

A stylized illustration of a white dog with black ears and a purple bow tie, sitting in a red biplane. The background is a yellow oval with a forest scene, set against a purple sky.

[illegible]

leader bible study

After King Solomon died, the tribes of Israel split into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Jeroboam was the king of Israel, and Solomon's son Rehoboam was the king of Judah. These two kingdoms were frequently at war with each other, and they rotated through mostly evil kings for decades. Ahab was the king of Israel when the prophet Elijah came to him.

The name *Elijah* means "My God is Yahweh." We don't know anything about Elijah's background or family, but God chose Elijah (and later the prophet Elisha) to warn the Israelites of their future destruction. For years, God sent prophets to warn His people about the consequences their sin would bring. He wanted them to turn back to Him, but they would not.

Three significant events occur in 1 Kings 17. First, Elijah announced a drought in the land of Israel. Evil King Ahab and his wife Jezebel encouraged Baal worship, so the drought was punishment for Israel's idolatry—according to the law of God. (Deut. 11:16-17) God provided for Elijah during the drought.

Second, Elijah visited a widow. God promised that the widow would provide for him. Lack of rain caused a famine in the land. God provided food for the widow and her son. Elijah stayed with the widow for two years.

Third, Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead. Elijah asked God to bring the boy back to life, and God did. The woman believed that Elijah was a man of God and that his words from God were true.

Help kids connect this story to Jesus. God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow's son. Many years later, God miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Elijah. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him.



Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!



There are many stories- both from scripture and after the Bible was written- about people who find themselves in wild situations! Oftentimes people face fear, uncertainty, and confusion in these places and feel like they can't get out of it alone. We are going to look at some people and their stories and see how they trusted in the Lord to get them through.

We can trust the Lord in a wild world!

Grace Airways True North Content in Children's Ministry will focus on "wild stories" in the Bible and some Missionary highlights to continue our VBS theme of trusting in the Lord.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 100 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 7th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

Aug 9th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 24th Film Summer Psalm & All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Sept 7th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

We can trust in the Lord in a Wild World



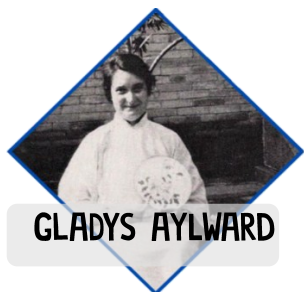
NOAH & THE ARK



PATRICK OF IRELAND



BATTLE OF JERICO



GLADYS AYLWARD



DEBORAH



DAVID & GOLIATH



LILLIAN TRASHER



KING JOSIAH



CORRIE TEN BOOM



DANIEL & THE LIONS



JOHN GASANGWA



ELIJAH & THE WIDOW

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Pick up expected to begin at 11:40



10 min

Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

- Prompt kids to share ways that God provides. How does He provide for your church, for your families, for kids as individuals? Encourage the kids to thank God for who He is and what He does.

Big Picture Question

Throughout our time together, we are focusing on the big picture question: **Why can I trust the Lord in every situation?**

I can trust in the Lord because I know His character and He is God.

Key Passage

Our key passage helps answer the BPQ!

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 24th

³ **Know that the Lord is God.**

It is he who made us, and **we are his**;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁵ **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;**
his **faithfulness continues** through all generations.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

- The kingdom of Israel had just recently split in two. There were a lot of bad kings and some good ones. The Northern Kingdom, also known as Israel, had one bad king after another. One particularly bad king was a man named Ahab. He was so bad that God sent a prophet named Elijah to announce that there would be drought and famine for years!
- Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min

Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **1 Kings 17**. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story.

During a drought, no rain means no water to drink for people or animals, and no water to grow crops. No rain means no food, especially for someone like the widow who likely didn't have money to buy food brought in from other countries. This was a very scary time. The widow explained to Elijah that she was preparing her last meal before she expected to die. But God had a special plan for her that would bring Him glory.

Through her willingness to obey Elijah's words and sacrifice part of her last meal for Elijah, God brought blessing beyond what she could ever imagine! **God provided in miraculous ways.** Throughout the drought, the widow's flour and oil never ran out. And when her son died, God worked through Elijah to bring him back to life.

Remember, Elijah and the widow were surrounded by suffering because the people did not obey God's commands; but Elijah, the widow, and her son experienced God's blessings. They were willing to obey. Don't you think people around them probably noticed a difference at their home? They were able to answer this question for all their neighbors: **Why can I trust the Lord in every situation?**

I can trust in the Lord because I know His character and He is God.

Their very lives gave glory to God. Our obedience brings Him glory as well.

- Elijah believed God's words and obeyed. Elijah's miracles proved that he was a prophet of the one true God. Jesus, however, is even greater than Elijah. Jesus' miracles proved that He is God the Son. All



of God's promises come true in Jesus. We can trust that Jesus loves us and has a plan to use our lives to point other people to Him so they can know His love too.

