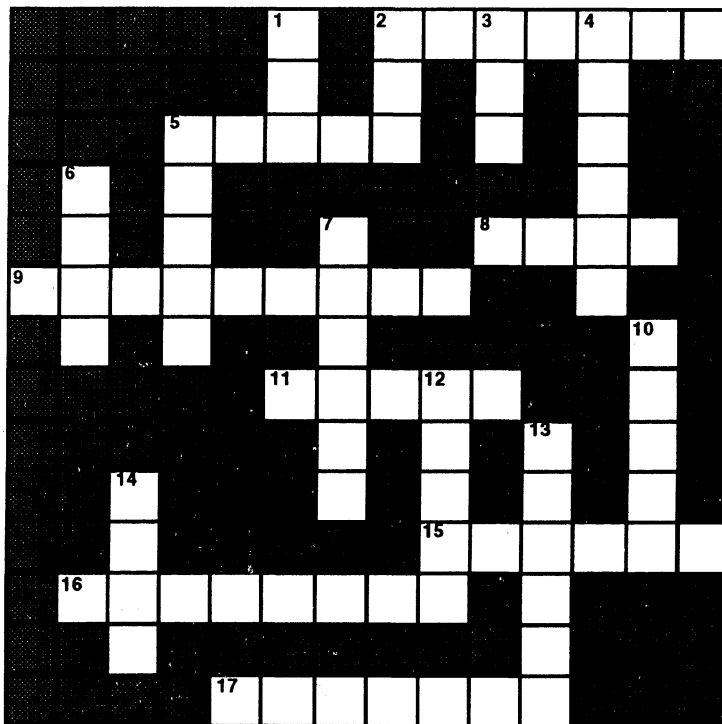
DROUGHT

TISHBITE

Activity Page

A Trusting Widow and Son I Kings 17:1-16

Read the scriptures, along with the clues to help you solve the puzzle below.



Across

2. A period without rain that is injurious to crops and animals.
5. A woman who has lost her husband through death and has not remarried.
8. Ground seeds of edible grain used for cooking and baking.
9. Elijah was sent to this city (see I Kings 17:9).
11. Showing great kindness toward the distressed.
15. A branch or shoot of a tree or bush that has broken off.
16. Elijah the _____ (see I Kings 17:1).
17. Elijah dwelled by the brook _____ (see I Kings 17:5).

Down

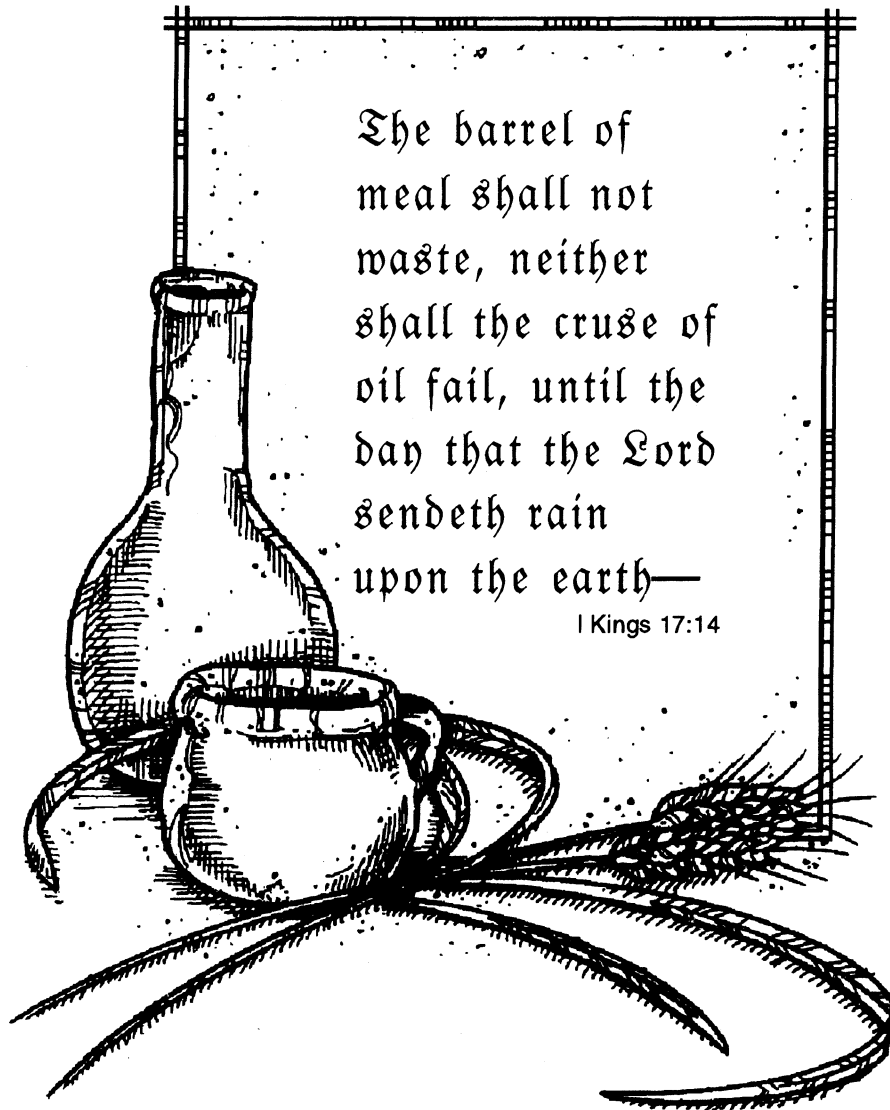
1. Past tense of to feed.

