

# ALLEY LG – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>

**Bible Story:** That's So Ravens (Widow of Zarephath) • 1 Kings 17:1-16

**Bottom Line:** Ask God for what you need to lend a hand.

**Memory Verse:** "Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven." *Matthew 5:16, NIV*

**Life App:** Service—lending a hand to help someone else.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*A table with freeze-dried food will need to be placed on stage before Large Group begins.*

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter

*After the kids have all entered, Host enters dressed in his space suit.*

## Opener

"Houston, we have a problem, and it is a pretty big whopper. My name is Captain [Host's name], future pilot of the Mars Mission 1 Space Shuttle. Sure, I'm not exactly an astronaut yet, but I have big dreams and think it would be awesome to establish the first space colony on the planet Mars. However, my future plans are currently in question. Earthlings, you will not believe what I discovered through my own thorough scientific research about space travel on Google.

"Call me crazy, but I was under the impression astronauts live life large while they are in space. You know—private bowling alley, indoor/outdoor pool, pet giraffes, solid gold doorknobs, home theater, and, of course, a gourmet kitchen that would make any chef blush with envy. I mean, if NASA has a budget in the billions—with a capital B—I would expect nothing less.

"But get this, space travel is not nearly as plush as I expected. For entertainment, Google says astronauts can read a book. Only READING?! I love to read as much as the next guy, but I'm gonna miss my shows! Then it says they can look out the windows of the space shuttle to soak up the beauty and majesty and size of earth ... *(pause)* ... LAME!

"Those were bad enough, but the biggest atrocity I read about was the food. Maybe it's just because I have Thanksgiving on the brain, but I thought they'd be passing out filet mignon fresh off the grill or rich crème brûlée with a flame-crusted sugar shell! NEGATORY! The food they eat is all freeze-dried. If I were spending Thanksgiving in space, all my turkey and dressing and green bean casserole would be freeze-dried! Disgusting!

"Let's take a break for a moment from the harsh reality of space food to talk about this month's Life App of service.

**CG:** Service Slide

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else.

*Cup hands and scream the next line at the ceiling as if trying to speak to NASA.*

“I just wonder if NASA could lend a hand and help *(point at himself)* this guy out by not freeze-drying my food! *(To the audience)* Most of you do not know what freeze-dried food is like because you have parents who love you and would not serve you such nastiness. You guys want to see what I’m talking about? Why don’t we play a game? We will be playing a game I like to call ‘Guess the Nasty Space Food’! I will need three guy and three girl volunteers.

*Select three boys and three girls to play the game and bring them onto the stage.*

“Thanks so much for volunteering to play the game. In this game, the girls will be battling the boys to see who can identify the most dehydrated foods. During each round, I will present a food to one of the groups. If the group guesses the food correctly, they’ll get 1000 Space Points. If they are wrong, the other team will get a chance to steal the 1000 Space Points by correctly guessing the food. Each team will get three types of food. Any questions? Great. Then let’s play the game!

**SFX: Play high-energy music as kids play game.**

*Allow time to play game. Once the game is complete, celebrate the winner. Direct volunteers back to their seats.*

“Thank you for playing ‘Guess the Nasty Space Food’! Clearly, identifying dehydrated food does not faze you! Great job! Today we will actually be talking about a time in the Bible when a river dried up drier than this dehydrated food.

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Welcome, everybody! Today we will be talking about a true story in the Bible that is pretty unbelievable! And I’m going to need all of your help. As I tell the story, we will stop periodically to ask for your help to fill in some blanks. We want to see if you can guess what happens next in this incredible story. However, be forewarned, the correct answers might surprise you.

“We will be talking about a dude from the Old Testament named Elijah, who was a prophet. A prophet is someone who hears from God and speaks His messages to everyone. But before we talk too much about Elijah, let’s get some background first.

