God is our friend who guides us.

Bible Verse
O Lord, you know me (adapted from Psalm 139:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
■ understand what it means to be guided,
■ identify people who guide them,
■ hear how God guided Elijah to a new source of water, and
■ discover ways God guides them each day.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
■ God guides Elijah to a widow in Zarephath.

1 Kings 17:7-10

After Elijah announced the three-year drought in Israel, God sent him into hiding and provided miraculously for his needs. When the stream that Elijah relied upon for water dried up, God sent Elijah to the city of Zarephath, which was located between the major cities of Tyre and Sidon—the very region where Jezebel, Ahab’s wicked wife, had come from. Jezebel brought her zeal for Baal worship into her marriage with Ahab, with spiritually perilous results for the entire nation. God raised up Elijah at this time in large part to combat Jezebel’s evil influence.

While Israel was suffering under a drought brought on by Jezebel’s influence, Elijah was sent to her homeland, where not only were his needs met, but those of a woman and her son as well. Through Elijah’s willingness to be led to a potentially dangerous place, a woman and her child came to know the true God. God’s plan is often much bigger and includes his desire to bless more people through us than we know.

Prayer
• Read Jeremiah 29:11.
• When have you sensed God was directing you to follow him into uncertain territory?
• Pray: Lord, help me remember that your plan is much bigger than I can see. Help me put this area of my life into your hands…

Before the Lesson
■ Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
■ Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
■ Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.
### Lesson 6

**This Lesson at a Glance**

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Praying Hands Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker; safety pins or tape
- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “Who did you talk to when you were feeling alone this week?” or “How does God help us when we’re alone?”
- Say, **Today we’re going to learn that God is our friend who guides us.**
- Hand out the praying hands name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable name tag patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up. To help children get ready for today’s lesson, use the word “guide” as you help children choose an activity. For example, you might say, “Let me guide you to something fun to do.”

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversations toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Where do you get a drink when you’re thirsty?” or “Tell me about a time you’ve taken a trip.”

**Option 1: Guiding Friends**

**SUPPLIES: none**

Form pairs, and have children practice guiding each other across the classroom. Invite pairs to hold hands. Then instruct one child in each pair to close his or her eyes while the other child leads him or her on a short walk. After children cross the room, have them switch roles and cross back again. Be sure to supervise this activity closely so children don’t bump into anything as they’re crossing the room.

Explain that the children with their eyes open are “guiding” their partners to make sure they make it across the room safely. Tell children that today they’ll learn how God guided Elijah to a new place to find food. Remind them that God is our friend who guides us.

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

**BIBLE POINT**

**God Guides Elijah to a Widow in Zarephath**
Lesson 6

Option 2: Guiding Voices

SUPPLIES: none

Have children stand in a line along one wall of your classroom. Invite one child to be the Guide. Have the Guide stand on the other side of the room and give two or three simple directions such as “Take two steps forward” or “Stand on your tiptoes.” Let children take turns being the Guide until everyone has crossed the room.

After everyone has crossed the room, explain that today’s Bible story is about a time God guided Elijah on a long walk. Remind them that God is our friend who guides us.

Option 3: Packing Up

SUPPLIES: suitcase; travel items such as toys, toiletries, and clothes

Bring to class an empty suitcase (ideally a child’s suitcase) and items that would be packed to go on an overnight trip, such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, pajamas, an extra set of clothes, and a teddy bear.

Set out the suitcase and overnight items. Have children tell you about times they’ve gone on trips. Ask what they’d pack to go on a trip, and then have them help you pack the suitcase with the items you brought. Encourage them to add other items from around the classroom.

Explain that today’s Bible story is about a time God guided Elijah on a long trip. Remind children that God is our friend who guides us.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player

Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

SING

Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.

(Repeat 2x.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: blocks

Tell children that when they hear you clap your hands two times, they’re to stop what they’re doing and clap their hands two times. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Ask: • What did you make or do when you came to class today? (Led a friend around the room; followed the guide’s directions; packed a suitcase.)

Say: Some of you guided each other around the room, some of you followed a guide’s directions, and some of you packed a suitcase for a pretend trip. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we’re learning that God is our friend who guides us. A guide is someone who helps you, leads you in the right direction, and takes care of you. Later we’ll hear how God guided Elijah on a special trip to a town with a gate. Let’s build a gate to help us get ready for that story.

Have children help you get out the blocks. Say: As we build our gate, let’s think about the people who guide us. Moms and dads guide us by taking care of us. Teachers guide us by helping us learn. Doctors and nurses guide us by helping us stay healthy. Friends guide us by helping us do the right things.

