

Breakfast With the Birds

1 Kings 17:1-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-128

Have you ever watched birds eating? What do they eat? If God told you that birds would bring your food, what would you expect? Bird seed? Worms? Some fruit? A long time ago God sent birds to feed a man. Elijah's bird story is about trusting God—always.

Long ago wicked King Ahab ruled the land of Israel. Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any other king (1 Kings 16:30). King Ahab and his queen, Jezebel,

worshipped idols. They led all of Israel to worship idols too. They encouraged the people to disobey the Lord's commands. Jezebel and the prophets of Baal boldly killed the Lord's prophets.

God had a prophet whose name was Elijah. He was from Tishbe, in the land of Gilead, on the other side of the Jordan River. Elijah served God and taught others to worship Him. God was troubled by the idol worship he saw in the land. He knew it encouraged wickedness in Israel.



The Message

God knows my needs;
He cares about me.

Memory Verse

"I am your God. I will
strengthen you and help
you"

(Isaiah 41:10).

The priests of Baal taught the people that Baal sent the rain and dew. They believed Baal also controlled the rivers and streams. Elijah knew that it was God who controlled nature and not Baal. God asked Elijah to deliver a message to King Ahab.

Elijah knew that Ahab didn't want a message from the Lord. He knew, too, that the palace guards would recognize him as a prophet of God. They might try to arrest him. They might even turn Elijah over to Jezebel and her wicked priests of Baal. But in spite of the dangers, Elijah didn't hesitate. He went to Samaria and, without stopping for the guards, marched right into the palace. He walked right up to the king and delivered God's message.

"As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word," Elijah proclaimed. And then he quickly turned and left.

Elijah was not alone when he marched in to see Ahab. Without God's protection he surely would have been stopped by the guards and put to death. But God was with him when he went in. And God was with him as he left.

"Leave here, at once," God told Elijah. "Go eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine. You will find water in the brook there. And I have ordered the ravens to feed you."

And that's exactly what happened. Elijah found a safe, quiet place on a hillside above the brook. Every morning and evening the birds brought food to Elijah. And for many months, Elijah drank water from the brook. As long as the brook flowed, he had water to drink.

Elijah felt safe in God's care. Every time the ravens swooped down, bringing food, Elijah knew that God was giving him the gift of life. And Elijah knew that his life was precious to God.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go to a quiet stream with your family and read the Bible lesson together. Ask: What do ravens look like? Take some bird seed for the birds with you. Thank God for birds.

READ Read the memory verse in Isaiah 41:10.

SING Sing together "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, no. 13)

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, discuss: What kind of person was King Ahab? Read 1 Kings 16:33. Why do you think Elijah needed to hide after giving the king God's message?

DO Play hide-and-seek with your family. Pretend that the person who is "it" is King Ahab or Jezebel. Describe how Elijah hid from the real Ahab and Jezebel. Why couldn't they find him?

DO Cut memory verse words from a magazine or newspaper. Glue them in the right order to a piece of paper. Read the verse aloud.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO During family worship, look at a Bible map that shows Samaria and Kerith Ravine (Cherith Brook). How far might Elijah have traveled before reaching Kerith Ravine? How do you think he felt by this time? Make a picture to show Kerith Ravine and Elijah.

READ Read 1 Kings 17:6. Imagine Elijah drinking from the brook and getting food from the ravens. Talk about the ways God takes care of your family.

DO Say your memory verse together.

S U N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read 1 Kings 17:1-6. Talk about a bad time in your family, and how God cared for all of you.

DO Read your memory verse together. What two things does your memory verse say that God has done or will do for you? Write them here:

1. _____

2. _____

T U E S D A Y

DO During worship ask your family: Have you ever been in a dangerous situation? How did you feel? How do you think Elijah felt? Read Jeremiah 1:19 together.

DO Write the name of someone you know about who is in danger: _____ . With your family, pray for that person. Say or read the memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "You Are My Hiding Place" (He Is Our Song, no. 96). Then thank God for protecting your family.



THURSDAY

DO For family worship, sit in a circle. Tell your family to take off their shoes without bending their elbows. Give them a minute to try. Then choose partners to help each other remove their shoes. What was different this time? Why do we need God's help? Read Psalm 46:1 together. Plan to do something to help someone else today.

DO Say the memory verse out loud, taking one step for each word. How far did you go?

The name Elijah means "Jehovah is my God." All his life Elijah fought for God against Baal.



FRIDAY

SHARE Ask a family member to read Elijah's story (1 Kings 17:1-6) while you act it out.

DO Say the memory verse with your family.

SING Sing a song about God's love for you.

DO Ask each family member to tell how God took care of them this week. Then thank God for His care.

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the letter wheel to find out how Elijah received his food for many months. Start in the center of the wheel and follow the direction of the arrows to identify the letters.

