

Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

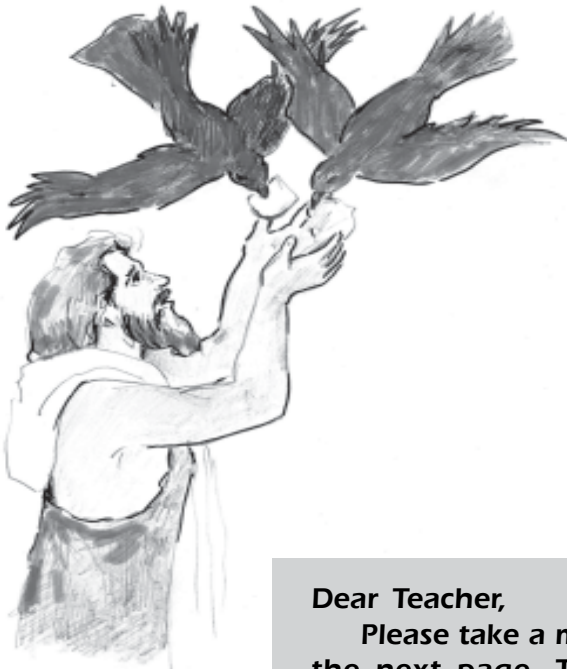
Level C Teacher Overview

Key Message: Notice what is leading you.

Texts: 1 Kings 16:29-33
1 Kings 17:1-7

Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Look Closer: Food and Water
3. Explore: Motives Behind Our Actions
4. Meditate and Activate



1 Kings 17:6-7

The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

Dear Teacher,

Please take a moment to fill out the Feedback Report on the next page. The information you share will help us continue to meet your needs in the future.

With gratitude,

Office of Education Sunday School Staff

Sunday School Teacher's Feedback Report - Level C

Please give this report to your Youth Program Director, or send it directly to the Office of Education by one of the means listed below. Thank you.

Fax: 267.502.4935

Email: sundayschool@newchurch.org

Mail: Office of Education, P.O. Box 743, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 USA. Thank you.

Name of Congregation, Group, etc. _____

Number of students in your group today _____

Materials Used in Class (check all that apply)

- Talk About It
- Look Closer: Food and Water
- Explore: Motives Behind Our Actions
- Meditate and Activate

Materials used as "Take-Home" Activities (check all that apply)

- Talk About It
- Look Closer: Food and Water
- Explore: Motives Behind Our Actions
- Meditate and Activate

Comments: We welcome your feedback. Let us know what worked for you.

Talk About It

I Kings 16:29-33: Ahab Is King

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

1. The leading characters in our stories for the next few weeks are: King Ahab, Jezebel his wife, and Elijah the prophet. Ahab was king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He was “more evil than all who came before him.” He led people away from worshiping the Lord and created wooden images of Baal for the people to worship.
2. What is the first commandment? (There is one God: you shall have no other gods.) What might “having no other gods before the Lord” mean in your life? (putting the Lord first—before everything else) What kinds of “false gods” might we put before the Lord in our own lives?
3. Elijah was sent to Ahab and his wife Jezebel reminding them to return to the Lord. If you were Ahab, how might you feel about this? (Compare this to a time when your parents asked you to do something but you did not want to. How might you feel if your brother or sister reminds you that you are not doing what you were asked to?)
4. Elijah prophesied that there would be no rain or dew because Ahab was worshiping Baal. What are the long-term consequences of drought? (soil dries out, ponds and streams disappear, food cannot grow, etc.)
5. Following this, the Lord sent Elijah to camp by a small stream—the brook Cherith. Here he was fed by ravens. We know that the stories in the Word hold deeper spiritual truths within them—and that sometimes the deeper meaning seems to be different from what is happening in the story. Being fed by ravens pictures a time when we are fed by false ideas of the truth. (For example, we may believe that we are doing something out of kindness to a friend, but if we look more deeply at our motives, we may find that we are hoping that our friend might invite us to do something with them.)
6. Can you think of other examples of a time when someone might act one way, but really care about something quite different?
7. This week, ask yourself WIIFM—What’s In It For Me? as you make daily choices about how you treat others. Notice the times when you want yourself to appear important, loved or well respected. Notice the times when you care more about other people than yourself.