Give each child one or more blocks. Say: We’ll take turns adding blocks to our gate. When it’s your turn, say the name of someone who guides you and then add your block to the gate. I’ll put down my block first.

Say the name of someone who guides you such as a friend, close relative, or pastor; then lay down a block. Help children take turns adding their blocks to the gate. Encourage children to help you design the gate. For example, you could make a flat archway on the floor or two tall gateposts.

After children have each named one person who guides them, let them continue adding blocks until you finish the gate. Then say: Good job building our gate. You were all guiding each other and helping to finish the project. Now we’re ready to hear how God guided Elijah to a town gate. Let’s bring out our Bible and see what happened to Elijah when he got there.

Leave the gate intact for later in the lesson.

Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

Say: Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” with the CD (track 3) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.
Lesson 6

**SING**

I'm so glad for the Bible,
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible,
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the raven stamp, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the raven stamp and ink pad to the Learning Lab.

Say: I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.

Lead children in singing “I'm So Glad We're Together” with the CD (track 4) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.”

**SING**

I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.

After the song, pray: Thank you, God, for all our friends who are here today. Thank you for being our friend, too, and for guiding us where you want us to go. We know you always take care of us. In Jesus' name, amen.
God Guides Elijah to a Widow in Zarephath

This Bible story is featured in My First Hands-On Bible™. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.

Bring in Bible-times travel items such as sandals, a walking stick, and a small leather pouch. Also bring in contemporary travel items such as a suitcase, walking shoes, a map, and car keys. Let children touch and examine the items. Talk about Elijah’s journey, and point out the differences between traveling in Bible times and traveling today.

### Bible Point

- God is our friend who guides us.
- God guided Elijah to a new place to find water.

### X-tra Impact

- Bring in Bible-times travel items such as sandals, a walking stick, and a small leather pouch.
- Also bring in contemporary travel items such as a suitcase, walking shoes, a map, and car keys. Let children touch and examine the items. Talk about Elijah’s journey, and point out the differences between traveling in Bible times and traveling today.
Pass out cups of water. When children finish their drinks, have them throw their cups away.

Say: God guided Elijah, and God guides us. One way God guides us is through the Bible. Another way is through our friendship with Jesus. Jesus helps us know how to treat others and how to be a good friend. It’s great to know that we can ask Jesus to be our very best friend and guide us! Let’s say thanks to God right now!

Lead children in saying, “Thank you, God, for Jesus!”

Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** none

Say: Let’s stay sitting down and pretend we’re walking to Zarephath with Elijah. Elijah didn’t have cars or trains or airplanes. He didn’t even have a bicycle. He had to walk to Zarephath. Walk your hands on your knees with me.

Show children how to “walk” or pat their hands on their knees in a steady rhythm. Choose one child to gently shake the mini maraca to keep the rhythm.

Keep walking your hands as you continue: It was a long walk for Elijah, but he wasn’t alone. Who was with Elijah on his trip to Zarephath?

Let children respond. Then say: God is our friend who guides us. God’s going with us on our journey with Elijah. Are you ready to go? I’ll say some words; then you say them after me.

Lead children in “Goin’ on a Journey.” Have them repeat the words after you.

Goin’ on a journey,
Gonna walk all day,
God will guide me
And show me the way.

Uh-oh! (Pause in rhythm and hand-walking.)
There’s a BIG hill! (Groan.)
Can’t go around it. (Shake head.)
Can’t go through it. (Shake head again.)
Gotta go over it! (Hand-walk laboriously as if climbing a steep hill. At the top, breathe a deep sigh, wipe your forehead, and then resume hand-walking.)

Goin’ on a journey,
Gonna walk all day,
God will guide me
And show me the way.

Uh-oh! (Pause in rhythm and hand-walking.)
There’s a hot, sandy desert! (Groan.)
Can’t go around it. (Shake head.)
Can’t go over it. (Shake head.)
Gotta go through it! (Hand-walk lightly as if walking on hot sand. Wipe forehead, and then resume hand-walking.)
Goin’ on a journey.
Gonna walk all day.
God will guide me
And show me the way.

Uh-oh! (Pause in rhythm and hand-walking.)
There’s a dried-up riverbed! (Groan.)
Can’t go around it. (Shake head.)
Can’t go over it. (Shake head.)
Gotta go through it! (Hand-walk carefully as if you’re jumping from rock to rock.
Wipe forehead, and then resume hand-walking.)

Goin’ on a journey.
Gonna walk all day.
God will guide me
And show me the way.

I said God will guide me
And show me the way.

