



Thinking of You

GRACE God helps us understand grace.

Power Text

"So he did what the Lord had told him" (1 Kings 17:5, NIV).

Key Text and References

1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-128; student story on page 84 of this guide.

Objectives

The students will:

Know that God's daily care is evidence of His grace.

Feel happy that God cares for them everyday, all the time.

Respond by praising the Lord because they are always in His care.

Power Point



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sustains Elijah through the dry periods when there is no rain. Ravens bring food to Elijah every day, and he drinks from the brook at Cherith. But when the brook dries up, God again sustains Him through the kindness of the widow of Zarephath. Even though the widow has only enough to prepare her last meal with her son, she includes Elijah.

She has faith in Elijah who promises that her barrel of meal and oil will not run out until the time when God will send rain.

This is a lesson about grace.

These two incidents remind us of the powerful grace of God which overcomes all obstacles. God promises to save us by His grace, and gives us the faith to believe He has the power to keep His promises.

NINE

Program Notes			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Soap Sculpture</i> B. <i>Blind Tasting</i>	Shaving foam or hair mousse, paper plates, bucket of water or spray bottle, Bibles Food, blindfold, spoons, Bibles
* Prayer and Praise*	15-20	See page 81. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, art supplies
		Exploring the Bible	Bible, board, marker
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	<i>Needs and Solutions</i>	Sticky labels
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	<i>God's Grace Pattern</i>	Ball of yarn

Teacher Enrichment

"It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God's word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which

the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 121, 122).

What causes my faith to waver? Do I forget the way God has led me in the past? What will it take for me to bring my doubts to Him and go forward in faith?

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Ask if they composed a song of praise and if they would like to share it or anything else from their Bible study during the week.

Direct the students immediately to the Readiness Activity you have prepared.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. Soap Sculpture

You Need:

- shaving foam OR hair mousse
- paper plates
- bucket of water OR spray bottle
- Bibles

Give each member of the class a paper plate and two or three generous squirts of foam. Say: **Will you create a sculpture of something that you have difficulty with, something that is an obstacle in your life?** When the sculptures are finished ask as many as want to to share what their sculpture represents. Do not pressure anyone to share. As the students finish sharing, ask the students to either scrape their sculpture into a bucket of water or spray water on the sculptures using a spray bottle. The sculptures will disappear.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened?** (The "obstacle" disappeared when the water touched it.) **What can the foam represent? the water? What can make the obstacles in your life disappear like the soap disappeared in the water?**

Say: **God is always thinking about us and wants to care for us. He even gives us the faith to believe that He will care for us. In fact,**



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

When we trust in God's daily care for us, we can respond as Elijah did. Let's find and read what Elijah's response was in our power text, 1 Kings 17:5 (read the first part).

B. Blind Tasting

You Need:

- food
- blindfold
- spoons
- Bibles

Provide a selection of foods that the students should recognize, though you may wish to make some unusual combinations (or you could use baby food in jars with the labels removed). Ask for volunteers to go out of the room. Invite them in one by one and blindfold them. Ask them to choose a container and then give them a spoonful to taste. Ask: **Can you guess what the food is?**

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel about eating something you couldn't see?** (It took faith. Glad we can see what we are going to eat.) **Have you ever been**

in a position where you didn't know where your next bite of food was coming from?

Say: **God has promised that He will provide for us—that our bread and water will be sure. He is always thinking about us and wants to care for us. He even gives us the faith to believe that He will care for us. In fact,**



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

When we trust in God's daily care for us, we can respond as Elijah did. Let's find and read what Elijah's response was in our power text, 1 Kings 17:5 (read the first part).

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He Has Shown Thee (Micah 6:8)" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 125)

"He Will Carry You" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 82)

"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 100)

Prayer

You Need:

- two jugs
- water
- pan (to catch water)
- paper

Fill a jug to overflowing. Say: **The water in this jug is what God's grace is like. It fills our life, and when we think we can't take any more God gives us more.** Give each student a small piece of paper. Ask them to write on it something they are thankful to God for providing for them. They can then float their paper on the top of the water in the pan. Pray, thanking God for His overflowing grace.

Mission

Use *Teen Mission* or other mission report available to you.