Look Closer: Food and Water

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Compare the characteristics of food and water. Take a closer look at what food and water picture in our spiritual lives and the causes of spiritual “droughts.” Send each student home with some spiritual food—a variety of mealtime blessings.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of the “Look Closer: Food and Water” page (see attached sheet)
- copy of the “Mealtime Blessings” page (see attached sheet)

Directions

Distribute “Food and Water” and “Mealtime Blessings” pages to students. Read together and follow discussion guidelines.

Discussion

1. How long can a person live without food?
2. How long can a person survive without any water?
3. Which does the body use up faster—food or water?
4. Is food or water more fun to eat or drink?
5. Food pictures love or goodness. Why do you think lack of food pictures a lack of love or goodness?
6. Water pictures truth or wisdom. Why do you think lack of water pictures a lack of wisdom or truth?
7. How might our choices cause a lack of “water” and “food” in our spiritual lives?
8. When He was on earth, the Lord instituted the sacred act of eating bread and drinking wine—the Holy Supper—so that we may be most closely joined to Him. This act symbolizes taking the Lord’s truth and goodness into our lives. The daily eating of food and drinking may also help us remember the Lord’s blessings of goodness and truth. Reciting or saying a blessing before a meal is one way for us to remember this. On the following page you will find a variety of blessings to use before meals.



Look Closer: Food and Water

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah is fed by Ravens

Compare the characteristics of food and water. Take a closer look at what food and water picture in our spiritual lives and the causes of spiritual “droughts.” Take home some spiritual food—a variety of mealtime blessings.

Drought

Elijah’s first recorded act as a prophet was to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain or dew in the land of Israel. Three and a half years of drought followed this prophecy, resulting in a famine. The drought and famine were brought about because of Ahab’s evil ways—following the false gods of Baal.

Qualities and Characteristics of Food and Water

It is the qualities and characteristics of something that causes it to picture a spiritual idea. Let’s look at the qualities and characteristics of food and water that give them their spiritual meaning.

Food ...	Water...
Satisfies hunger	Satisfies thirst
Is a solid	Is a liquid
Cannot be seen through	Is clear
You eat it	You drink it
Has an odor	Has no odor
Provides our bodies with energy	Enables the chemical reactions in our bodies
Has many nutrients	Contains only trace elements
Takes time to chew	Is swallowed easily
Is digested and helps build body tissues	Makes up 60-70% of our body weight

Discussion

1. How long can a person live without food?
2. How long can a person survive without any water?
3. Which does the body use up faster—food or water?
4. Is food or water more fun to eat or drink?
5. Food pictures love or goodness. Why do you think lack of food pictures a lack of love or goodness?
6. Water pictures truth or wisdom. Why do you think lack of water pictures a lack of wisdom or truth?
7. How might our choices cause a lack of “water” and “food” in our spiritual lives?
8. When He was on earth, the Lord instituted the sacred act of eating bread and drinking wine—the Holy Supper—so that we may be most closely joined to Him. This act symbolizes taking the Lord’s truth and goodness into our lives. The daily eating of food and drinking may also help us remember the Lord’s blessings of goodness and truth. Reciting or saying a blessing before a meal is one way for us to remember this. On the following page you will find a variety of blessings to use before meals.

Mealtime Blessings

<p>Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy is forever. Amen. Psalm 107:1</p>	<p>This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Amen. Psalm 118:24</p>
<p>The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. Amen. Psalm 145:9</p>	<p>Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Amen. Psalm 34:8</p>
<p>Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Amen. Psalm 103:1-2</p>	<p>The eyes of all look upon You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Amen. Psalm 145:15-16</p>
<p>Bless, O Lord, this food provided by Your bounty, and give us thankful hearts. Traditional</p>	<p>Our Father, Who art in the heavens, give us this day our daily bread. Amen. Matthew 6:9,11</p>
<p>O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; and feed them, and lift them up forever. Amen. Psalm 28:9</p>	<p>Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Amen. Revelation 3:20</p>
<p>The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. Amen. Psalm 24</p>	<p>Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Amen. Psalm 100</p>
<p>Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord; revive me according to Your judgments. Amen. Psalm 119</p>	<p>The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad. Amen. Psalm 126</p>

