

## **Elijah and the Widow**

1 Kings 17

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The prophet Elijah told King Ahab of Israel, "As surely as the Lord lives there will be no rain until I give the word!" A drought ensued.

The Lord sent Elijah to a secluded spot where ravens brought him food twice a day and he drank from a brook. When the brook dried up, the Lord sent Elijah to the town of Zarephath, saying, "I have instructed a widow there to feed you."

In Zarephath, Elijah encountered a widow gathering sticks. He asked her, "Would you bring me a drink of water and a piece of bread?"

The widow replied, "As surely as the Lord lives, I have no bread. There is only a handful of flour left in the jar and barely a drizzle of oil left in the jug. When you came by, I was out here collecting sticks to make a fire so I might prepare one last meal for myself and my son, that we might eat it and then die."

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. First, make a small cake of bread and bring it to me. Then prepare a meal for yourself and your son. The Lord says you will not run out of flour or oil until the day rain falls again on the land."

She did as Elijah told her. And just as God had promise, every day she found there was still flour in the jar and oil in the jug. So every day there was food for them.

Then one day the widow's son grew sick and died. She was distraught. Elijah stretched himself out over the boy three times, praying, "O Lord my God, bring this boy back to life!"

The Lord answered Elijah's prayer.

The widow said, "Now I know you really are a man of God, and that through you the Lord speaks the truth."