

# *Elijah and the Widow*

**Reader 1**—A long, long time ago, there lived a man by the name Elijah. He was no ordinary man.

**Reader 2**—That's for sure. He was a special man who had the job of delivering God's messages to His people. In other words, he was a prophet.

**Reader 1**—There was a time in Elijah's life when God told him that He was not going to allow it to rain for about three and a half years.

**Reader 2**—Can you imagine? No rain for three and a half years!

**Reader 1**—Hard to imagine. But that's what God said. This was His way of judging His people's unfaithfulness.

**Reader 2**—You see, God's people, led by wicked King Ahab, had turned away from God. Instead of worshiping Him, they began worshipping man-made idols. What a shame!

**Reader 1**—Yes, what a shame.

**Reader 2**—But in spite of all of the unfaithfulness around him, Elijah remained faithful to God. He listened for God's voice and then he did exactly as God instructed him to do.

**Reader 1**—Now, you could imagine what no rain for three and half years would do to the crops in the fields. It literally wiped them out!

**Reader 2**—There was widespread famine and people all around were starving.

**Reader 1**—But God took care of Elijah and through his obedience, He took care of a widow and her son too.

**Reader 2**—God commanded Elijah to travel to a town called Zarephath. He told him he would meet a widow there, and it was through this widow that God would take care of Elijah.

**Reader 1**—So, Elijah did exactly as God commanded. When He arrived, he saw a widow outside the town gate gathering a handful of sticks.

**Reader 2**—Elijah called out to her to bring him a little water to drink.

**Reader 1**—As she was going to get the water, Elijah called out to her again. “Please bring me a piece of bread too.”

**Reader 2**—The woman replied, “Just as sure as I am that your God lives, I am absolutely sure that I have no bread. All I have is a handful of flour and just a little oil. I am gathering some sticks to make a fire to prepare a small meal for my boy and me. This will be our last meal before we die.”

**Reader 1**—Elijah then told the woman to not be afraid, but just to go and make a small loaf of bread for him and then bring it back. Afterwards, she could go home and make a meal for her and her son.

**Reader 2**—And then Elijah said something that must have sounded like music to her ears. “I have a message for you from God. Your flour and your oil will not run out until the day that the Lord sends rain on the land.”

**Reader 1**—The woman did exactly as Elijah had instructed her. She could have laughed at Elijah’s request or even laughed at the message from God that Elijah had given her.

**Reader 2**—But she did not. She just went home and did as he said. And you know what?

**Reader 1**—She had food for her and her family, as well as Elijah. Just like God had promised, the oil and the flour never ran out!

**Reader 2**—Sometime later, the son of this very same woman, became sick and died.

**Reader 1**—This was a hopeless situation, even more hopeless than no food.

**Reader 2**—When Elijah heard about it, he carried the boy upstairs to his room and laid him on his bed.

**Reader 1**—Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and laid himself right on top of the boy’s lifeless body. Three times, Elijah cried out to the Lord to let the boy’s life return to him.

**Reader 2**—And then a miracle happened. The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and He brought the boy back to life!

**Reader 1**—When the boy’s mother saw what had happened, she knew that Elijah was truly a man of God, and the words Elijah spoke were God’s truth.