

1

Thinking of You

Grace in Action
God helps us understand grace.

POWER TEXT

"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).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 17:1-16
- *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 9, pp. 119-128
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 12-25
- student story on page 22 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 3, The Father

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.

POWERPOINT

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

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 Kerith. 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.

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,* p. 121).

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?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. 

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Foam Figures*	Bibles, shaving foam or hair mousse, paper plates, bucket of water or spray bottle
		B. Blind Tasting	Bibles, fruits, blindfold, spoons
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, rainbow box for offering, world map, pushpins, two jugs, water, pan, paper, pencils, letter to parents (p. 154)
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, art supplies
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Needs and Solutions*	sticky labels
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*God's Grace Works Like a Pattern*	ball of yarn
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:

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

Foam Figures

Give each member of the class a paper plate and two or three generous squirts of foam. Ask: **Will you create a representation of something that you have difficulty with, something that is an obstacle in your life?** Ask students who finish early to collect the materials and help with the clean-up. Invite as many as want to share what their figures represent. Do not pressure anyone to share. As the students finish sharing, ask the students to either scrape their foam shapes into a bucket of water or spray water on the shapes, using a spray bottle. The foam figures will disappear.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened?** (The foam figures disappeared when the water touched them.) **What can the foam represent? What can the water represent? What can make the obstacles in your life disappear like the foam 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, 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:**

"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).

Say: **Now let's repeat the power point together:**

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

Accommodations for students with special needs: Ask those students who cannot complete the activity for whatever reason to observe the other students and participate actively in the debriefing.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ fruits
- ☐ blindfold
- ☐ spoons

Blind Tasting

Notice to Teachers—Allergies: For this activity be aware of food allergies that students may have and choose only food items that all students could eat without developing an allergic reaction.

Provide a selection of fruits 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, 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:**

"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).

Say: **Now let's repeat the power point together:**

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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 Will Carry You" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 82)
"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 100)
"The Coloring Song" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 61)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission stories take place throughout the quarter.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ rainbow box
- ☐ letter to parents

Make an offering box with a rainbow on it. Say: **Let's thank God for His grace by sharing with others what He has provided for us**. At the beginning of the quarter send a letter to the parents, informing them of the mission projects for this quarter and the offering that is taken up each week in Sabbath School (see letter to parents on p. 154).

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ two jugs
- ☐ water
- ☐ pan (to catch water)
- ☐ paper, pencils

Fill a jug to overflowing. Say: **Just as the water fills this jug, so God's grace fills our life.** 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.

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

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Imagine that you have been saving some special candy/other treat, 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 piece of candy/treat. 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?**

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

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ art supplies

Experiencing the Story

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.

Point out Elijah's response to this truth—the power text,

"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).

Accommodations for students with special needs: Allow students with special needs to make their contribution to the activity based on their strengths and skills while the other group members complete the tasks that pose difficulty for the students with special needs.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ white/chalkboard
- □ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Beforehand, write the texts on the board. Say: **Let's review some of the instances in which people were in difficulty 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? In what ways did each of them respond as Elijah did in our power text?** (They did what the Lord told them to do.)

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Accommodations for students with special needs:
Students with impaired vision or with learning disabilities will benefit from having the list of questions and texts in front of them. Allow these students to sit near the board or prepare for them in advance handouts with the above list of questions and texts.

YOU NEED:
- □ sticky labels

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.**

Debriefing

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

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4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ball of yarn

God's Grace Works Like a Pattern

Stand in a circle. Begin with a ball of yarn. Hold on to 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 to name a way God shows His care for them personally. Then, holding on to the yarn, that person throws the ball to another person in the circle, who responds with "SO I WILL TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE." 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 having each share an example of God's grace in their lives. Stop the exercise when an attractive pattern has been formed by the yarn and everyone who wishes 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.**

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Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

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.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Fire from heaven! God uses circumstances to turn our hearts toward Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

Thinking of You

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 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, 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 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.

KEY REFERENCES

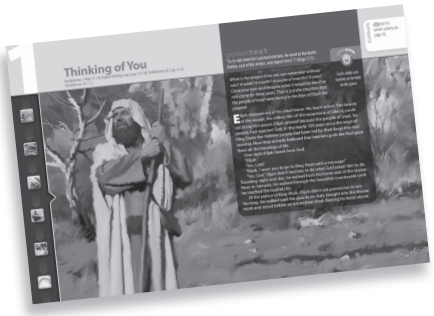
- 1 Kings 17:1-16
- *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 9, pp. 119-128
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 12-25
- Our Beliefs, nos. 18, 11, 3

POWER TEXT

"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).

POWER POINT

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







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 18.

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.

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.