Age Appropriate Story

Elijah and the Widow

1 Kings 17

Elijah the prophet spoke to Ahab, the evil king of Israel, and gave him a message: **“There will be no dew or rain for the next few years unless I command it. This will certainly happen.”**

Then God told Elijah to go a place near a stream. God said the ravens would provide food for Elijah to eat. So Elijah obeyed God. The ravens brought him bread and meat, and he drank water from the stream. After a while, the stream dried up because there was no rain in the land.

Then God told Elijah to go a small village. God said a widow in the town would provide for Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. When Elijah got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering wood. He called to her, **“Please bring me a little water so I can drink.”** As she went to get it, he added, **“Please bring me a piece of bread too.”**

But the woman told Elijah, **“I don’t have bread. I only have a little bit of flour and oil.”** The woman and her son were planning to eat one more meal before they died from hunger.

“Don’t be afraid,” Elijah said. **“Go and prepare the meal, but first bring me a small loaf of bread. Then make some for yourself and your son. God says you will not run out of flour or oil until rain comes again.”**

So the woman prepared the meal. She, Elijah, and everyone in her household had enough to eat, and **she did not run out of flour or oil just like the Lord had said.**

Some time later, the woman’s son got sick and he stopped breathing. Elijah took the boy upstairs and laid him on the bed. He **cried out to God, stretched himself out over the boy three times, and cried out to God again. “Lord my God, please let this boy live again!”** Elijah prayed. **The Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy’s life came into him again.** He was alive! **Elijah led the boy to his mother. She said to Elijah, “Now I know you are a man of God, and the Lord really does speak through you.”**

God miraculously provided through Elijah to give food to the widow and life to the widow’s son. Many years later, God miraculously provided through His own Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Elijah. In Jesus, God provides salvation and life to everyone who trusts in Him.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find **1 Kings 17**. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **What did Elijah's miracles prove to the widow?** *the widow responded to God's raising her son through Elijah. She said, "Now I know you are a man of God." Lead kids to recognize that miracles are amazing things only God can do, so Elijah's miracles were proof that God was working through him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 77:14.)*
2. **Do you believe God's Word is true? Why or why not?** *Invite kids to share their thoughts. Explain that the Bible is accurate, is supported by historical records, has unity from beginning to end, contains accurate prophecy, and endures forever. God's Word is simple enough for little children to learn from and deep enough for the wisest teachers to study their whole life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 4:4.)*
3. **How can being generous teach others about Jesus?** *we can be generous when we believe everything we have is from God and we trust God to provide everything we need. Point out that the widow shared her food with Elijah and trusted God to provide. (Option: read 2 Cor. 8:3-4.)*

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Trustworthy -Provider

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible

Last Meal

CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Provide each kid with a paper plate. Let the kids share markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Invite the kids to draw on their plates what they would want to eat if it were to be their last meal for a while.

- During a drought, there isn't enough rain to grow the crops needed to feed everyone. As a result, some people may go hungry. If you knew you would not eat again for a long time, what would you choose to eat as your last meal? Today we learned that a woman and her son got more food than they expected! Who remembers how they got all that extra food?

Play Dough Knead

Provide each kid with a lump of play dough. Keep a lump for yourself and demonstrate with it how to knead dough by pressing it out and folding it onto itself to press it out again. Ask the kids to knead their dough and then shape it into a loaf.

- Kneading bread dough is an important step if you want your bread to be chewy and hold its shape well. However, if you knead dough too much, it can make the bread tough and difficult to eat. Today we learned about a time when God provided bread to a woman and her son when they were going hungry because of a drought. How do you think God might provide bread to people?

Wants and Needs

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Say the names of different objects that kids might want or need. Instruct the kids to pat their heads if the item is a want and rub their bellies if it's a need. Some items may be both a want and a need. Allow kids to explain their reasoning. Suggested items:

Television, food, oxygen, love, school, video games, Jesus

- In our story today, we will learn about a time **God provided in miraculous ways**. Similarly, Jesus provides salvation for us in a miraculous way. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again on the third day to prove that His sacrifice was enough. The Bible tells us that in addition to needing Jesus, we can delight in Him. That means that Jesus is more than our greatest need, He's our greatest "want" too!

Journal Activity

Give each child a piece of white paper and a piece of colored construction paper. Ask kids to fold each paper in half to look like a book. Place the white piece of paper inside the colored paper and staple on the fold.

Guide kids to think about and answer the following, writing or illustrating on a journal page. Be sure to label it with today's story

- **What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?**
- **What does the story teach me about myself?**
- **Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?**
- **Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?**

As time permits, have the children decorate the cover of their journals.

Can I Trust You?

Line up the kids in a single-file line and place a blindfold on each kid. Assist each kid in placing her hands on the shoulders of the kid in front of her. Then lead the first kid, with the others following, on a walk through the classroom or nearby hallway. After a short journey, ask the kids if it was easy or hard to trust someone without being able to see what was ahead of them or where they were going.

- Sometimes we can clearly see what God is doing in our lives, but other times we don't understand why something is happening. During these times, we can trust that God is good, even when we can't see the big picture. That's what we'll see in today's story.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/ find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (PreK & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.