

SPARKS

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear the story of how a widow shared her oil with Elijah and it multiplied helping them learn how sharing can be the most amazing thing.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: That God cares for us and will give us what we need.

10:50am Free Play: Some time to play before beginning the main session.

11:15 Tidy Up Time: In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.

11:20 Story + Snack:

Ask the children about sharing. Is it easy?

Ask them what their favourite toy is and if they would let others play with it?

Tell the children that it is hard to share especially when we love what we have. But if we do share then kindness, goodness and love grows!!

TELL THE STORY: Elijah and the widow's oil

As you tell the story add in some actions or sound effects to make it more interesting for the children to listen to. Alternatively use some figures to act out the story in front of them.

There once was a man called Elijah who was a man who loved God. He one day walked to a town called Zarephath. When he got there he was a widow, a lady without a husband to look after her and she was getting some wood for a fire.

He asked her "please bring me some water and some bread."

But the widow replied "I'm sorry I don't have any bread, I only have a little flour and tiny amount of oil."

Elijah replied and said "don't worry! Go home and use what you have to make me a small loaf of bread and bring it to me. Then you will see there will still be enough for you and your son. In fact the jar will never run dry until it rains again." The widow went home and it was all true. She made first some bread for Elijah and then some for herself and she no longer went hungry!

11:40 Pray together:

Ask the children if there is anyone they would like to pray for?

See if they can name someone they love who they would like to pray for.

But also ask if there is anyone else who they want to pray for maybe a country who needs God's help?

11:30 Craft: JARS to paint with oil

Each child gets a jar cut out. Then using the small pot of oil they can paint using the brushes or their fingers to add oil to their jars.

As they do so, remind them of the story and how God took a little oil and made it into lots and lots of oil.



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Once finished allow it to dry and then stick onto a card and write on the top 'God takes care of me' or just 'God cares for me'. Remind the children that God provided for the poor widow and gave her lots of oil to help make bread so that she wouldn't go hungry but also so that she had enough to give away to others like Elijah too.

11:50 Songs: Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.

FLAMES + BLAZE

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear the story of Elijah and the widow and how by sharing her oil with Elijah this meant it multiplied.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to think about how what they give could also be multiplied.

11:00am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.

Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!

11:15 GROUP TIME

Sit as a group and ask: How are you doing?

Ask the children what the best thing that has happened this week.

See if the children can remember what we are learning at the moment and what stories about generosity they have looked at or memory verses they have learnt!

- Widow's Mite (Luke 21v1-4)
- Feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6v30-44)
- God loves the person who gives happily. 2 Corinthians 9v7b
- Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from God who never changes. James 1v17

Tell the children that today we are thinking about how when people give their generosity can grow and grow and grow into something bigger!

11:30 BIBLE + Snack

READ : Elijah and the widow's oil - 1 Kings 17:7-16

After a while the brook dried up because there was no rain. Then the Lord spoke his word to Elijah, "Go to Zarephath in Sidon. Live there. I have commanded a widow there to take care of you."

So Elijah went to Zarephath. When he reached the town gate, he saw a widow there. She was gathering wood for a fire. Elijah asked her, "Would you bring me a little water in a cup? I would like to have a drink." As she was going to get his water, Elijah said, "Please bring me a piece of bread, too."

The woman answered, "As surely as the Lord your God lives, I tell you the truth. I have no bread. I have only a handful of flour in a jar. And I have only a little olive oil in a jug. I came here to gather some wood. I will take it home and cook our last meal. My son and I will eat it and then die from hunger."

Elijah said to her, "Don't worry. Go home and cook your food as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread from the flour you have. Bring it to me. Then cook something for yourself and your son. The Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'That jar of flour will never become empty. The jug will always have oil in it. This will continue until the day the Lord sends rain to the land.'"

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So the woman went home. And she did what Elijah told her to do. So Elijah, the woman and her son had enough food every day. The jar of flour and the jug of oil were never empty. This happened just as the Lord, through Elijah, said it would.

Ask the children what they think of the story and explain to them that blessings and generosity grow. It was amazing that the lady gave away what she needed first and then trusted that God would provide and bless her by generously giving away the bread.

We need to trust God that he will keep providing for us as a church but we also need to play our part in this.

We want to keep growing what we have raised for Ukraine and our new building and so will do another sale after the morning service.

There is also still the option to raise money through sponsorship. There are sheets available. They could do a sponsored run or see how many hoops you can make with a basketball. Or do a sponsored dance.

Whatever talent you have, think about how you can use it to raise money for our building. Tell the children that they shouldn't ask their parents but other family members or family friends to sponsor you instead as your parents might be already giving money to church.

Explain to them that after church today we will be selling our crafts.

After the service head down to the stalls by the back entrance and sell the items (they each only need to be a couple of pounds at most)

11:45 CRAFT: *To make more items to sell.*

They can finish off the wooden circles. Some have been painted but just need words or bible verses added.

Alternatively they can make cards or use the clay available to make little figures to sell.