



# PRESCHOOL

**GOD CARES (2.7) - CYCLE 3**  
**JANUARY 6, 2019**

**TODAY'S STORY: (FOOD FOR ELIJAH)**  
**1 Kings 17**

**THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE:**

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"  
Ephesians 1:4

# CONNECT

9:45AM - 10:45AM



## I SPY

### SUPPLIES:

- Music
- Optional: magnifying glasses (1 per child)

**DIRECTIONS:** Before beginning the day's lesson, engage children in a game. Children will have the opportunity to share about themselves and learn about each other. Welcome children and invite them to play a game. God cares for us so much He created each of us differently. He gave each of us our own gifts and talents. The game we're going to play will help us get to know one another better and discover some of our differences. Encourage children to stand in a large circle. Have you ever played I Spy? Ask a child to explain how to play the game and thank him for his help or explain it yourself if none of the children know. Well, today we're going to play this a little differently! This game is called I Spy Boogie because we're going to boogie, or dance, and have a lot of fun!

Explain that you'll call out a special quality about somebody in the room, and everyone must work together to figure out which children fits that description. I might say, "I spy a girl with blonde hair." Are there any girls with blonde hair in here today? Encourage children to look around carefully or use their magnifying glasses to help them study their surroundings and find the child who fits the description. Great job! Now, all the girls with blonde hair get to come dance in the middle of the circle. Turn on the music and invite kids to dance in the middle of the circle for a few moments. Continue this game until all the kids have had a chance to dance in the middle. If you have older kids, you may opt to let them take turns being the leader.

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

### SUPPLIES:

- Prayers & Praises book

**DIRECTIONS:** Today, let's pray and thank God for caring. If you'd like, you can lift your hands while we pray (lift hands with palms facing away from body). Our hands are lifted up like we're giving something to someone. When we pray to God, we're giving Him praise. You can tell Him whatever you want to say. I'll start. Father God, thank You for caring for me and for all of Your children. Allow children time to participate. Encourage them to speak their own words or repeat the words you offered. Close as the Holy Spirit directs you. Then transition into a time of prayer for individual requests and praises.

Open the Treasure Trunk and take out the Prayers & Praises book. Ask children to share updates on the things they previously asked the class to pray with them about. Celebrate the praises, recommit to praying for things not yet answered, and ask for any new requests. Pray for the praises and requests mentioned and let the children know you'll continue to pray for them in the coming week.

## MEMORY VERSE

### SUPPLIES:

- Bible

### DIRECTIONS

Who has used a stereo before? Who can tell me why we use a volume dial? Pause for children to respond. That's right! We use the volume dial to make the sound (whisper) really quiet or (use a big, loud voice) really loud! Today we're going to play a game where we control our voices—just like the volume on a stereo—to help us learn the Remember Verse. Inform the group that your hand will be like the dial on a stereo. When your hand goes up high, their voices need to be loud. When your hand goes down low, their voices need to be soft and quiet. Lead them in repeating the Remember Verse, getting louder and quieter as your hand moves. Invite a few children, one by one, to be the “volume control” leader. Repeat as long as the class is engaged.

*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” - Ephesians 1:4*

## FILL MY CUP

### SUPPLIES:

- Raven template (see Resources)
- Sponges (1 per child)
- Scissors
- Container (large, clear)
- Water
- Disposable drinking cup
- Paper towels

### RELATE

Print and cut out the Raven template. Trace the raven shape onto each sponge and cut it out. Invite children to gather around the activity area. What did we hear about in The Big God Story today? Interact with responses. That's right! We heard about a few ways God worked in the life of one of His prophets, Elijah. God told Elijah to go hide in a valley. How did God care for him there? Pause for children to respond. Great job! God sent Elijah food from ravens and water from a small river. God loved Elijah and wanted to care for him. Here we have some sponges and a container full of water. Let's look at one of the sponges. Pull a sponge out. Hey! This isn't any ordinary sponge—this sponge looks like a raven. Didn't we hear about a raven in The Big God Story today? God cared for Elijah by giving him water and sending ravens to give him food. Let's pretend we need to give Elijah a drink! Let's use these sponges and work together to fill up this cup. Do you think we can fill up the cup? Encourage children to shout “yes!”

