

SESSION 3

A Widow Helped Elijah

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Kings 17:1,8-16

LIFE POINT

People show love to God by obeying Him.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus always does what is right.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God helps me obey Him.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: February 16

BIBLE VERSE

We show love to God by obeying Him. 1 John 5:3 (*Paraphrase*)

For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands.

1 John 5:3 (*CSB*)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

1 John 5:3 (*KJV*)

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.

1 John 5:3 (*NIV*)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

1 John 5:3 (*ESV*)

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

1 John 5:3 (*NKJV*)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS

Huddle Ups (*optional*)

(*time varies*)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Bagging Groceries”—2 reusable grocery bags, assortment of grocery items (*real or pretend; real items may include empty food boxes, empty water bottles, and so on*), masking tape
- “A Widow Helped Elijah”—coloring supplies, coloring sheets
- “Is It Enough?”—2 sheets of paper, marker, tape

Countdown Video (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Worship Song (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (*5 minutes*)

Props: none

Miss Lindy’s Library

(*3-5 minutes*)

Props: none

Connection Point Game

(*10 minutes*)

Props: 8 cans of food, tape, paper, scissors, marker, hula hoop

Worship Song (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Bible Story (*10 minutes*)

Props: Bible, 2 small clear jars with lids, vegetable oil, flour

Worship Song and Offering

(*3 minutes*)

Props: reuse jars of flour and oil from the Bible story

Connection Point Bible Verse

(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions

(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

Real Life Connections

(*3-5 minutes*)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“Love God with All Your Heart”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Miss Lindy’s Library:**
Miss Lindy’s Library video
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“God We Love You”
- **Bible Story:** *Bible Story* and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions slide; “Launch Day” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections and *Life Point* slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➡ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➡ Tech: none
- ➡ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➡ Supplies (*for each small group*):
 - “Bagging Groceries”—2 reusable grocery bags, assortment of grocery items (*real or pretend; real items may include empty food boxes, empty water bottles, and so on*), masking tape
 - “A Widow Helped Elijah”—coloring supplies, coloring sheets
 - “Is It Enough?”—2 sheets of paper, marker, tape

BAGGING GROCERIES

Prep: Tape a start line to the floor. Pile the food containers several feet away from the start line.

- Guide kids to discuss foods they like to eat. Invite kids to tell how they help in the kitchen or grocery store.
- Suggest kids play a game to bag groceries.
- Form two teams. Guide each team to form a line behind the start line.
- Give the first person in each line a grocery bag. Explain that he must run to the pile of containers, put one in his grocery bag, and return to his team.
- Pass the grocery bag to the next player and continue the relay.
- Play until kids bag all of the groceries.
- Help teams count the number of items in each grocery bag. If your kids enjoy competition, declare the team with the most items as the winner.
- Mention that today's Bible story is about a woman who needed food. Explain that there had been no rain, and food would not grow! Tell kids there was not enough food for the people.

A WIDOW HELPED ELIJAH

Prep: Print a coloring sheet for each child.

- Tell preschoolers that today they will hear a Bible story about a woman who obeyed God by sharing her food with a man named Elijah.
- Distribute coloring supplies and coloring sheets to the preschoolers.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages while they wait for the session to begin.
- Suggest kids color on the backs of the pages if they prefer to use blank paper.

IS IT ENOUGH?

Prep: Draw a smiling face and write YES on a sheet of paper. Draw a sad face and write NO on a second sheet of paper. Tape the papers on opposite walls.

- Gather children in the center of the room.
- Invite kids to briefly retell the Bible story.
- Direct attention to the posters. Explain that you will ask a question, and each child should move to the poster that shows his answer. Tell kids that it is OK to choose an answer that is different from other children.
- Ask the following questions or make up your own. Guide kids to return to the center of the room before asking a new question.
 - Is one sandwich enough for lunch?
 - Are two shoes enough for your feet?
 - Is one hat enough for your head?
 - Are three beans enough for lunch?
 - Is one cookie enough for a snack?
 - Is one book enough for a library?
 - Did the woman in the Bible story think she had enough food to share? (*no*)
 - Did God help the woman have enough oil and flour to last many days? (*yes*)
- Remind kids that the woman in today's Bible story obeyed God and shared her little bit of food with Elijah. God helped the woman have enough food for many days.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Countdown video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Love God with All Your Heart” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Welcome to worship time! Let’s get ready to sing. Follow my directions. *(Give the following instructions and lead kids to obey them.)*

- Clap your hands three times.
- Sing: “La-la-la.”
- Stand straight and tall.

