



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Feed Elijah

[10 min]

Supplies

- large, wide-mouth glass cups (1 for every 2 kids) (see if you can borrow any from your church's kitchen)
- wooden clothespins (6 for every 2 kids)
- sturdy chairs, *not* folding chairs (1 for every 2 kids)
- pompoms or cotton balls (optional)
- upbeat music

Drop Clothespins Into Cups

Say: Today's Bible story was about an amazing way God took care of Elijah. It's a great story that helps us see that God is our provider and cares for our needs even when it feels impossible.

Let's play a fun game to act out birds feeding a hungry Elijah.

- Form pairs, and give each pair a cup, a chair, and six clothespins.
- Have pairs spread out and choose which person from each pair will be the first "Bird."
- Each Bird will stand on a chair. His or her teammate will remain on the floor close by to steady any wobbles.
- The Birds will try to drop the "food" (the clothespins) into "Elijah's mouth" (the mouth of the cup) by holding one clothespin at a time overhead and letting it fall.
- The first Bird in each pair will try to get three clothespins into the cup and then switch places with his or her teammate.
- Pairs will try to get all six of their clothespins into their cup.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • What might have been an easier way to get the clothespins into the cup?

• What might have been an easier way for God to feed Elijah?

Say: When God provides for us, it's not always in a way we'd expect or even in the easiest way, but we can trust God to care for our needs because God is our provider. God cares for each of us as much as he cared for Elijah, and God can make a way to meet our needs, too.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO Deacon, Hudson, and Ben's Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Deacon, Hudson, and Ben’s Story” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Deacon, Hudson, and Ben’s Story”

Say: In our story, God provided food for Elijah. God is our provider.

Ask: • What else does God provide for us?

Watch “Deacon, Hudson, and Ben’s Story.”

Ask: • How can you see God’s provision in this story?

• Tell about the people in your family. Share about your family first.

• Why are you glad God provided those people to be your family?

Say: Deacon, Hudson, and Ben didn’t have parents when they lived in Ukraine. They needed God to provide a family for them...parents that would take all three of them! God is our provider, and he provided for them. Whether you’re adopted or you were born into your family, God provided those people to love you!



DEEPER BIBLE Is God My Provider...Or Are My Parents?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles (1 per child)
- index cards
- pens

Trace It Back

Say: **We're learning that God provides for us.** He sent ravens to carry food to Elijah. When we think of who provides for us, we probably usually think of our parents. So is God our provider, or our parents? Let's dig in to that.

Set out stacks of index cards, and give each child a pen and a Bible. Have kids open to Genesis 1.

Say: Think about what you had for dinner last night. Write it on an index card. Allow time.

Say: Now think about where it came from. For example, maybe you had pizza and it came from Domino's. Maybe you had a meal made with ingredients from the grocery store. Write where it came from on another index card. Allow time.

Say: Keep tracing your food back to where it came from. You might make multiple paths off of your original meal. For example, if you had pizza from Domino's, it might have included tomato sauce that came from a tomato that grew in the ground because of seeds God made. It might have included cheese that came from milk that came from a cow God made. You'd have another chain for the dough and any toppings on your pizza.

Try to make the longest chain, with a separate idea on each index card, until you trace your food all the way back to God. If you get stuck, just keep asking yourself, "Who provided that?" You can also refer to Genesis 1 and see what God made. When you trace your chain back to something God made, write that verse number on your index card. Allow time. Walk around and help kids if they get stuck. Don't get hung up on accuracy; it's okay if a child thinks Doritos are real cheese that comes straight from a cow. The goal is simply to help kids trace their food back to God.

Have kids form trios and show their chains to each other.

Say: Your food may have taken a lot of steps to get from God to your mouth, but ultimately God provided it all. God used the ravens to provide food for Elijah, and he might use restaurants, grocery stores, your parents' jobs, neighbors, charities, government aid, or other things to provide food for you. But ultimately, **God is our provider** because he provided all the steps on your index card chain. Let's see what the Bible has to say about that.

Dig Deeper

Read James 1:17.

Ask: • Name a good and perfect gift God has provided for you. Share your own example first.

Say: This verse says that *all* good and perfect gifts come from God. Everything we have, we have because God provided it.

Since God often uses our parents to provide for us, let's look at a verse where Jesus talked about how parents provide for their kids.

