

Children's Message

Elijah and the Widow



Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Assumptions...

- I tend not to ask kids to respond to questions because you never know what they are going to say and I don't want to put kids in a place where they are going to be embarrassed. So, when I ask questions, I ask kids to think about it without answering. If you want to open it to the kids responding (you know your audience), feel free to do so.

Invite & Welcome the children

Props - small containers of oil and flour

Script: I brought a couple of really important ingredients with me today - flour and oil. You can mix them together to make a flatbread - kinda like a tortilla. This bread is an important part of today's story about Elijah and a widow. A widow is a woman whose spouse died. She and her son were almost out of food. She was outside picking up sticks to build a fire to make bread for their last meal when Elijah came by. He had been walking out in the desert heat.

Can you think of a time when you were really hot?

Hmmm - think about it quietly in your mind.

And he was really thirsty. He asked the woman for some water to drink and a piece of bread. The woman got him some water and said she didn't have any food. I wonder how the woman felt? I would be sad and scared. Elijah said, "Don't be afraid!!!! Go make your bread and give me a little loaf of bread first. If you follow my directions, you will always have enough flour and oil until it rains again." The widow listened to Elijah, made the bread, shared it with Elijah and always had enough flour and oil.

Sometimes, we worry about running out of something and that makes us want to hold on tightly to what we have. (add your own story about running out or nearly running out of something - something relatable to kids like ketchup for chicken nuggets or syrup for pancakes or gas in the car...) The story of Elijah and the widow can help us learn about trusting God and other people. Sometimes we find the things we need in unexpected places. Sometimes we have to follow directions to get what we need. Sometimes, we can be the ones to share when we have extra so people who don't have enough can get what they need. I wonder if you can draw a picture or write a story about a way that you can share with others.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for stories in the Bible that teach us about how much you care about each one of us. We know you care about our needs, especially having food to eat. Help us to learn about hunger in our community and how we can take action. Guide us as we share your love and care with others. Amen.

Written by Rev. Kathy Pittenger