

The Widow Feeds Elijah

Level C | Lesson 2 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: Witness the Lord's presence in your life.

Text: I Kings 17:7-15 The Widow Feeds Elijah

Activity Options *(choose 2 or 3)*

1. Talk About It
2. Make: A Model of the Lord's Bounty
6. Take Action: Putting Others First to Win
7. Meditate and Activate



I Kings 17:14

“The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.”

Talk About It

I Kings 17:7-16: The Widow Feeds Elijah

1. This story contains an amazing miracle! Have you ever witnessed a miracle? Today we learn about a miracle that you can experience yourself.
2. How much food is in your house? There is probably food in cupboards or your refrigerator. How long would it take your family eat up what you have before running out? Is it possible to store enough food for the rest of your life? (No—we need fresh food, and food goes bad if it is kept for too long)
3. How much food did the widow have in her house? (Just enough for one day.) She expected to cook what she had and then die. But the miracle in today's story is that the widow did not run out of food. The Lord gave her food—but were her shelves full of food? (No—she had just two vessels that were kept constantly filled by the Lord.)
4. Let's consider the idea that the food source of our minds is like the food the widow had. The vessel full of flour is like our thoughts, and the vessel full of oil is like our feelings. Our minds are filled with thoughts and feelings that flow in at every second. This is like the constant filling of the oil and flour.
5. Just as the sun shines constantly, giving energy to the earth, we have a constant stream of thoughts and feelings pouring into our minds. As soon as one thought leaves, a new one comes. If these stopped, it would be like trying to imagine life on earth without the sun. We would die! This is the miracle: at each moment a new thought and feeling come into your mind from the Lord. This never stops—just as the oil and flour did not cease.*
6. Let's think about the widow. What sacrifice did she make? (She fed Elijah first when she was very hungry herself.) How difficult would this have been, given her circumstances? When and how does the Lord ask similar things of us? (Two Great Commandments—love the Lord, love our neighbor as ourself.)
7. What does loving the Lord and loving others look like in our lives? Elijah promised that the oil and flour would not fail if the widow fed him. What does the Lord promise when we follow the Two Great Commandments? (heaven)

*Thanks to Rev. John Odhner for ideas included in this discussion.

Make: A Model of the Lord's Bounty

I Kings 17:7-16: The Widow Feeds Elijah

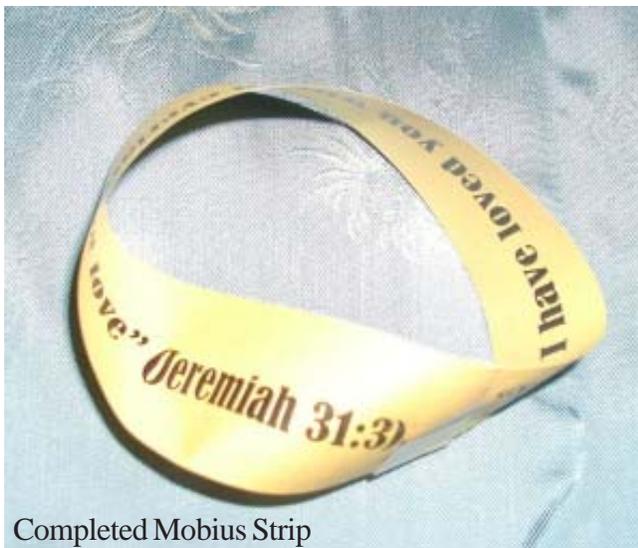
Students will make a model to demonstrate the Lord's unending gifts.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- strips of blank paper approx. 14" (36 cm) or longer
- quotation strip printed on colored paper (see attached sheet - for ease of handling, you may want them to be longer strips)
- tape
- pen or pencil

Teacher Preparation

If possible, photocopy the quotations onto both sides of the paper before cutting the strips apart. The activity will work if the paper is printed on one side, but the effect is more interesting if it is printed on both sides.



Completed Mobius Strip

Project Directions

1. Did your parents ever say to you (or to a jealous younger sibling) that just because they love someone else doesn't mean that they love you any less? Parents who have a second, third, fourth, etc. child don't love the first one any less, although they may have less time to spend on each one. Making a new friend doesn't mean you care less for your other friends.
2. Sometimes there isn't enough food or water for everyone in a certain part of the world—just as in the story of Elijah, there are droughts and famine. But that doesn't mean that the Lord's love for every person is measured out or that He doesn't have "enough" to go around.
3. Love is a spiritual quality—a gift from the Lord—and spiritual things don't end. For example, our spiritual lives will go on for eternity, even though our natural lives—and our physical bodies will end. Our spiritual gifts to each other also don't have to have boundaries although our natural gifts, those dependent on time and money, do. But a husband and wife can continue to love each other more and more deeply throughout their lives on earth and on to eternity.