Read Luke 11:11-13.

Ask: • Tell about a good gift your parents have provided for you.

Say: **Parents do their best to provide good things for their kids. But Jesus says God does an even better job! That's why we can depend on him. And check this out!**

Read Philippians 4:19.

Ask: • **Tell about something you need right now.** Share your own example first.

Say: **God is our provider, so we depend on him.** Sometimes when we don't have what we need, our first reaction is to worry. But that's not depending on God. That's not trusting that he will provide just what we need in his timing. Here's what Jesus said about worrying.

Read Matthew 6:31-33.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you worried you wouldn't have what you needed.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Instead of worrying, we can seek God and trust that he'll give us what we need.** **God is our provider, so we depend on him.** We can think of all the gifts he's already given us and trust that he'll continue to provide.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Just Ask

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Thank God

Say: **God is our provider, so we depend on him.** Let's depend on him for what we need. Matthew 6:8 says, "your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" Let's ask God for what we need. I'll start each prayer, and then I'll pause so you can each pray silently to God for your specific needs.

- Pray: **God, you already know everything we need, and we can depend on you. We come to you now with our requests that you will provide for us. We depend on you for our physical needs.** Allow time for silent prayer.
- Pray: **God, we depend on you for our emotional needs.** Allow time for silent prayer.
- Pray: **God, we depend on you for our social needs.** Allow time for silent prayer.
- Pray: **God, we depend on you for wisdom in difficult situations.** Allow time for silent prayer.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you are our provider. Thank you that we can always depend on you to give us just what we need, even if it comes in a different way than we expect. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Feeling Ravenous

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God Provides Food for Elijah” Activity Page
- pencils
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **God is our provider. He sent ravens to give food to Elijah even when there wasn't much food around! Let's see if you can get all the ravens to Elijah.**

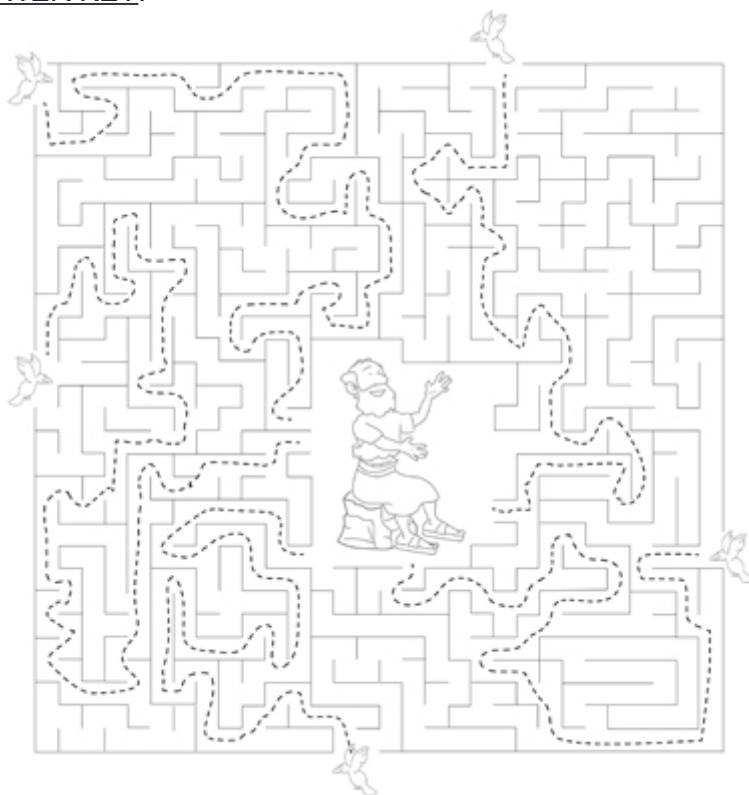
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will get each raven through the maze to Elijah.

Ask: • **What was it like trying to get Elijah enough food by getting all the ravens to him?**

• **How do you think God keeps track of providing for everyone?**

Say: **God is our provider. We can depend on him for all the help we need. If he could send ravens to feed Elijah, he can do whatever it takes to take care of you.**

ANSWER KEY:



Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: God is our provider. He provided food for Elijah by sending ravens to feed him! Let's color that picture.

Allow time for kids to color.