

Bible Point - God is our friend who helps us share.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will learn about the woman who shared her food with Elijah,
 - talk about times when it's hard for them to share,
 - discover that good things happen when they share, and
 - share smiles and hugs with one another.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ A widow shares food with Elijah.

1 Kings 17:10-16

When the widow of Zarephath went to gather wood, sharing her food was probably the last thing she had in mind. In fact, she may have been hoping that someone would share some food with her. When Elijah asked her to provide him with food and drink, the widow was facing her last meal. Her food had nearly run out and she had no resources to obtain more. Elijah's request must have seemed ridiculous.

It's not known if the widow had previous knowledge of or faith in the God of Israel. We do know, however, that she lived in the heart of the land of Baal worship, the religion with which Israel had become infatuated and for which Israel was being punished. In fact, at that time, Sidon, the region in which Zarephath lay, represented the forces of evil aligned against God's people.

Whatever the widow believed, she chose to obey the prophet Elijah. She gave up her last bit of food, did as Elijah requested, and was rewarded by having all the food she, Elijah, and her son needed.

Prayer

- Read Romans 12:13.
- When has God prompted you to share beyond your comfort level?
- Pray: Lord, help me to trust you, even when sharing with others seems beyond my ability. This is a situation where I need to trust you more...

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.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Praying Hands Name Tags" (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started	Option 1: Sharing Puppets— Make paper-sack puppets, and talk about sharing.	Paper lunch sacks, crayons, fabric scraps, yarn or ribbon, glue sticks, other art supplies	
Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 2: A Snack for Two— Share supplies to make a snack, and hear how a woman shared food with Elijah.	Crackers, spreadable cheese, plastic knives, wet wipes	
	Option 3: Cooking Fire— Pretend to cook over a fire as the widow did.	Pots, pans, cooking utensils, aprons, potholders, rolled-up newspapers or blocks	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Make flour-and-oil bread, and hear about the woman who shared bread with Elijah.	Gallon-sized resealable bags, flour, salt, vegetable oil, water, sugar, liquid measuring cup, baking sheet, oven	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	B <mark>ible, CD player</mark>	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Gather to eat a snack.	Bible, napkins, baked bread from "Setting the Stage," wet wipes	
	Do the Bible Story— Play a game to review how the widow's jars were empty and then full.	Two plastic 2-liter bottles, permanent marker, water, CD player	
Closing	Whiskers and the Popsicle— Hear Whiskers tell how difficult it was to share a tasty treat.	_	
Livelti	Sharing Buddies —Sing a song and share a hug with a friend.	CD player	

*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 "What did you tell your family about Elijah's journey?" or "How did God guide you this week?"
- Say: Today we're going to learn that ►God is our friend who helps us share.
- 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.

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 "How do you feel when someone shares with you?" or "Tell me about a time when it was hard for you to share."

■ Option 1: Sharing Puppets

SUPPLIES: paper lunch sacks, crayons, fabric scraps, yarn or ribbon, glue sticks, other art supplies

Set out paper lunch sacks, crayons, fabric scraps, yarn or ribbon, glue sticks, and other art supplies you have available. Hold up a paper sack, and show children how to slide a hand inside it so the bottom of the sack moves like a puppet's mouth. Tell children they can wear their puppets on their hands when they finish decorating them.

As children work, talk to them about sharing the supplies. Remind them that other children may want to use the same things they do. Have children use their finished puppets to answer questions such as "Do you like to share?" "Who do you share with?" or "What's easy or hard about sharing?" Remind children that \(\bigstyle=\frac{God is our friend who helps us share.}\)



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





While you're on your knees greeting the children, look around your classroom from a child's perspective. Are tables too high? Is it easy to see pictures and other things hanging on the walls? Remember, the classroom is for the children and should be designed for them.

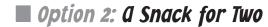




Encourage children to decorate their puppets any way they'd like. They can make people, animals, or even art designs. Let them enjoy creating with the materials you've provided without pressure to create a "finished" product.







SUPPLIES: crackers, spreadable cheese, plastic knives, wet wipes

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Form two groups. Announce that you're going to have a snack of crackers with cheese spread. Give one group the crackers and the other group the spreadable cheese and plastic knives. Encourage children in the cracker and cheese groups to share their snack-making supplies and work together so everyone can have a cracker with cheese. As children are enjoying their snack, compliment them on their sharing. Tell them that today's Bible story is about a woman who shared her food with Elijah. Remind children that \(\bigsigma_{GOC} \) is our friend who helps us share.