## CHAT & CHEW

### SUPPLIES:

- Snack Supplies
- Children's Bible

### RELATE

Invite children to enjoy a snack together. As they are eating, **introduce the story for the day by reading it from the Children's Story Book Bible.** After you have read the story, ask the kids some questions about the story.

## CHLOE'S RULES

### SUPPLIES

- Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resources)
- Chloe (puppet or person)

### **POWER-POINT: CHLOE'S RULES**

### DIRECTIONS:

**(Cue Chloe's Rules)** Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video. The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/ Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. Tech: Cue preschool program theme song. Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

## WORSHIP

### SUPPLIES:

- Music Slides

### **POWER-POINT: MUSIC SLIDES**

### DIRECTIONS:

**(Cue Music Slides)** After the kids have gotten settled, invite them to the rug to sing. "It's so good to be able to sing praises to Jesus today. We can be confident that He has done great things, and that He'll continue to do great things. Are you ready to sing that Jesus is better than the best thing? (Pause for reaction.)

## THE BIG GOD STORY

1 Kings 17

Storytelling Technique: Sensory Props

Ponder Point: God Cares

### SUPPLIES:

- Water bottles (5, empty, clear)
- Sand (1 c.)
- Feathers (12-14, black)
- Vegetable oil (1 c.)
- Flour (1 c.)

### PREPARE AHEAD:

Clean and remove the labels from five water bottles. Leave one empty, fill one with sand, one with black feathers, one with vegetable oil, and one with flour. Place the caps tightly back onto each bottle.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

After you're finished with the Remember Verse game, **invite children to get their wiggles out, return to their Story Spots.** Friends, I'm so excited to share this part of The Big God Story with you. Today we're going to hear another part of God's incredible true story. Before we get started, let's pray to God and ask Him to help us understand what He wants to teach us. Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Israel had many kings. Sadly, these kings didn't always trust and love God. There was once a king named Ahab who began to worship pretend gods and didn't listen to the words of the one true God. Many of the people of Israel began to do what the king was doing and worshipped pretend gods.

So God sent His prophet Elijah to give Ahab a message. Can you say "Elijah" with me? EE-LIE-JUH. **Encourage children to sound it out.** Way to go! Friends, what is a prophet? Invite children to answer; interact with their responses. Good thinking! A prophet is someone God uses to speak important words that He wants His people to hear. So Elijah listened to God's words and took a very important message to King Ahab. What do you think Elijah said to the king? **Encourage children to share their answers.** Good thinking! Elijah said, "I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that He lives. And you can be just as sure that there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land. There won't be any during the next few years. It won't come until I say so." Oh my! **Show children the empty bottle. If you have a small group, you can pass each of the bottles around for the children to examine as you come to them. Ask them questions about what they see as they look at the bottles.** Without rain, no food would grow, and everything would become very dry. **Show children the bottle with sand, passing it and discussing it if you have a small group.**

King Ahab wasn't very happy when he heard Elijah's message. So God told Elijah to leave the land of King Ahab and go to a safe place. When Elijah arrived, God fed Elijah. He sent some black birds, called ravens, to bring food to Elijah every day. Show children the bottle with feathers. God also provided a small river with water in it for Elijah to drink. Then, one day God told Elijah to go to a new place. He told Elijah that a woman would be waiting for him, and that He would use this woman to help take care of him just as He had used the birds. Elijah did exactly what God had said. But when Elijah asked the woman for a piece of bread, she explained that she only had a tiny bit of oil and flour, and she wasn't even sure it would be enough to feed her own family. Show children the bottles with oil and flour.