Great! You obeyed my instructions very well! I think we are ready to sing!

(Show the music video. Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Hi, everyone! I saw you following *(worship leader’s name)* instructions before we sang. Good job! Do you think it is easy or hard to obey instructions? *(Allow for responses.)*

Sometimes it is easy to obey! Other times, it is hard to obey. Maybe your mom tells you to put away your toys and get ready for bed. If you want to keep playing, it might be hard to do what your mom said.

It is important to obey God and your parents. How do we know what God wants us to do? *(Allow for responses.)* We can know how to obey God by reading His words in the Bible.

Listen as I say today’s Bible verse. It tells us about obeying God. After I say the verse, we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- We show love to God by obeying Him.
1 John 5:3 *(Paraphrase)*
- For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. 1 John 5:3 *(CSB)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(KJV)*
- In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. 1 John 5:3 *(NIV)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(ESV)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(NKJV)*

(Show Life Point Slide.)

People show love to God by obeying Him. Let’s say that together: **“People show love to God by obeying Him.”**

To *obey* means to do what you are told to do. What are some things God tells you to do? *(Allow for responses.)* God says to love Him, be kind to others, help people, and tell about Jesus. You show God you love Him when you do what He says.

Let's pray. We can thank God for giving us instructions in the Bible and ask Him to help us obey.

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You for giving us instructions so we can make good choices. Please help us obey You. We want to do what You say and show how much we love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

It's time to visit Miss Lindy at the library! Let's check in with her and find out what's happening today.

MISS LINDY'S LIBRARY

- ➡ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Miss Lindy's Library* video (optional)
- ➡ People: none
- ➡ Props: none

(Play the video.)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➡ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➡ People: Connection Point Leader, 8 kids
- ➡ Props: 8 cans of food, tape, paper, scissors, marker, hula hoop

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Cut the paper to make labels that wrap around each can. Write on each paper strip 1 word of today's Life Point: People show love to God by obeying Him. Tape a label to each can.*
- *Tape a start line to the floor. Place a hula hoop several feet away from the start line.*
- *Invite 8 kids to play. Form 2 teams.*
- *Guide each team to form a line behind the start line. Place 4 cans near each team.*
- *Explain that the first player in each line should choose a can, lay it on its side, and roll it to the hula hoop. The player should set the can inside the hula hoop, run back to his team, and tag the next player.*

- *Continue the relay until kids place all the cans inside the hula hoop.*
- *Declare the team that finishes first as the winner.*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

I'm ready for a game! Who would like to play?
(Choose eight kids. Form two teams. Guide each team to form a line behind the start line.)

Teams, you'll need to be fast to win today's game! Each team has four cans of food. *(Demonstrate as you give directions.)* When it is your turn, choose a can and lay it on its side. Roll the can all the way to the hula hoop and set it inside. You'll have to be careful! The can may not always go the direction you want it to go. You cannot pick it up until you set it inside the hula hoop.

After you set the can inside the hoop, hurry back to your team and tag the next player. We will play until you move all of the cans inside the hoop.

Does everyone understand how to play? *(Answer any questions and play the game.)*

Good game, teams! Let's take a closer look at these cans. *(Arrange the cans so they reveal the Life Point. Point to each can as you read the words. Lead kids to repeat the Life Point.)*

People show love to God by obeying Him. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about a woman who obeyed God even though it was hard.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➡ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➡ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➡ Music: "God We Love You" (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➡ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➡ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Let's practice following some more directions before we sing. (*Give the following directions and lead kids to respond.*)

- Touch your toes.
- Put your hands on your head.
- Cover your eyes with your hands.
- Put your hands on your hips.

Good job, everyone! I have one more instruction: "Sing your best!" Let's sing!

(*Show the music video.*)

(*Lead kids to sit as song ends.*)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus*, and *Bible Story* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, 2 small clear jars with lids, vegetable oil, flour

Option 1: Show the *Bible Story Time* video and conclude with a short prayer.

God, thank You for helping us obey You. Please help us make right choices and do the things you want us to do. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Option 2: Tell the following Bible story. Pour a sample of oil in one jar. Put some flour in the second jar. Seal the jars.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(*Show Bible Story slide.*)

Do you like to help in the kitchen? I do! Today I brought something from my kitchen to show you. (*Hold up the jars.*) I brought a jar of oil and a jar of flour. (*Refer to the jar of oil.*) Do you think the oil would taste very good by itself? (*Allow for responses.*) No way! That would not taste good at all! (*Refer to the jar of flour.*) What about the flour? (*Allow*

for responses.) No! That would be yucky! Oil and flour do not taste good by themselves. When we mix oil and flour with other ingredients, we can bake lots of yummy foods, like bread, muffins, cookies, or cake. (*Set jars aside.*)

I know a Bible story about oil and flour. Let's hear it!

