



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: What is God asking of us in this moment?

Lesson connected to Sunday, November 3, 2019

Today's Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Key Verse: "Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.'" 1 Kings 17:13

Contexts of the Scripture:

- Elijah was one of the great prophets of the Israelite people and is known for confronting Queen Jezebel, wife of the Jewish King Ahab. Jezebel led Ahab away from the God of Israel and into the worship of Baal.
- This story takes place when Elijah is running away from Ahab & Jezebel having told them that God would not allow any rain to fall until Elijah said it was okay. The drought which followed lasted for 3 years.
- This story takes place while Elijah is running and brings him into direct contact with the impact of the drought on ordinary people. The miracle he performs allowed the meal and oil needed for food not to run out.

Questions to go deeper:

- Read the text carefully. Why did Elijah go to Zarephath? What assistance did God provide to Elijah? To the widow?
- How did the widow respond to Elijah initially? How did that change? Why?
- How long did the meal and oil last? Why is this significant?
- Where does faith enter into this story? Whose faith is it?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: After King Solomon.
 - Does your family know anyone who is a widow or widower? Consider giving this person a call and getting to know him or her better. Perhaps you might even invite him/her to join your family in some sort of activity.
 - This Sunday will also be an All Saints Sunday celebration in our church. Check out this link from Wikipedia to learn more:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Day
- **Younger children activities:**
 - Check with an adult in your household to see if there is any cornmeal in your kitchen. If there is, and you have permission to use a small amount, measure out about a half cup of the cornmeal. Then, also with permission, slowly add some cooking oil to the meal stirring it until it forms a soft dough just sticking together. Form the dough into small cakes and ask an

adult in your household to help you bake them just long enough to get brown. Then, try a taste! Remember that this is all Elijah and the widow and her son had to eat during the long drought! Think about what it must be like to have such limited food!!

- Here is a coloring picture for you. You can print out a full-size copy from [pinterest.com](https://i.pinimg.com/originals/75/ab/45/75ab455c47821e3de09d000e6bed83d8.jpg):
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/75/ab/45/75ab455c47821e3de09d000e6bed83d8.jpg>



A Woman Gathering Sticks

- Our church is always collecting food for the Food Pantry at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. Bring some in to the church the next time you are in the building. Be sure to bring healthy food that you would like to eat, not just items you want out of your cupboard!
- **Older children and youth activities:**
 - Watch this Youtube.com video of the story:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIS9BL9xzsQ>
How does this dramatization of the story compare with your reading of the story? Do you notice anything unusual in the video? Hint: You have to listen carefully and remember that this story took place in ancient Palestine.
 - If you were to create a dramatic retelling of this story, how would you do it? Video? Graphic novella? Puppets? Give it a try!
 - Watch for the announcement of when our church will be taking volunteers to help pack Thanksgiving meals for families later this month and come help out!

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.