Elijah told the woman not to worry. God would provide for her. He told her she wouldn't run out of flour or oil. The woman made some bread just like Elijah said, and even though she only had a little bit, God made sure she didn't run out! It was a miracle. There was enough food for her family and Elijah! But after a while a terrible thing happened. The woman's son became sick and died. The woman was very sad. Elijah prayed for the woman and her son. Elijah told God how the woman had cared for him, and he asked God to bring her son back to life. It was a big thing to ask of God, but if there's one thing we know about God, it's that He is bigger! Guess what happened? **Pause for children to answer.** That's right! God brought the boy back to life! The woman was amazed at how God took care of her. She realized that God really was the one true God, and everything Elijah said about Him was true. Friends, God takes care of us too. God gives us people who take care of us, like our parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, friends, teachers, and lots of other people in our lives. They all care for us, love us, and help us to grow. But that's not all. God wants to use us to help care for other people. God cares for you, and you can care for others. That's good news! **If they're interested, allow children more time to examine the bottles. Ask them if they remember how each bottle related to this part of The Big God Story.**

**POWER-POINT:  
STORYTELLING  
VIDEO**

Samuel was surprised too. He asked Jesse if there was another son he hadn't met. Place Question Mark cutout on board. Jesse told Samuel that he did have one more son, but that he was young and was out in the fields with the sheep. Samuel asked to see him, so Jesse sent for his last son to come and meet Samuel. When the youngest boy walked up (remove Question Mark and place Young David cutout on board), God said to Samuel, "He's the one." This youngest son's name was David, and David the one God had chosen to be the next king. God provided!

David was special. He trusted and obeyed God, and he loved God with his whole heart. Do you know where your heart is? Interact with children. That's right, our hearts are right here. Place hand over chest. The heart is a big muscle that helps the blood move throughout our bodies. When we say that David loved God with his whole heart, do we mean that David loved God with the thing that pumped the blood through his body? Pause for responses. Not exactly. When you love someone with your whole heart, it means that you love with your whole self. David didn't just kind of love God; David loved God as much as he could possibly love Him. He loved God with his whole self.

God provided a new king in David. Many years later, Jesus was born into King David's family! God provided again when He sent the promised Savior, Jesus. When we choose to follow and trust God, we can be a part of His plans too. You may be little, but God has special plans just for you, just like He did for David. God can use you to show other people how much He loves them. As God provides for us all, it's fun to look at everything we've learned about Him. God is provider! Jesus is The Promise.

**WONDER QUESTIONS:**

**SUPPLIES:**

- Wonder Questions strips (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Small bag with drawstring

**PREPARE AHEAD:**

Print or copy the Wonder Questions strips, cut them apart, and place them in the bag.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Today in The Big God Story, God chose David to be the king of His people because He knew that David loved Him with all of his heart. David loved God with everything he had. When we choose to love and obey God with our entire heart, we get to be a special part of His big plans.

I wonder ... How did David feel when he found out he was going to be the next king?  
I wonder ... What did the brothers think when the oldest and strongest of them weren't chosen?

I wonder ... How might God want to use me in His big plan?

I wonder ... What are some ways God provides for me in my life?

# SERVE

11:45AM - 12:15AM



## FOOD FOR FRIENDS

### SUPPLIES:

- Paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- Markers
- Granola bars (1 per child)

### DIRECTIONS:

Our God loves His people, and He loves to take care of us! God's love is big, and it never ends. He just keeps giving us more of His love. God loves us so much that we can't keep it to ourselves. We can share it with others!

Explain that children will have an opportunity to show God's care to others. Each of us may get to eat with our families every day, but did you know there are a lot of people around the world who don't have enough food each day? That's really sad, but there's good news! God has put each one of us in the world to help care for these people. We get to care for others just as God cares for us. Today we're going to make snack bags for people who are hungry.

Give each child a paper lunch bag and markers. Explain that they'll use the brown paper bags to make snack bags. Encourage children to draw something to brighten the day of whoever receives the meal. Have children place a granola bar in their paper bag. After they've assembled their bag, place it to the side to be delivered.