



## **Week 53      The Drought [1 Kings 17:1-16]**

**Series:**                    **Elijah**

**Application:**            **We may have to do hard jobs for God, but He will help us.**

**Memory Verse:**        **“The Lord alone is God.” 1 Kings 18:39 (Elijah’s name means ‘The Lord is God’)**

### **Preparation Notes**

The people of Israel had split into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. On occasion the people would turn back to God, but mostly they were sinful and rejected Him. During this time God raised up prophets to warn the people about the consequences of their sin and to encourage them to turn back to Him.

One such prophet was Elijah.

Ahab was the king of Israel at that time. He reigned for 22 years and was very evil. He married a woman called Jezebel from a place called Sidon. She worshipped a false god called Baal, who was supposed to be the god of fertility and the weather. Jezebel was a wicked queen who encouraged Baal worship in Israel and even put many of God’s prophets to death. Things had reached an all-time low.

Elijah said to King Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be neither rain nor dew in the next few years except at my word.” God sent a drought on the land of Israel to show the wicked king and his people that only He had control over the weather.

God told Elijah to go east and hide near the river Jordan, where ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and evening and he drank from the brook. Some time later, the brook dried up because there had been no rain, so God told Elijah to leave Israel and go to a town called Jarapheth in Sidon, where a widow would supply him with food.

When Elijah arrived at the town gate, the widow was there gathering sticks. He asked her if she would give him some water and bread. She told him that she only had a handful of flour and a little oil, which she was going to use to make bread for her and her son. When that was gone they would starve. Elijah told her not to be afraid, but

to go home and make the bread, bring him some first and then eat the rest with her son. God would not let the oil and flour run out until the rains came back again.

The widow did as Elijah had said and the flour and oil did not run out. She was able to feed Elijah, her son and herself.

### **Learning Points (Discoverers 1)**

- Elijah was a prophet.
- God fed Elijah when there was no food.

### **Learning Points (Discoverers 2)**

- Evil King Ahab and his wife Jezebel ruled Israel.
- Elijah, the prophet, told him there would be a drought.
- God fed Elijah.

### **Learning Points (Discoverers 3)**

- Evil King Ahab and his wife Jezebel ruled Israel. They worshipped Baal.
- Elijah, the prophet told him there would be a drought.
- God provided for Elijah.
- God provided for others who helped him.

## **Discoverers 1**

### **Bible Bit.**

Have a glove-puppet raven come and feed the children breadsticks as you tell the story.

### **Suggested Activities.**

Use the sheet DWK53:1. Colour the raven and stick beneath it pictures of food cut from magazines.

## **Discoverers 2**

### **Bible Bit.**

Tell the story using the 'fuzzy felt' flannel board. The Teacher's Manual, which accompanies these resources, outlines this story on page 121. It also has some tips for using the resource in the introduction.

### **Suggested Activities.**

Make finger-puppet ravens carrying the memory verse for this series on Elijah, see example DWK 53:2.

## **Discoverers 3**

### **Bible Bit.**

Tell the story with a variety of props. Use a raven puppet that drops food on the children (crackers or something non-sweet and non-

messy). A mock-up of an oven into which a mixture of oil and flour is placed, and out which a (previously purchased) loaf is produced. The mixture can be recycled to produce another loaf etc.

Don't be tempted to use slight of hand to reproduce this miracle (it can be done) this will lessen the impact of the truly miraculous nature of God's act.

### **Suggested Activities.**

Make the 'fluffy' ravens shown in DWK 53:3.

### **Talk time.**

- Does God ask us to do anything hard for Him?
- What sort of help do we get from Him?

### **Prayer and worship.**