

WEEK 1: God Meets Elijah's Needs

Big Idea: God cares about our needs.

HANGOUT

1. Discuss: What's the difference between something we want and something we need?
2. Using paper and markers, make a chart with "Wants" on one side and "Needs" on the other. Lead the group to brainstorm ideas for both columns.
3. Discuss:
 - Who takes care of your needs?
 - Do you help take care of anybody else's needs (e.g., a younger sibling or a pet)?
4. Introduce today's Big Idea: **God cares about our needs.**
5. Tell the kids about an age-appropriate example of a time when God cared for your needs.
6. Discuss: Can you think of a time when you sensed that God was taking care of the needs of you or your family? What happened?

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

7. Let everyone know that today's story is about the amazing way that God protected and cared for the needs of his prophet Elijah. Explain that a prophet is a person who speaks God's truth to others. We see in the Bible that people didn't always want to hear what God had to say, so they treated the prophets badly. God cared for Elijah as well as two other people in a miraculous way in the story. Encourage the kids to listen carefully for who else God helped.
8. Look up and read about when God met Elijah's needs in 1 Kings 16:29-33 and 17:1-16.
9. Discuss:
 - How did God protect Elijah from King Ahab? (told Elijah to hide by the brook in the Kerith Valley)
 - How did God care for Elijah's needs at the brook? (commanded ravens to bring meat and bread)
 - After the brook dried up, who did God instruct to feed Elijah? (a widow whose husband had passed away)
 - Why did she say that she couldn't help Elijah? (only had a handful of flour and a little oil)
 - How did God care for the needs of Elijah, the widow, and her son in an amazing way? (their flour and oil never ran out—no matter how much they used!)
 - What's your favourite part of the story? Why?

HUDDLE

10. Look up and read Philippians 4:19.
11. Discuss: According to this verse, how does God meet our needs? (through Jesus)
12. Ask the kids to think about any needs in their lives (big or small) or in the lives of their friends and family. Emphasize that God cares about every little part of our lives and we can talk to him about anything.
13. Hold a ball or a stuffed animal and pray, "Thank you, God, that you meet all our needs through Jesus. I lift up [hold up and toss the object to one of the kids as you describe your need] to you!" Prompt the person who catches the object to pray, "I lift up [describe need while holding up the object and tossing it to someone else] to you, God!" Continue to lift up and toss the object while praying until everyone who wants a turn has had one. Pray a blessing over the kids to wrap up your prayer time.
14. Play a fun game of "Keep It Up!" with the ball or stuffed animal. Challenge the kids to keep it in the air and not let it touch the floor.

Word Search

C E V Q O R A I G Q F X N G Z
K M W U E L Y U G X U H U V D
A Y I X S Y N U J Y K R I X W
C H D J Q R E P K Q S U O A Y
V W O O O N W O Q V C O Y S Z
E A W I Q E Y P M M R L A A X
Q V L V R D R L D E R F E X A
X F R P G O Y R R C A H F B Z
N V P L P W V U S Z I T D O G
M J A H J A Y N V J N F T W X
Y D E S H G E M E K A K H S K
V T Q A O V Q P R W Z K U N U
B X B G A U Z J T I C L X D T
U S B R E A D W S S Z L L Z N
V S P N I K T H A J I L E O D

**PROPHET
ELIJAH**

**AHAB
RAIN**

**RAVENS
MEAT**

**BREAD
WIDOW**

**FLOUR
OIL**