Explore: Motives Behind Our Actions

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Elijah was fed by ravens in the wilderness. The ravens picture false ideas that may sustain us for a time, but must be replaced by true ideas for us to grow spiritually. Today's discussion takes a closer look at the spiritual dimensions of friendship, focusing on the inner qualities of true friendship.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of discussion page "Motives Behind Our Actions" (see attached sheet)
- *optional*: paper and pen or pencil

Discussion

Follow discussion guidelines. To extend this activity further, distribute paper and pens and encourage students to consider "What's In It For Me" by themselves. If appropriate, invite the students to share general observations they may have made about themselves, e.g. I was surprised by _____, or I've never thought about _____ before. Here are a few questions to help you:

In thinking about your relationship with another person:

1. Was there anything that surprised you?
2. How might you go about making changes in this relationship?
3. What do you have control over in a relationship, and what are you unable to control?



Motives Behind Our Actions

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah is Fed by Ravens

Elijah was fed by ravens in the wilderness. The ravens picture false ideas that may sustain us for a time, but must be replaced by true ideas for us to grow spiritually. We can look for false ideas in our own lives by exploring the motives that lie within our actions.

Who is good?

A person who

- is always willing to give you advice?
- apologizes when they have hurt you?
- is friendly to someone but criticizes them behind their back?
- listens to your concerns?
- goes to church each week?



1. Can a person's behavior tell you whether a person is good or not?
2. Why or why not?

Who Are Your Friends?

People who

- are fun to be with?
- like the same kinds of things you like?
- believe the same kinds of things you do?
- are there to talk to when you need help?
- make you feel good?

1. What makes a true friend?
2. Have you been friends with someone who let you down? Did your opinion of the other person change when this happened? How?
3. Are you a true friend to someone if you say nothing when you know they are being dishonest?
4. What are we really making friends with in another person?

Who are the Lord's Friends?

The Lord

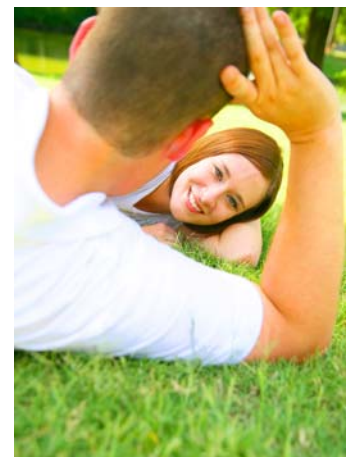
- is friends with people who do whatever He commands (John 15:14)
- laid down His life for His friends (John 15:13)
- calls us His friends (John 15:15)
- was betrayed by His friends
- called Judas "friend" even after he betrayed Him

1. The Lord loves everyone—and no matter what we do, He will remain our Friend. But every friendship involves two people. How can we be a friend to the Lord?

What's In It For Me?

Focus on one friendship. Ask yourself:

- Why do I like this person?
- What's in it for me?
- Am I a true friend to this person?
- What is one thing I can do this week to be a real friend to him or her?



TEACHER COPY

Motives Behind Our Actions

I Kings 17 1-7: Elijah is Fed by Ravens

Elijah was fed by ravens in the wilderness. The ravens picture false ideas that may sustain us for a time, but must be replaced by true ideas for us to grow spiritually. We can look for false ideas in our own lives by exploring the motives that lie within our actions.

Who is good?

A person who

- is always willing to give you advice?
- apologizes when they have hurt you?
- is friendly to someone but criticizes them behind their back?
- listens to your concerns?
- goes to church each week?



1. Can a person's behavior tell you whether a person is good or not? (No! Only the Lord knows that.)
2. Why or why not? (A person's inner motivations might not be what they appear to be on the surface. Also, a single act or mistake may not show us the whole picture.)

Who Are Your Friends?

People who

- are fun to be with?
- like the same kinds of things you like?
- believe the same kinds of things you do?
- are there to talk to when you need help?
- make you feel good?

1. What makes a true friend?
2. Have you been friends with someone who let you down? Did your opinion of the other person change when this happened? How?
3. Are you a true friend to someone if you say nothing when you know they are being dishonest?
4. What are we really making friends with in another person?

Who are the Lord's Friends?