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4. One model of something that is unending—eternal—is a Mobius (moe-bee-us) strip or Mobius band. It was discovered by two German mathematicians in 1858. We're going to make our own Mobius strips to model the Lord's unending bounty.
5. Have all students take one of the blank strips of paper and hold it straight out in front of them.
6. Now have students twist one end of the strip over once (see picture).
7. Keeping your hold on both ends so the strip stays twisted, bring the two ends together and tape them. You now have a Mobius Strip!
8. Take a pencil or pen and starting at the taped seam, draw a line along one edge of the strip. The line will return to the seam but on the "other side" of the strip. If students continue drawing, the line will eventually meet its origin point in an unending loop.
9. If a small insect were to crawl along the line, it would keep going in circles forever! So something that is finite—a piece of paper—has infinite possibilities, not unlike the oil and flour from which the widow made food for Elijah or like our own lives on this earth.
10. Finish the activity by having students form a Mobius strip out of their quotation strips. Read this longer version of the quotation aloud: The Lord has appeared of old...saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love...." (Jeremiah 31:3).



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Take Action: Putting Others First to Win

I Kings 17:7-15 The Widow Feeds Elijah

Although the widow had very little food, she was willing to feed Elijah, the Lord's prophet, before she fed herself and her son. Her service was rewarded with a bounty that lasted through the famine.

The following games are designed so that students will help each other succeed to achieve a common goal by putting others first. Choose one or two games that will work for your group. Play one or more game(s) and then talk about the difference between winning a competitive game, and winning as a cooperative team.

Don't Touch the Floor

Supplies: Balloons (1 per group)

Objective: Cooperation and teambuilding

Playing the game: Divide students into groups of 4-6 players. Give each group a balloon to inflate. Students will join hands to form a circle. Students must keep holding hands while batting the balloon into the air and preventing it from touching the ground. If the balloon touches the floor, the entire group loses the use of its hands and the play continues with students batting the balloon with other parts of the body—elbows, shoulders, heads, legs, thighs, etc. Each time the balloon hits the floor, the group will lose the ability to use an additional part of their body to bat the balloon. Group leader may choose to have the students set an additional goal—such as move the balloon from one side of the room to the other, or students may simply play in place for a set amount of time.



Hot Lava

Supplies: 20 paper plates, tape

Objective: Communication and teambuilding

Playing the game: In a large room or outdoor space, use the tape to mark two boundaries or areas (A and B) with a large space in between. Make up a story about the group being chased and needing to get across a field of hot lava. The lava is the area between areas A and B. Give each group about 1/3 the number of plates as people, and explain that when they step on the plates, they will not sink into the lava. The entire group must figure out a way to get the entire group from side A

Page 2 - Putting Others First to Win

to side B, or from one side of the Hot Lava to the other. Only one person can be on a plate at a time, but the plates may be picked up and moved around. The key to successfully completing the game is that only part of the team will be able to cross the lava at a time, and that one team member will need to work their way back across the field to help the rest of the team across. Place a time limit on the game to enable discussion.

Puzzler

Supplies: Large floor puzzle (such as young children would use—or make one yourself out of a piece of cardboard), blindfolds

Objective: Communication and teamwork

Playing the game: Working with students in a large clear space, blindfold about half of your group members. After blindfolding, the remaining sighted team members will mix up parts of the puzzle to be constructed. They will then direct the blindfolded team members towards the puzzle pieces and verbally direct them to assemble the puzzle. Sighted team members are not allowed to touch pieces of the puzzle or blindfolded team members. If sighted team members touch a puzzle piece, the group must mix up any completed puzzle pieces and start again.

Talk About It:

1. What do “winning” and “success” mean? It may help to think about people you know who could be described as “successful” in life (such as professional athletes, government leaders, authors, famous musicians and actors). Why do you and/or others view them in this way?
2. What things contributed to the successful outcome of the games we just played?
3. In the story of the widow of Zarephath and Elijah the prophet (1 Kings 17: 7-15), Elijah helped the widow survive the famine by supplying endless oil and flour for her family. What had Elijah asked her to do so that this could happen?
4. In feeding Elijah before feeding herself and her son, the widow showed her own willingness to put the Lord (Elijah) before herself. In the measure that we treat other people well, we are putting the Lord first in our lives. Let’s think about some ways you can treat others with genuine kindness (give encouragement, give thanks, don’t criticize, forgive, smile, acknowledge others, celebrate another person’s happiness, etc.)
5. This week, come up with a set of goals for spiritual success. Set a simple goal, e.g. I’m going to listen to others before talking. Think about your goals as you go to bed, and keep in mind that each new day is a new beginning!

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: We cannot see or touch the Lord, so how can we put our love for Him into action? One way is by loving other people. For when we serve others, we are also serving the Lord.

Activate: Look for an opportunity to help someone today by doing something you wouldn't usually do. Examples might be spending a few minutes with a lonely person, doing a household chore without being asked, complimenting someone on their work, etc. Be conscious of doing this for the Lord's sake.

Assuredly,
I say to you, inasmuch as
you did it to one of the
least of these My brethren,
you did it to Me.

Matthew 25:40



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

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