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Thinking of You

Key References: 1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 9, pp. 119-128; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 12-25; Our Beliefs, nos. 18, 11, 3















powertext

"So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there" (1 Kings 17:5).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 18.

powerpoint

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 of 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 facing in the days of Elijah the prophet.

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.

One night Elijah heard from God.

"Elijah."

"Yes, Lord."

"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,

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Sunday

READ Read 1 Kings 17:5 and this week's story, "Thinking of You."

DRAW Draw or make a bird. Write the power text, 1 Kings 17:5, on it and hang it up to remind you of the ravens that fed Elijah.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask God to open your eyes to His grace.

Monday

READ Read 1 Kings 17:1-6.

THINK God told Elijah where to go when he was running away from King Ahab. How could you make decisions when you cannot hear God's voice speaking clearly to you?

WRITE Make a list of ways that could guide you in finding God's will for your life.

PRAY Thank God for always providing for your needs.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Kings 17:7-16.

FIND On a Bible map, find the Jordan River. Imagine Elijah walking to King Ahab, then to the Kerith Ravine, then to Zarephath.

RESEARCH Look on a map of your town and find the water sources.

THINK What ways does God use at present to provide food and daily necessities to you?

REVIEW Review the power text.

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

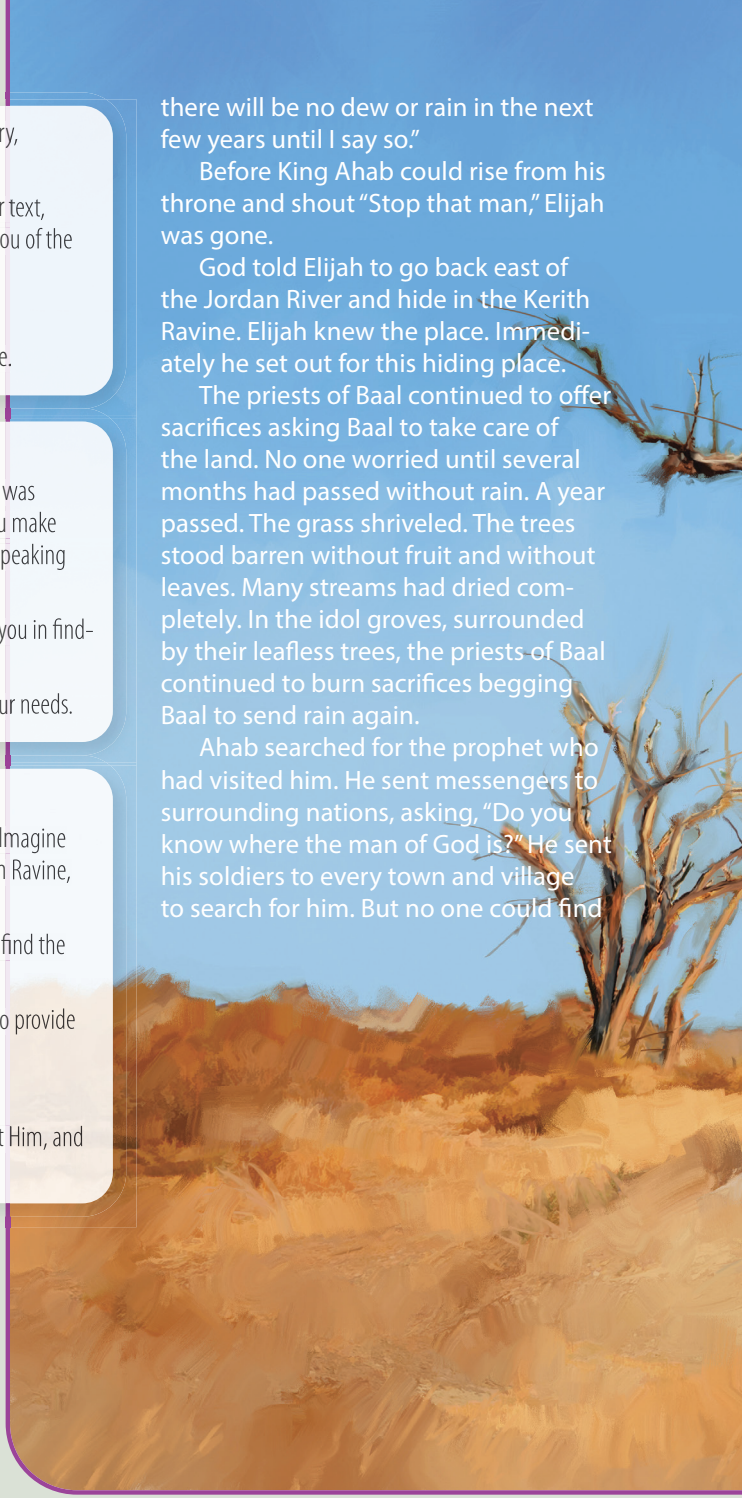
there will be no dew or rain in the next few years until I say so."

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 and 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





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Wednesday

READ Read Luke 4:25, 26.

LIST In your Bible study journal,* list stories in which God provided simple, everyday needs miraculously.

RESEARCH Use a concordance and see how many times a raven is mentioned in the Bible. Find out what a raven's normal diet is.