The Lord

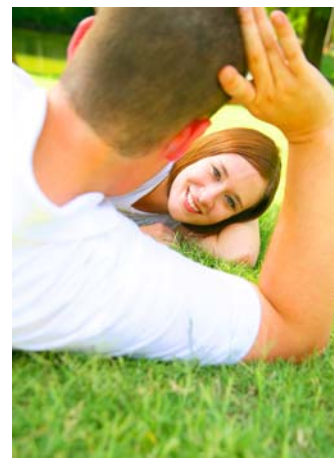
- is friends with people who do whatever He commands (John 15:14)
- laid down His life for His friends (John 15:13)
- calls us His friends (John 15:15)
- was betrayed by His friends
- called Judas "friend" even after he betrayed Him

1. The Lord loves everyone—and no matter what we do, He will remain our Friend. But every friendship involves two people. How can we be a friend to the Lord? (Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with our God.)

What's In It For Me?

Focus on one friendship. Ask yourself:

- Why do I like this person?
- What's in it for me?
- Am I a true friend to this person?
- What is one thing I can do this week to be a real friend to him or her?

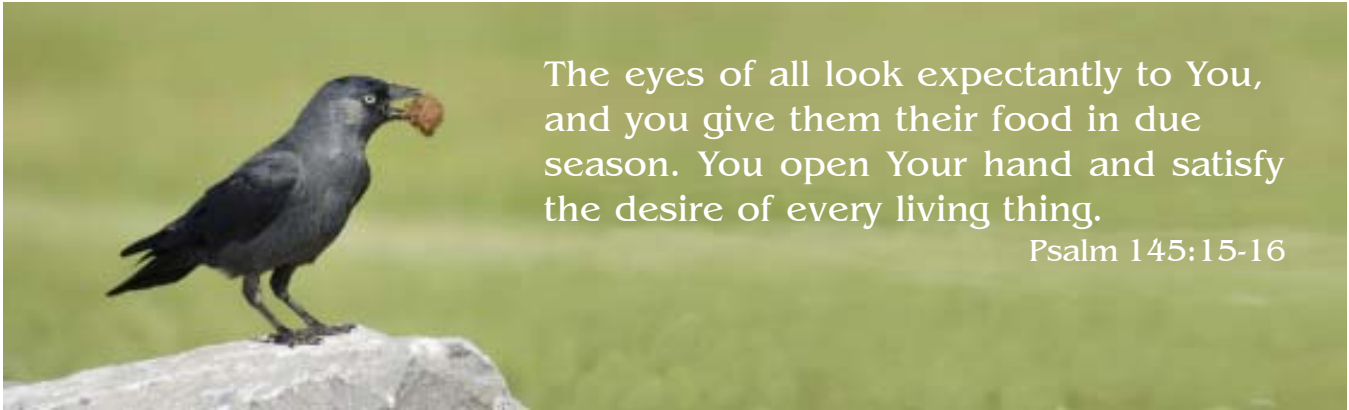


Meditate & Activate

Thinking or meditating about a passage from God's Word and finding opportunities to put it into action can be a powerful experience. Keep this card intact or cut out the illustrated quotation to use as a bookmark or put up somewhere in your home.

Meditate: What spiritual qualities are you in need of today—patience, cheerfulness, kindness? Do you ever feel as if you are in a famine, as if you lack what you need to grow spiritually?

Activate: Can you think of a way that the Lord is fulfilling one of your spiritual needs? You might see Him meeting your need for peace in a beautiful tree, or your need for happiness in sharing laughter with a friend. Expect the Lord to be present today and notice the spiritual food He is offering to you.



The eyes of all look expectantly to You,
and you give them their food in due
season. You open Your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145:15-16

To make a stronger bookmark, print this page on heavy paper or cardstock, cut in half and give half to each student.

Meditate & Activate

Thinking or meditating about a passage from God's Word and finding opportunities to put it into action can be a powerful experience. Keep this card intact or cut out the illustrated quotation to use as a bookmark or put up somewhere in your home.

Meditate: What spiritual qualities are you in need of today—patience, cheerfulness, kindness? Do you ever feel as if you are in a famine, as if you lack what you need to grow spiritually?

Activate: Look for a way that the Lord is fulfilling one of your spiritual needs. You might see Him meeting your need for peace in a beautiful tree, or your need for happiness in sharing laughter with a friend. Expect the Lord to be present today and notice the spiritual food He is offering to you.



The eyes of all look expectantly to You,
and you give them their food in due
season. You open Your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145:15-16