Offering

Make an offering box with a rainbow on it. This week, and each of the next three weeks, talk about a different color and what that color represents. You may want to sing one verse of "The Coloring Song" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 61). Ask: **How does this color reflect God's grace? Let's thank God for His grace by sharing with others what He has provided for us.**

You Need:

- rainbow box
- *He Is Our Song*

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Imagine that you have been saving some special candy, just eating one every once in a while. You ask your friend if they would like to try one. When you go to the tin there is just one left. What would you do? How would you feel?**

Say: **For the widow in our story today it was much more than sharing her last candy. Elijah asked her to share her last bit of food. How would you have felt if someone you didn't know asked you to do that?**

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- Bibles
- art supplies

Divide the students into two groups. Give one group 1 Kings 17:1-6 and the other 1 Kings 17:7-16. Ask each group to read their verses and then find ways to represent their half of the story to the rest of the class. They may want to read it, mime it, sing it, or make a poster. If the two groups are large, they may want to subdivide, working on different presentations of the story.

Allow time for creation, presentation, and a review of all the events of 1 Kings 17:1-16.

Reinforce the power point:



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

Also, point out Elijah's response to this truth—the power text, "So he did what the

Lord had told him" (1 Kings 17:5, NIV).

Bible Exploration

Beforehand, write the texts on the board.

Say: **Let's review some of the instances in which people were in diffi-**

You Need:

- Bibles
- board and marker

culty and God's grace provided a way out for them. Divide the students into five groups and give one text to each group. Have them report the situation and the people who were involved in it.

1. Genesis 22:1-13 (Abraham is asked to sacrifice Isaac).
2. Daniel 1:8-20 (Daniel and the king's food).
3. Daniel 3:1-30 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace).
4. 2 Kings 5:1-19 (Naaman with leprosy).
5. Acts 12:1-17 (Peter in prison).

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think each of these people learned from their experience?**



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

In what ways did each of them respond as Elijah did in our power text? (They did what the Lord told them to do.)

3

Applying the Lesson

Needs and Solutions

Beforehand make a list of needs and solutions, i.e. Hunger—Food, Loneliness—Friendship, Homelessness—Shelter, Thirst—Water, Threadbare Clothes—Adequate Clothes, Debts—Money, Sickness—Health, etc. Write each item on a sticky label and stick one label on the back of each student. (Repeat your final list as often as you need so that you have a label for each student.)

Say: **On your label is a need or a solution. You may ask only one question to one person at a time. You are trying to find out (1) what**

you are, and then (2) who your partner is. When you have found your partner, think of a way that you personally can be a channel of God's grace to people in that situation. Also think of how you can rely on God's grace to supply your needs as you share.

You Need:

- sticky labels

Debriefing

Ask each pair to say who they are and how they can be a channel of God's grace.



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

4

Sharing the Lesson

God's Grace Pattern

You Need:

- ball of yarn

Stand in a circle. Begin with a ball of yarn. Hold onto the end and throw it randomly to another member of the group. The first person to catch the yarn says,



God's daily care teaches us to trust in His grace.

Ask them then to name a way God shows His care for them personally. Then, holding onto the yarn, that person throws the ball to another person in the circle, who responds with "SO I WILL DO WHAT HE

TELLS ME." Ask that person also to name a way God shows His care for them personally. Again, the person holds on to the yarn, but throws the ball to another person, who repeats the power point, and names a way God shows His care for them personally. Continue alternating the sayings, and each sharing an example of God's grace in their lives. Stop the exercise when an attractive pattern has been formed by the yarn and nearly everyone has had a chance to share.

Say: **What a nice pattern. When we trust God's grace in our lives, it makes all things beautiful, just like our pattern.**

Closing

Say: **Dear Father, we praise You that Your grace is big enough to cope with everything in our lives; help us to respond by trusting You enough to do what You ask. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Thinking of You

Key Text

1 Kings 17:1-16

Power Text

“So he did what the Lord had told him” (1 Kings 17:5, NIV).

Power Point

God's
daily care
teaches us to
trust in
His grace.

What is the longest time you can remember without rain? A week? A month? A couple months? A year? Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like if no rain came for three years. That is just the situation that the people of Israel were in.

Elijah stepped out of his small home. His heart ached. The beauty of the woods, the rolling hills of the mountains of Gilead could not bring him peace. Elijah grieved because the people of Israel, his people, had rejected God. In the nearly 100 years since the reign of King David the Hebrew people had been led by their kings into idol worship. Now they actually believed that heathen gods like Baal gave them all the blessings of life.

