ONLY GOD

Elementary
Week 2

PARENT BIBLE STUDY
Read: 1 Kings 17:8-24

Elijah waited in the desert, relying on ravens and a small stream for sustenance, until the water dried up. Then God sent him to Zarephath to be taken care of yet again. This time, not by ravens. This time, by a widow. We can't miss this. In Elijah's culture, widows didn't take care of men. *Men took care of widows.* For God to tell Elijah that he needed to ask a widow to take care of him was extremely humbling.

The widow Elijah encountered was desperate to the point of death. She had so little left for herself and her son that she had already planned her last meal. And then she met Elijah, who asked that she give *him* her last meal. She panicked. It would have been so easy for her to tell him "no" out of self-preservation and protection for her son. But Elijah told her not to be afraid and she listened. He assured her that the Lord would provide for her. He gave her a promise, and she stepped out in faith. When she made bread for Elijah, she miraculously had more flour and oil to make her own bread. This happened every time she needed another loaf. Her containers never ran dry. As this widow took care of Elijah she watched God miraculously take care of her.

How was Elijah so sure of God's provision? Maybe because he'd experienced it first hand in the desert. What Elijah learned from God about providence, he continued to learn with the widow. God was teaching Elijah to rely on him for *everything*. Provision came from such an illogical, unlikely place that it had to be from God. Back in the desert and here with the widow, God was making one thing clear: the Lord is the one, true God and he provides. He alone takes care of us.

Are you in a season where you feel like Elijah, when God brought him out of the desert into another impossible situation? When God continues to bring you challenge after challenge, ask him: **God, what are you trying to teach me? What do you want to show me about yourself?**

What do you know already about God's character that can sustain?