MAKE Bake some bread, share some with a friend, and tell them the story of Elijah.

PRAY Thank God for all the blessings He has provided through nature.

Thursday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list all the Bible stories you can think of that involve bread.

WRITE Write a song or verse about Elijah and his experiences.

PRAY Thank God for providing your daily needs and being the Bread of Life.

Friday

READ Read 1 Kings 17:1-16.

SHARE Talk about God's miraculous deeds in your life.

PRESENT Share your song or verse with your family.

PRAY Thank God for providing for your family.

*Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your *PowerPoints* Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps to engrain them in your mind.

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. Each 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 at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed 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

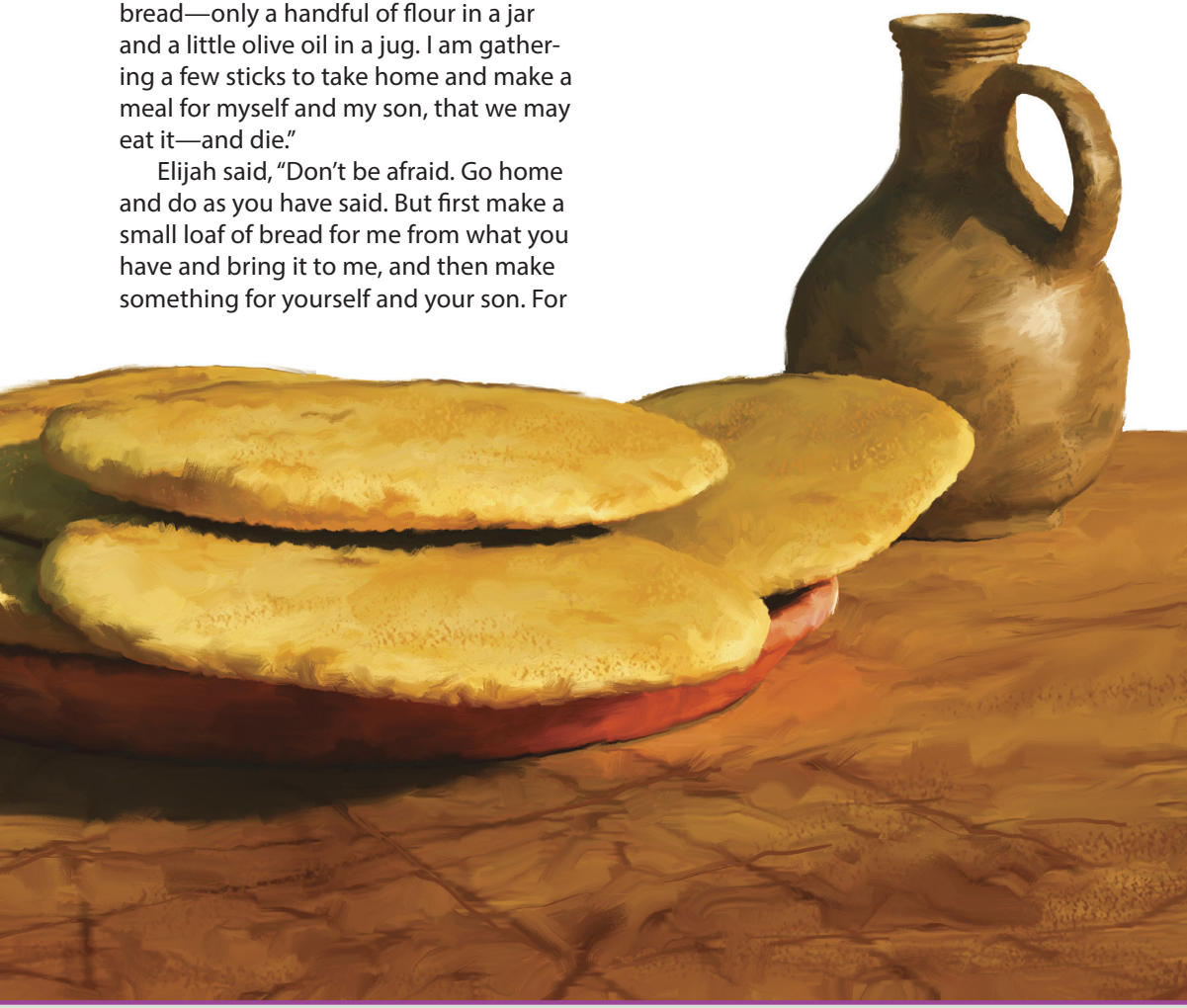


saw a woman collecting sticks. He knew that she was gathering wood to build a cooking fire. Elijah stopped near her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she turned to go get him water, Elijah said, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

The woman stood up straight and looked into Elijah's face. Somehow she must have recognized that he believed in Jehovah God. "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she said, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land'" (see 1 Kings 17:9-14).

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.



PUZZLE 1

WE SHALL OVERCOME

Instructions: Circle the word WORLD as many times as it appears in the puzzle. It may appear forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally. The leftover letters spell a Bible verse about God's grace.

W B U T D T A K W
W O R L D L R O W
E H R E A R R T I
H O A L D L V E O
W V E L D L R C O
M E R T H E R W O
W O R L D L R O W
W O R L D R L D W