Closing

The Field Trip

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.

Whiskers: Mooo…mooo…
Teacher: Whiskers, are you pretending to be a cow?
Whiskers: Oink…oink…
Teacher: (Looks at children, perplexed.) Well, now he sounds like a pig!
Whiskers: Neigh…neigh…
Teacher: First you were a cow, and then you were a pig. Now you’re a horse! When are you going to turn into a mouse so we can talk to you?
Whiskers: OK, I’m a mouse again. I was just practicing all the animal sounds I heard yesterday.
Teacher: Where did you go to hear all those animal sounds?
Whiskers: My preschool class went on a field trip to a farm. Have any of you ever been to a farm? What kind of animals live on farms?
Teacher: (Let children name animals they’ve seen, and then continue.)
God Is Watching

SUPPLIES: CD player

Say: **God is our friend who guides us**, God guided Elijah on a big journey, but God guides us on little journeys, too.

Ask: • **What are some journeys you might take this week?**
   (Going to church; going to preschool; going to a friend’s house.)

Say: Each time you go somewhere this week, remember God is with you to guide you. God knows us and knows what we need. That’s what makes him the perfect guide! Our Bible verse says, **Oh Lord, you know me** (adapted from Psalm 139:1). Let’s sing a song that helps us remember that God knows us.

Lead children in singing “You Know Everything About Me” (Psalm 139:1-3) on the CD (track 13).

**SING**

Oh Lord, you have examined my heart.
You know everything about me.
You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know everything about me.

You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
Oh Lord, you know my thoughts and my ways.
You know everything about me.
You chart the path that I take.
You know everything about me.

You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
(Repeat.)

Oh Lord, you have examined my heart.
You know everything about me.
You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know everything about me.

You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.
(Repeat.)

You know everything,
Every little thing about me, about me.

“You Know Everything About Me” (Psalm 139:1-3) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker.
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Lead children in a prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for knowing us and guiding us. If any of the children are comfortable praying aloud, let them do so.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.
Lesson 6

For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Lively Learning: Nature Walk**
  Form pairs, and lead children on a walk to look for things Elijah may have seen along his journey. Look for pebbles, sticks, birds, trees, sand, or dried-up creeks. Encourage partners to guide each other as they share their discoveries. As you walk, try to spot at least one gate. Each time you see a gate, have children repeat together: 
  
  God is our friend who guides us.

- **Make to Take: Drinking Cups**
  Before class, cut sheets of copy paper into 8½-inch squares. Refer to the illustration at right to help you with this craft.

  Give each child a paper square. Show children how to form a triangle by folding their paper squares in half diagonally. Wait for all the children to fold their triangles before moving on to the next step.

  Next, have children set their triangles on the table, open side up. Show each child how to fold the right corner so it touches the left side and then turn the paper over and repeat the fold as shown. You may need to help children do this.

  Then show children how to fold the top flaps down, tuck them in, and open up their cups. Set out crayons, and let children decorate the outside of their cups. As they’re working, review how Elijah received a cup of water from a woman in Zarephath.

  Encourage children to wait until they get home to drink from their cups, since the cups will get soggy if they’re used too many times.

- **Treat to Eat: Graham Cracker Town**
  Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Set out graham crackers and bowls of frosting. Let children use the graham crackers and frosting to assemble a “town.” Demonstrate how they can use the frosting to hold the crackers together. Encourage children to create lots of different cracker formations. For example, they might make a straight, long wall or put one horizontal cracker on top of two vertical ones to make a city gate.

  As children work, review how Elijah traveled to the town of Zarephath. Remind children that God guided Elijah on his journey and that
  
  God is our friend who guides us.

- **Story Picture: Elijah’s Trip to Zarephath**
  Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Help children use glue sticks to glue craft sticks to the town walls in the picture. Then set out crayons, and let them color the rest of the picture. As children work, have them tell you how God guided Elijah. Remind them that
  
  God is our friend who guides us.
Today I learned...

God is our friend who guides us.

Help me learn this:

O Lord, you know me (adapted from Psalm 139:1).

Ask me:

- How did God guide Elijah on his journey?
- What journeys can God guide you on this week?
- How does God guide our family?

Family Fun

- Create a maze in your house, and take turns guiding each other through it. First, try speaking the directions; then try guiding with hand motions only. After everyone has gone through the maze, thank God for his guidance.
- On your next car journey, look for signs that guide you. Notice street signs, traffic lights, neon signs, and billboards. Explain that signs guide us and God guides us, too.

God Guides Elijah

(1 Kings 17:7-10)