■ Option 3: Cooking Fire

SUPPLIES: pots, pans, cooking utensils, aprons, potholders, rolled-up newspapers or blocks

Explain that today's Bible story is about a woman who cooked food for Elijah. Tell children that in Bible times, people didn't have ovens like we do today. Instead, they probably cooked most of their food over a fire.

Have children build a pretend fire using rolled-up newspapers or blocks as logs. Set out pots, pans, cooking utensils, aprons, and potholders. Help children think of foods that can be grilled over a fire, such as hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetables, and marshmallows. Let each child "cook" the food of his or her choice over the "fire." Encourage children to share their pretend food. Remind them that ▶ God is our friend who helps us share.

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: gallon-sized resealable bags, flour, salt, vegetable oil, water, sugar, liquid measuring cup, baking sheet, oven

Bring to class a bottle of vegetable oil and a 1- or 2-cup liquid measuring cup. If your church doesn't have a kitchen you can use, you'll also need to bring a toaster oven. The "bread" you'll be making will have a taste and consistency similar to pie crust.

Before class, measure 1½ cups flour and ½ teaspoon salt into a gallon-sized resealable bag. If you have a large class, you may want to make up two bags of the flour and salt mixture. You may also want to bring some flour in a shallow bowl or pie pan for children to touch and examine.

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? (Shared crackers and cheese; cooked over a pretend fire; made puppets.)

Say: Some of you made crackers with cheese to share, some of you used puppets you made to talk about sharing, and some of you shared pretend food you cooked over a pretend fire. You were all practicing sharing. Today we're learning that \(\rightarrow \frac{God is our friend who helps us share.}{}\) In our Bible story today, we'll learn about a woman who made bread to share with Elijah. The Bible says the woman made bread with oil and flour. Let's make some oil-and-flour bread to see what that was like.

Move to a table or other work area. Carefully open the bag of flour and salt. Say: I have some flour in this bag. Flour is made from wheat, and it's very soft and powdery. We use flour to make bread, cakes, and cookies.

Pass the flour around, and let children examine it. Then carefully pour ½ cup vegetable oil and ¼ cup water into the bag and reseal it. As you reseal the bag, be careful not to seal in too much air. The bag should be as flat as possible. Say: When you add oil and water to flour, you can make bread. I'll pass around the bag, and each person can have a turn helping to mix some bread for us to share.

Pass the bag around, and let children take turns massaging the oil and water into the flour. After children have finished mixing the bread, remove it from the bag and flatten it on a baking sheet. You may want to sprinkle it with sugar before baking. Have a helper bake it at 450 degrees for 10-12 minutes in an oven in the church kitchen or in a toaster oven. The bread should be done baking around the time you finish telling the Bible story.

Say: Let's bring out our Bible and hear how the woman made bread for Elijah. Then we'll eat the bread we made together. You did such a good job sharing and taking turns as we made the bread. I can tell you're learning that $\triangleright God$ is our friend who helps us share.



Bring in wheat kernels and whole-wheat flour (you can purchase wheat kernels at health-food stores), and talk about how bread is made. Let children compare the kernels to the ground flour.





If you use a toaster oven, be sure children are closely supervised around it to avoid burns.



■ 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.



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— 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."



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.

teacher tips

You can also choose children to be the Bible-Replacer (to put the Bible away) and the Cheerleader. Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week, so each child gets a chance to feel special.

After the song, pray: Dear God, please help us to remember how important it is to share with our friends. Thank you for the people who share with us. In Jesus' name, amen.

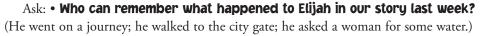
■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, napkins, baked bread from "Setting the Stage," wet wipes



Open the Bible to **1 Kings 17**, and show it to the children. Say: Our Bible story comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Bible, God's special book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.

Gather around the *Learning Mat*.



Say: God guided Elijah to the city of Zarephath. Last week we heard how Elijah met a woman who gave him a drink of water. Can you find the picture of Elijah and the woman?

Wait for children to point to the picture. Then continue: Well, Elijah was hungry, too. Let's all rub our tummies to show how hungry Elijah was.

Ask: • How does your body feel when you're hungry? (Grouchy; empty; sometimes my stomach growls.)

• What do you do when you're hungry? (Ask my mom or dad for a snack; look for something to eat; wait until dinner.)

