

The Widow of Zarapeth

Storyteller: *Cradle Elijah in your hands, and hold him out to the children.* When the Children of Israel entered the promised land, they asked God to give them a King. Some kings did good and the people were blessed by God; and some kings did evil and the people suffered. King Ahab did more evil than all the kings before him.

1 Kings 17:8-24

The Lord told Elijah, 9 “Go to the town of Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I’ve told a widow in that town to give you food.”

When Elijah came near the town gate of Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire. “Would you please bring me a cup of water?” he asked. As she left to get it, he asked, “Would you also please bring me a piece of bread?”

The widow answered, “In the name of the living Lord your God, I swear that I don’t have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil. I’m on my way home now with these few sticks to cook what I have for my son and me. After that, we will starve to death.”

Elijah said, “Everything will be fine. Do what you said. Go home and fix something for you and your son. But first, please make a small piece of bread and bring it to me. The Lord God of Israel has promised that your jar of flour won’t run out and your bottle of oil won’t dry up before he sends rain for the crops.”

The widow went home and did exactly what Elijah had told her. She and Elijah and her family had enough food for a long time. The Lord kept the promise that his prophet Elijah had made, and she did not run out of flour or oil.

The LORD sent prophets to remind the kings and the people to do right and to keep God's Law. One of the greatest prophets was Elijah.

In the time of Elijah, the Lord sent a drought and famine on the land to punish King Ahab. The Lord told Elijah “Go to the town of Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I’ve told a widow in that town to give you food.”

Move Elijah some distance as if walking along. Hold him there, and with your other hand hold the Widow out for the children to see. When Elijah came near the town gate of Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire. “Would you please bring me a cup of water?” he asked. *Set the widow down and walk her away from Elijah.* As she left to get it, he asked, “Would you also please bring me a piece of bread?”

Turn the widow back to Elijah. The widow answered, “In the name of the living LORD your God, I swear that I don’t have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil. I’m on my way home now with these few sticks to cook what I have for my son and me. After that, we will starve to death.”

Elijah said, “Everything will be fine. Do what you said. Go home and fix something for you and your son. But first, please make a small piece of bread and bring it to me. The LORD God of Israel has promised that your jar of flour won’t run out and your bottle of oil won’t dry up before he sends rain for the crops.”

Move the widow over to the side, and show the children the flour-jar and the oil jug. The widow went home and did exactly what Elijah had told her. *Move the widow back beside Elijah, and then set the flour jar and jug down in front of them.* She and Elijah and her family

Story Materials

- Dolls
- Elijah
- Widow
- Jar of flour
- Jug for water

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

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