(*Open Bible to 1 Kings 17.*)

Elijah was a prophet. A *prophet* is "a person who tells God's messages to people." Elijah told King Ahab that it would not rain for a few years. Food would not grow because there was no rain. Soon, there was not enough food for the people to eat. God told Elijah to go to Zarephath. God said a woman there would share her food with him.

Elijah obeyed God. He found the woman gathering wood at the city gate. Elijah called to the woman and asked her to bring him a cup of water. As she went to get it, Elijah asked for a piece of bread, too.

(*Read 1 Kings 17:12.*)

But she said, "... I don't have anything baked—only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare it for myself and my son"

The woman was worried. She did not know what she and her son would eat when the little bit of oil and flour was gone.

(*Read 1 Kings 17:13-14.*)

Then Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid ... for this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.'"

The woman used the oil and flour to make a small loaf of bread for Elijah. Then she baked bread for herself and her son. The flour and oil jars should have been empty, but they still had more oil and flour in them! The woman, Elijah, and the woman's son had food to eat for many days. The flour and oil jars did not become empty, just as God had said.

(*Close Bible.*)

Elijah and the woman both obeyed God. They did what God told them to do! It must have been hard for the woman to share her little bit of food with a man

she didn't know, but she trusted God. People show love to God by obeying Him.

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

Jesus always does what is right. When Jesus was on the earth, He never disobeyed God! He made right choices and did what God wanted Him to do.

You can obey God, too! Sometimes it is hard to obey, but God will help you. You can choose to be kind, obey your parents, and help others. Those are all great ways to obey God! Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him.

God, thank You for helping us obey You. Please help us make right choices and do the things you want us to do. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➡ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➡ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➡ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➡ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➡ Props: reuse jars of flour and oil from the Bible story

WORSHIP LEADER

(Show jars.) Is this enough flour and oil to feed the woman, her son, and Elijah for many days? *(Allow kids to respond.)* No, it is not! God did a miracle. A miracle is "something only God or Jesus can do." The woman's flour and oil lasted for days and days. They did not run out! Let's sing a praise song and worship God. He is amazing!

Optional Giving Segment:

God helps us obey Him. One way we show God we love Him is by giving an offering. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT

BIBLE VERSE

- ➡ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➡ People: Connection Point leader
- ➡ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the Bible verse. Lead preschoolers to say the verse after you.*
- *Ask the following questions to review and apply the Bible verse. Lead kids to say the Bible verse after they respond to each question:*
 - *Who kept the jars full of flour and oil? (God)*
 - *Did the woman obey God and share food with Elijah? (yes)*
 - *Does God want you to obey Him? (yes)*
- *Ask other questions and continue the activity as your time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- We show love to God by obeying Him.
1 John 5:3 *(Paraphrase)*
- For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. 1 John 5:3 *(CSB)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(KJV)*
- In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. 1 John 5:3 *(NIV)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(ESV)*
- For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. 1 John 5:3 *(NKJV)*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)

Do you remember today's Bible verse? Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Say the Bible verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

Great job, everyone! Let's talk some more about the Bible story and obeying God.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* slide, "Launch Day" missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide and play the "Launch Day" missions video immediately following the Connection Point Bible Verse activity.)

Did you notice that Zack's church met in a movie theater? People can learn about God and worship Him anywhere! Some people meet in a church building like ours. Other people meet at movie theaters, schools, or homes. Let's pray for Zack and his church.

God, thank You that Zack is helping people learn about Jesus! We pray that many people will go to Zack's church and hear how much You love them. Please help the people believe in You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides, microphone to take to individuals in group
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today we heard about a woman who obeyed God. Something exciting happened when she obeyed God. What was it? *(Allow kids to respond.)* That's

right! The woman's little bit of oil and flour lasted for days and days! It lasted until rain came, and food grew again.

What is a way you can obey God? *(Allow kids to respond.)* Help me count five ways people can obey God. *(Lead kids to count up on their fingers.)*

- One—Love God.
- Two—Obey parents.
- Three—Be kind.
- Four—Tell about Jesus.
- Five—Help others.

(Show Life Point Slide.)

People show love to God by obeying Him. Let's say that together: **"People show love to God by obeying Him."**

I'm glad you came to church today! Learning to obey God is important! Remember, you can ask God to help you obey Him this week. See you next time!

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*