Say: When we're hungry, we ask for something to eat. Elijah asked the woman to bring him some bread. But the woman told him, "I don't have any bread. All I have is a little bit of flour and some oil. I'm going to bake all that's left into bread for my son and me, and then I'll be all out of food."

Once the woman's jars were empty, she wouldn't be able to make bread for her and her son to eat. They would get awfully hungry. How do you think she felt about using up her flour and oil to make bread for Elijah? (Scared; bad; she probably didn't want to share.)

The woman wasn't sure she wanted to share her bread with Elijah, but then Elijah said, "Don't worry about running out of food. Go make a small loaf of bread for me, and then make a meal for you and your son. God promises that you won't run out of flour or oil."

So the woman went away to make bread for Elijah. Let's pretend we're making bread with her. First she dumped all the flour out of her jar. Pretend to dump out flour. Poof! We're covered with flour dust. We'd better dust ourselves off. Dust yourself off. Next she poured the oil into the flour. Let's pour our oil carefully so we don't spill on the floor. Pretend to pour oil into the flour. Then she used her hands to pat the oil and flour together into a loaf of bread. Let's pretend our Learning Mat is a big mixing bowl where we can mix our bread.

Pretend to mix bread; then knead it. Say: The woman mixed and kneaded the bread and then baked it over the fire. Remember, they didn't have ovens in Elijah's time. After she baked the bread, she took it to Elijah. Give your loaf of bread to someone sitting near you and pretend that person is Elijah.



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





After the woman shared bread with Elijah, she went back to look in her jars. Guess what she saw? Both of the jars were full. She had plenty of oil and plenty of flour. God helped the woman share with Elijah. \triangleright <u>God is our friend</u> <u>who helps us share</u>, too. Let's share the oil-and-flour bread we made earlier.

Have a helper bring the bread that's been baking. Make sure it's cool enough for the children to handle comfortably. Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Pass out napkins, and then break the bread into pieces and distribute it to the children. Say: **As you eat your bread, tell a friend one thing God can help you share this week.**

Circulate among the children and help them think of things they can share. When they've finished their snack, have them throw their napkins away.

■ Do the Bible Story

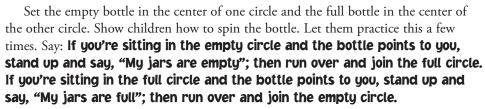
SUPPLIES: two plastic 2-liter bottles, permanent marker, water, CD player



Before class, draw arrows on two 2-liter plastic bottles (see margin illustration). Fill one bottle with water and seal the lid tightly.

Form two groups, and have each group sit in a circle. Say: At first, the woman's jars were nearly empty. But when she trusted God and baked bread to share with Elijah, her jars

were full. Let's play a game now to help us remember about "empty" and "full."



Have children take turns spinning the bottles as they play the game. Softly play "You Know Everything About Me" (Psalm 139:1-3) on the CD (track 13) as children play the game. Children will be constantly switching circles. After a few minutes, turn off the music and clap your hands twice to regain children's attention. Wait for children to clap twice, and then say: Now let's all join the "full" circle. When the widow shared bread with Elijah, her jars were full. We can share as the widow did because ▶ God is our friend who helps us share. Let's spin the bottle again. This time, if the bottle is pointing to you, tell us about a time when you shared something with someone.

Spin the bottle several times, and let children tell about times they've shared. If you want to make sure each child gets a chance to tell about a sharing experience, have children scoot back from the circle after they've had a turn. If the bottle points to a child who is out of the circle, call on the nearest child to the right.

Say: Our Bible verse says, \triangleright 0 Lord, you know me (adapted from Psalm 134:1). God knows all about us. God knows when we share and when others share with us. \triangleright God is our friend who helps us share.

(Game adapted from Fidget Busters © 1992 Jolene L. Roehlkepartain. Reprinted by permission of Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538.)







Closing

■ Whiskers and the Popsicle

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: Hi, everybody! Boy, I really like visiting your class. What have you been learning today?

(Encourage the children to tell Whiskers about the woman who shared her bread with Elijah.)

Teacher: We've been talking a lot about sharing in our class today. We've learned that ► God is our friend who helps us share.

What kind of things do you like to share, Whiskers?

Whiskers: Well, I'm pretty good at sharing my toys with my brother. And we have to share a room...I kind of like that. But do you know what I don't like to share? Treats. My mom gave me a Popsicle the other day, and she made me share it with my

brother. I was mad—I wanted to eat the whole thing myself!