2. Moisture condensed from the atmosphere at night and deposited in the morning in small droplets.
3. The widow has only a small amount of meal and ____ remaining of her food supply.
4. A district in ancient Palestine east of the Jordan River (see I Kings 17:1).
5. Tasteless, odorless, transparent liquid composed of hydrogen and oxygen.
6. King of Israel, and husband of Jezebel.
7. Large black birds resembling crows.
10. Small natural stream of fresh water.
12. An earthen pot used to hold liquids.
13. A Hebrew prophet of the ninth century B.C.
14. Water that is condensed in the atmosphere and falls to the earth in drops.

Across: 2. Drought; 5. Widow; 8. Meal; Zarephath; 11. Mercy; 15. Sticks; 16. Ravens; 17. Cherith; Down: 1. Fed; 2. Dew; 3. Oil; 4. Gilead; 5. Water; 6. Ahab; 7. Ravens; 10. Brook; 12. Cruse; 13. Elijah; 14. Rain.

Activity Page

A Trusting Widow and Son I Kings 17:1-16



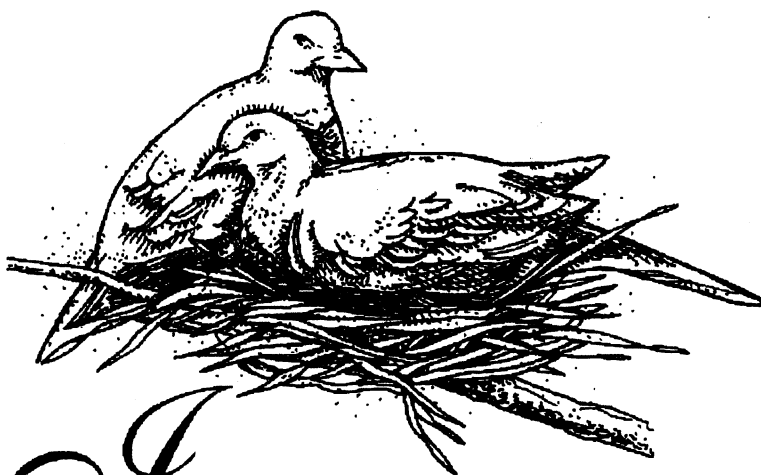
The barrel of
meal shall not
waste, neither
shall the cruse of
oil fail, until the
day that the Lord
sendeth rain
upon the earth—

I Kings 17:14

Activity Page

A Trusting Widow and Son

I Kings 17:1-16



I will lie down and
sleep in peace,
for you alone,
O Lord, make
me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8