One night Elijah heard from God. “Elijah.”

“Yes, God.”

“Elijah, I want you to go to King Ahab with a message.”

“Yes, God.” Elijah didn’t hesitate to do what God asked him to do. Traveling night and day, he walked from his home east of the Jordan River to Samaria. He walked through the beautiful countryside until he reached the capital city.

At the palace of King Ahab, Elijah didn’t ask permission to see the king. He walked past the guards on duty straight into the throne room and stood before an astonished Ahab. Raising his hand above his head he said, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be no dew or rain in the next few years until I say so.”

Before King Ahab could rise from his throne and shout “Stop that man,” Elijah was gone.

God told Elijah to go back east of the Jordan River and hide in the Kerith Ravine. Elijah knew the place. Immediately he set out for this hiding place.

The priests of Baal continued to offer sacrifices asking Baal to take care of the

land. No one worried until several months had passed without rain. A year passed. The grass shriveled. The trees stood barren without fruit, without leaves. Many streams had dried completely. In the idol groves, surrounded by their leafless trees, the priests of Baal continued to burn sacrifices begging Baal to send rain again.

Ahab searched for the prophet who had visited him. He sent messengers to surrounding nations asking, “Do you know where the man of God is?” He sent his soldiers to every town and village to search for him. But no one could find Elijah. He was safely hidden at the Brook Kerith.

Day after day Elijah watched the plants wither and die. He watched the brook become a trickle of water. Morning and evening black ravens carried food to him. How surprised Elijah must have been the first time they appeared with bread in their beaks and dropped it into his hands. How awed Elijah must have felt at this miracle that kept him supplied with food. Every day Elijah praised God for His care.

Eventually the brook dried up completely. Then God said, “Go to Zarephath. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food.” Immediately Elijah traveled to Zarephath, a small town in Phoenicia near the Mediterranean Sea. Coming near the town, Elijah saw a woman collecting sticks. He knew that she was gathering wood to build a cooking fire. Elijah stopped near her and said, “Please bring me a drink of water.” As she turned to

go get him a drink, Elijah said, "Please bring me a piece of bread, too."

The woman stood up straight and looked into Elijah's face. Somehow she recognized that he believed in Jehovah God. "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she said, "I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour and a little oil. I'm collecting sticks to build a fire to cook this last bit of food for my son and myself. Then we will die."

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. Go home. Make me some bread for me to eat first. Then make some for your son and yourself, because God has promised that the flour and oil will not run out until the day He sends rain."

And that's exactly what happened. Every single day for the rest of the three-year famine, the widow used all the flour and oil in her containers to make bread. Every single day, by God's grace, her containers had just enough flour and oil to use for that day.

Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 66.

Sunday

- Read "Thinking of You."
- Draw or make a bird. Write the power text on it and hang it up to remind you of the ravens that fed Elijah.
- Begin to learn the power text.
- Pray that God will open your eyes to His grace in your life.

Monday

- Read 1 Kings 17:1-6.
- Fetch some water from the tap and drink it.
- Imagine what it would be like to drink it straight from the river. Have you ever done that?
- Find out where the water in your town comes from.
- Thank God for His grace, which flows like water in your life.

Tuesday

- Read 1 Kings 17:7-16.
- On a Bible map find the Jordan River. Imagine Elijah walking to King Ahab, then to the Kerith Ravine, then to Zarephath.
- How far do you live from a river?
- What ways does God use at present to provide food and daily necessities to you?
- Review the power text.

- Ask God to help you be willing to trust Him, and be willing to do what He asks.

Wednesday

- In your Bible study journal, list all the stories you can think of in which God's grace provided simple, everyday needs miraculously.
- Use a concordance and see how many times a raven is mentioned in the Bible. Find out what a raven's normal diet is.
- Walk around the neighborhood and see how many different kinds of birds you can see.
- Thank God for all the blessings He has provided through nature.

Thursday

- In your Bible study journal, list all the Bible stories you can think of that involve bread.
- Bake some bread, share some with a friend, and tell them the story of Elijah.
- Write a song or verse about Elijah and his experiences.
- Thank God for providing your daily needs and being the Bread of Life.

Friday

- Read 1 Kings 17:1-16.
- Act out the story with your family for worship.
- Share your song or verse with your family.
- Thank God for providing for your family.