



1 Kings 17:1–16

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

1 Kings 17:16

MEMORY VERSE

For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. 1 Kings 17:16

The father walked into the electronic store to secure a Nintendo® Wii for his son for Christmas. Of course, there weren't any left to buy. The father became upset with workers in the store because no one could provide him with an answer as to when they might have more of the video games in stock. "You don't understand," said the dad. "I need this for my son for Christmas!" One store clerk tried to console the father by telling him that they received a shipment of electronics each day, but they had no way of knowing just what would arrive with each shipment. However, the father could come in when the store opened each morning and wait with a crowd of about 25 people who were all waiting for the same thing. "It could be," said the clerk, "that we will have about 10–15 arrive with any one of these shipments." "Thanks for nothing!" retorted the dad, stomping out of the store.

Read 1 Kings 17:1–16. Few of us in the United States know what it's like to live in real need of the basics for survival. Expressing faith in God over where our next meal will come from is a foreign concept for most. Reality sets in when we have the opportunity to serve a meal in a feeding line for the homeless. Elijah relied on a word from God that his physical needs would be met. In the same way, God provided for a widow and her son as she moved in faith in response to Elijah's promise to her from God.

Can we rely on God to meet our needs? He does each and every day. As you count your blessings realizing that God has provided so much more than just your basic physical needs, pray for others who do not have all they need in life. Ask God how you can be part of His plan in providing for the needs of others.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family spends a few moments discussing what they believe it would be like to be homeless. Some discussion questions are: **How would it change your perspective on the world we live in today? How difficult would it be to trust God with your basic needs from day to day? How would your faith waver or be stretched? How would your priorities change?**

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads 1 Kings 17:1–16. Then, the family discusses: **How difficult do you believe it was for Elijah to ask the widow to give up her last bit of flour and oil? Why do you believe Elijah's own faith was so strong? What do you believe convinced the widow that Elijah must be telling the truth?**

Transform . . .

A family member reads: **In American culture, most families take it for granted that there will be food on the table each day and all of their other physical needs such as shelter, clothing, and housing are the norm. In many other countries around the world, these are rare commodities. To have one of these seems a privilege. To have all of them means you are rich. What will you do today to express your trust in God to provide you with what you need, rather than what you want? What will you do today to express gratitude to God for making sure you have all that you need, plus what you want?**

Pray together that your family will discover the need to live in faith from day to day, depending on God to provide for their needs. Pray for a spirit of gratitude among your family members for all God provides.