



LOW-ENERGY GAME Friends Needed

[10 min]

Supplies

- buckets or bowls* (1 for every 3 kids)
- beanbags (1 for every 3 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the buckets at one end of the room, spaced a few feet apart from each other.

Toss Beanbags Into Buckets

Say: Today we read in the Bible about a man named Elijah. Elijah was hungry and needed food, and God took care of Elijah in an awesome way: God sent birds to feed Elijah! Sometimes we can't do things all on our own so God sends the help we need. Let's play a game where you'll see what it's like to try to do something first on your own and then with the help of friends.

- Form teams of three, and give a beanbag to each team.
- Have teams line up about 10 to 15 feet directly across from a bucket.
- The person with the beanbag in each team will try to toss the beanbag into the bucket from far away. Then he or she will retrieve the beanbag and give it to the next person in line to try.
- When everyone has had a chance trying to make a basket on their own from far away, have team members space themselves evenly apart between the starting place (the team's line) and the bucket.
- Then teams can try to get the beanbags into the buckets by tossing to each other down their team lines.
- Allow teams to try a few times and adjust their distances from each other and the bucket until they're successful.
- Give a signal to start the game. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • Which did you like more, and why—tossing all on your own or with the help of friends?

Say: Having friends helped us a lot in the game. Friends can help us a lot in real life, too!

Tell about a time a friend helped *you* do something hard, such as helping you open a door when your arms were full, to help kids get started.

Ask: • How have friends helped *you* do something hard? Kids might tell how a brother or sister helped them learn something new, or maybe two kids worked together to carry something heavy.

Say: We need our friends, and we need God. God sees our needs, and God is our provider. Whenever you need anything, you can talk to God about it and ask God for help. God's help might come in a surprising way that's different from what you asked for, but God always knows the very best way to help you.



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

Thank You, God

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- “God Provides” handout printed on card stock
- paper lunch bag

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the pictures on the “God Provides” handout.

Talk About What God Gives Us

Have kids sit in a circle with you.

Say: **When Elijah was living by the river, God provided by sending ravens to bring him food! God provided what Elijah needed in a really cool way! God is our provider, too. Listen to what the Bible says about that.**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Say: **God might not send birds to bring us food, but he provides what we need in lots of different ways. Let’s think about some of the things God provides for us.**

Show kids all the pictures from the “God provides” handout. Say: **God provides all these things to us—food, clothes, family, friends, a home, and love.**

Share *your* favorite way God gave you what you needed in one of the categories in the last month.

Ask: • **What’s your favorite way you’ve seen God give you what you need recently?** When it’s each child’s turn, invite kids to pick up the card that corresponds to what they’re going to talk about.

Sing a Song

Place the six pictures in the paper bag.

Say: **Let’s learn a song and play a game to thank God for being our provider.**

Teach kids the following song to the tune of “BINGO.” Explain that you’ll pass the bag around the circle as everyone sings the song. When the song ends, the child holding the bag will pull out a picture and show it to the group. Then everyone will finish the last line of the song by shouting what the picture shows: food, clothes, family, friends, home, or love and do the following motions for what was pulled out of the bag:

- Food: pat your tummy
- Clothes: stand up and spin around
- Family: wrap arms around yourself in a hug
- Friends: high-five someone next to you
- Home: form a triangle with your arms above your head
- Love: place hands over your heart

**Our God will always care for us,
And He is our provider.
Thank you, thank you, God;
Thank you, thank you, God;
Thank you, thank you, God**

For giving us our (or your)... [picture]!

After the first round, have the child holding the bag place the picture back inside. Then continue passing the bag as you sing the song again. On the second round, have kids name both the first and second things that were pulled out of the bag. On the third round they'll name the first, second, and third things. Continue having kids add the things they say for every round. It's okay if things are mentioned more than once.

After the game, ask: • **How did our game remind you of how God provides for us?**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

We Give Him Our Needs

[5 min]

Supplies

- bucket or bowl*
- paper
- crayons

Draw

Say: Today we learned that God is our provider. We found out that God provided a safe place for Elijah—he sent Elijah to hide near the river. God also provided water for Elijah when everyone else was thirsty—God sent him to live next to a river where he could drink water. And God provided food for Elijah—he sent birds that carried food to Elijah. God is the only one who can give us what we need, and we can ask him for help anytime.

Share an example of something you've needed that you asked God for.

Say: We might need a friend, and we can ask God to provide us with one. Or we might need something to help us when we're sad. In those times, God might help us feel better when we can hug our favorite blanket or snuggle up with our families. We might also need food, a safe place to sleep, or clothes to wear. We can ask God for those things, too.

Ask: • **What's something you need?** It's okay if some kids don't feel comfortable sharing.

Give each child some paper and crayons. Say: **Draw what you need.** Allow time. Let kids know they can keep their drawings private if they want.

Place Drawings in the Bucket

Say: You can ask God for what you need. He's our provider, and we can trust him to give us everything we need. We can depend on him.

Show the bucket. Say: Let's put all our needs together. We'll put them in this bucket, and we can talk to God together about all the things we need.

Pass the bucket around the circle. As kids add their pictures, invite them to pray, asking God for the things they need and for help trusting God. It's okay if they aren't specific and just say "God, I drew something I need. Please help me trust that you'll provide it for me."

After all the children have added their pictures, pray: **God, we ask you to give us what we need. We know you provide for us and we can trust you and depend on you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: This week, anytime you need something, ask God. Remember you can always ask me, too, and God will help me to give you what you need. Thank kids for coming today, and invite them back next week.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Feeling Ravenous

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God Provides Food for Elijah” Coloring 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.**

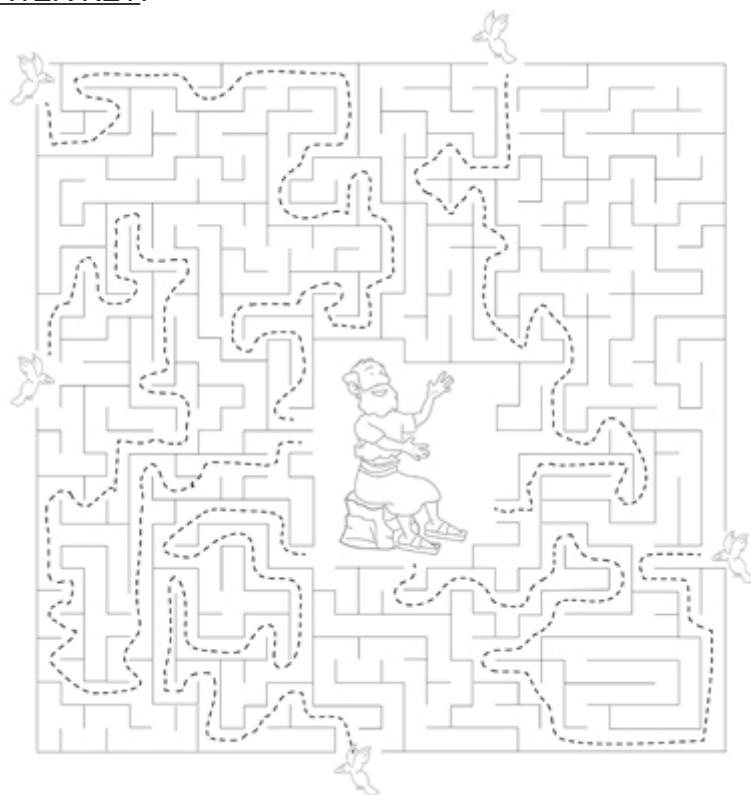
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will get each raven through the maze to Elijah.

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.