

## Elijah—Where’s God When Life Feels Empty?

### 1) Ritual

Reestablish and reinforce your ritual. Laying out the altar cloth, setting up the cross, lighting the candle, opening with prayer all make this a sacred set-apart place. It says this time is important.

### 2) Check-in

Spend extra time this week catching up. Talk about Christmas break. Ask about the coming semester. It is good to always **give everyone a time to think first, at least one full minute**. Quiet time helps the introverts think of responses. Make sure everyone has an uninterrupted time to speak.

### 3) Review the Story

Please invite your kids to share their first impressions from today’s Bible story.

#### GOD’S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE

“God gives life to the dead.” [Romans 4:17]

#### BACKGROUND [1 Kings 17]

Elijah was a one of the greatest prophets of God. His name means, “my God is YAHWEH” (YAHWEH is the Hebrew name for God). Elijah strongly opposed worship of the false-god Baal while he lived in the northern kingdom of Israel during the ninth century B.C. during the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Elijah worked miracles such as restoring a dead boy to life. During a contest with the false prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel he called down fire from heaven to show God's power. After the slaying of the priests of Baal he fled to Mount Horeb (Sinai) where God commanded him to foment a revolt in Israel. [*Adapted from enterthebible.org*]

#### VIDEOS

- *Read Scripture: Kings* (The Bible Project): This video discusses the story into which God places the great prophet Elijah. <https://youtu.be/bVFW3wbi9pk>
- *Word Study: AVON - "Iniquity"* (The Bible Project): Elijah and the prophets were trying to confront our ancestors with their iniquity and get them to turn back. Understanding this word helps us understand Elijah’s mission. <https://youtu.be/w1zkwkl9oAw>

### 4) Start with Sharing—Times of Sickness and Emptiness

**Bonus Ice-Breaker:** Talk about a time you felt like you were at the end of your rope and you couldn’t see the way forward. What changed? Who intervened on your behalf? How did you experience God during this time?

### 5) Activity—The Never-Empty Clay Pot

Hand out clay and have kids mold a small pot. (Here’s a little tutorial on how to make a pinch pot: <https://youtu.be/bELgM8aSqLc>) As kids are molding their clay, talk about times of emptiness. Elijah, the woman, and her son kept going to the jar and it never ran out of food for them to survive. What would you want to fill your bowl that would never run out? (It could be physical or symbolic.) What kinds of things does God give us that never runs out?

### 6) Further Discussion—Back to the Story

If you have time, read the Bible verses and discuss the questions.

### 7) Pray and Bless

Take time if you can to ask for prayer requests and perhaps ways the group can pray for each other. This week ask kids where they need God to fill them up. Pray over and bless your kids.



## The Story of Our People

ELIJAH

1 Kings 17:7-24



GOD'S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE:

*“God gives life to the dead.” [Romans 4:17]*

Write or draw about things you liked or learned from the story. What surprised you? What do you wonder about?

### START WITH SHARING

- † Tell a story about the sickest you or someone you know has ever been.
- † What do imagine the mother was feeling as her son got sick and died? What caused Elijah to respond how he did?
- † When was a time that you feel like you had reached the end of your rope? What gave you hope?

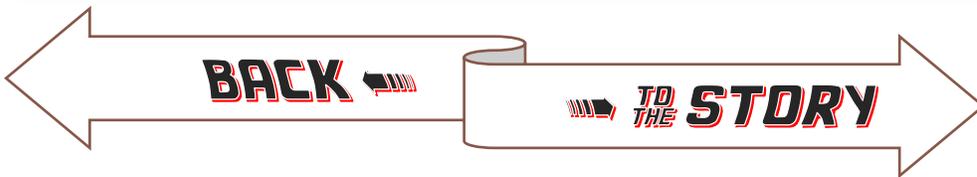
Blessings and Bruises; How were you with God today?  
How was God with you today? Questions? Wonderings?  
Write or draw here.



The Story of Our People

ELIJAH

1 Kings 17:7-24



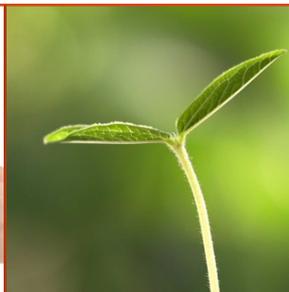
"There had been no rain in the land." [1 Kings 17:7]

- What part of your life feels dry, parched, or wilting right now?



"Would you bring me a little water?" [1 Kings 17:10]

- Do you have an easy or hard time asking for what you need? What's behind that?



"O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him." [1 Kings 17:21]

- Where do you need life to return for you?

Mold a bowl or jar out of clay. Elijah, the woman, and her son kept going to the jar and it never ran out of food for them to survive. What would you want to fill your bowl that would never run out? (It could be physical or symbolic.)

**You are a precious child of God! And we love you very much!**