Teacher: Sometimes it's hard to share things, especially things we really like. Let's ask your friends if they sometimes have trouble sharing things. Children, what are some things

that are hard for you to share? (Let children respond.)

God wants us to share, even when it's hard. But he'll help us share just as he helped

the woman in our Bible story.

Whiskers: God must have helped me share my Popsicle. And you know what? After I shared

with my brother, he was so happy. He gave me a great big hug and even said thanks!

It made me feel good inside.

Teacher: Good things happen when we share. When the woman shared her bread

with Elijah, God made sure she'd always have enough food. Let's thank God for helping us share. When I count to three, let's all say, "Thank

you, God!" together. One, two, three: Thank you, God!

Whiskers: Thanks for teaching me that God helps me share. I'm going to go home

and see if my brother would like to share my toys with me. Goodbye!

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■ Sharing Buddies



SUPPLIES: CD player



Have children gather in the story area. Say: ► God is our friend who helps us share. You've all been sharing a lot of things today. You've shared art supplies, you've shared bread, you've shared your ears to listen to our Bible story. Now let's

share our voices in singing. When you hear the words "smile" and "hug," you can share those actions with someone sitting near you.

Lead children in singing "Sharing Song" with the *CD* (track 15) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." As you sing, do the motions in the parentheses.



I will share a smile with you. (Smile.)

I will share a hug with you. (Hug someone near you.)

I will share my love with you. (Put hands over heart.)

That is what a friend can do. (Point to self and nod head.)

yes, I will share.

Yes. I will share.

Yes, I will share.

That's what a friend can do.

(Repeat.)



Say: God shared with each of us by sending Jesus to love us and be our forever friend. That's good news that we can share with our friends and families this week!

Close with a prayer similar to this one: **Dear God, thank** you for helping us share. Thank you for giving us Jesus as our forever friend. Please help us share with our friends and family this week. In Jesus' name, amen.



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.



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: 'Round the Sharing Circle

Form a circle, and sing "Round the Sharing Circle" to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." As you sing, pass appropriate items from child to child around the circle.

SING

This is the way we share our crayons, Share our crayons, Share our crayons. This is the way we share our crayons Because we love the Lord.

Repeat the song several times. Each time use a different object or action such as toys, blocks, hugs, or handshakes.

■ Make to Take: Gadget Prints



Cover a work area with newspapers. Give each child a large sheet of light-colored construction paper. Set out old kitchen gadgets such as potato mashers, whisks, and slotted spoons. Also put out bowls of different-colored tempera paint. Be sure to provide paint shirts for children. If your church doesn't have paint shirts, you can make your own by cutting head and arm holes in paper grocery sacks.

Show children how to dip the gadgets into the paint and stamp them onto the construction paper in free-form designs. Provide lots of gadgets so the children can experiment with different designs and colors.

Have each child make two gadget prints—one to keep and one to share. Remind children that **▶** *God is our friend who helps us share.*

■ Treat to Eat: Empty and Full

Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Give each child a small paper cup and a handful of cereal or small crackers. Have children fill their empty cups with the snack. As children are filling their cups, talk about how the woman's jars stayed full because she shared her food with Elijah. When children have filled their cups, let them empty them again by eating the snack!



■ Story Picture: a Woman Shares

Form pairs, and give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Have children work with their partners to color the pictures. For example, one child could color the woman on both pictures, and the other child could color Elijah on both pictures. Encourage children to share the work equally, but let them decide for themselves how they'll divide up the coloring. As they work, review how the woman shared her bread with Elijah. Remind them that $\triangleright God$ is our friend who helps us share.

Today i learned... © God is our friend who helps us share.

Help me learn this:

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

Ask me:

- How do you think the woman felt when Elijah asked her to share her bread?
- What things are hard for you to share? What things are easy to share?
- How can our family share with each other this week?

9 Family Fun

■ Make bread together. Involve your child in measuring, kneading, and punching down the dough. And, of course, tasting the final product! If you don't have time to make yeast bread, try making a quick bread (such as banana bread or biscuits) instead. There's still a lot of work that can be shared in such a project.

Today your child learned that

They talked about things they could share with friends and family.

GOD IS OUR FRIEND WHO HELPS US SHARE. Children heard how a woman shared bread with Elijah.

■ On a visit to the grocery store, let your child choose a small treat to purchase and give to a friend or, better yet, to give to a home or shelter for children.