“During this time, kings ruled over Israel, and most of the kings of Israel had a bad reputation, particularly King Ahab. In fact, the Bible says Ahab was evil in God’s sight and more evil than all of the kings who came before him! Reading in between the lines, I think it is safe to say he was a pretty terrible guy. And considering most of the kings before him were really bad kings, he would have been the baddest of the bad. Ahab did things like create an altar, or place to worship, for Baal, a false god. Then he promoted worshiping Baal instead of the one true God, a big no-no.

“Obviously, God was not happy with Ahab, and God used the prophet Elijah to deliver some news to the king. Because of the king’s disobedience, Elijah explained that a major problem was about to come over the land. Check this out. (*Open Bible and read 1 Kings 17:1b.*) Elijah said to Ahab, ‘I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that there won’t be any \_\_\_\_\_ on the whole land. There won’t be any during the next few years.’ (*NirV*)

### **CG: Fill-in-the-Blank Slide 1**

“This brings us to our first fill-in-the-blank question. What do you think God will keep from the land? Will it be ...

- A) Cows and goats
- B) Dew or rain
- C) Turkey and dressing

“Everyone shout out what you believe to be the correct answer when I count down from three.

*Count down from three and listen to the answers screamed out. Briefly dialogue with kids to see why they chose the answer they picked.*

“Fortunately, God did not eliminate all turkey and dressing from the land! If you said, ‘B) dew or rain,’ you were absolutely correct! God did away with all the rain and dew, which caused lakes and streams to dry up. This meant there would be a drought, and therefore food would be scarce. Nothing would change until Elijah said so.”

### **DRY AS A BONE**

**STORYTELLER:** “After telling the king about the coming drought, Elijah got out of there quick. The king wasn’t known for his patience and understanding, so Elijah hid in a valley. Once in the valley, there was a stream, and God told him to drink water from it. God also told Elijah that He would provide food for him. In fact, 1 Kings 17:6 says (*open Bible and read*), ‘The \_\_\_\_\_ brought him bread and meat in the morning. They also brought him bread and meat in the evening. He drank water from the brook.’ (*NirV*)

### **CG: Fill-in-the-Blank Slide 2**

“This leads us to our second fill-in-the-blank question. Who or what do you think God had bring food for Elijah?

- A) Birds
- B) Clouds in the sky
- C) King and his army

“Everyone shout out what you believe to be the correct answer when I count down from three.

*Count down from three and listen to the answers screamed out. Briefly dialogue with kids to see why they chose the answer they picked.*

“Some of you will be disappointed to learn God did not rain down bread or meat chunks on Elijah from the clouds in the sky. If you said, ‘A) Birds,’ you’re right! They were ravens to be exact. It’s sort of odd, if you stop to think about it, but God provided and cared for Elijah in a way only God can.

“Things were all gravy until the stream dried up because of the lack of rain. Bear in mind, no rain for Ahab also meant no rain for Elijah either! But thankfully, God didn’t leave Elijah to die of thirst. He gave Elijah instructions to find a widow in a place called Zarephath who would provide him with nourishment. So Elijah hit the road again until he got to Zarephath.”

### **FLOUR AND SOME OIL**

**STORYTELLER:** “At this point, Elijah was parched! He had no water and had traveled a great distance. Finally, when he arrived, he saw the widow gathering sticks. He asked the widow for some water, and as she was on her way to get it for him, he asked for some bread too. This is how she answered (*open Bible and read 1 Kings 17:12*), “I don’t have any bread,” she replied. “And that’s just as sure as the Lord your God is alive. All I have is a small amount of \_\_\_\_\_ in a jar and a little \_\_\_\_\_ in a jug.”

(*NIRV*)

### **CG: Fill-in-the-Blank Slide 3**

“This brings us to our third fill-in-the-blank question. What did she have a small amount of?

- A) Flour and olive oil
- B) Grapes and olives
- C) Barley and chicken nuggets

“Everyone shout out what you believe to be the correct answer when I count down from three.

*Count down from three and listen to the answers screamed out. Briefly dialogue with kids to see why they chose the answer they picked.*

“It’s hard to imagine a world without chicken nuggets, but this story pre-dates those deep fried chunks of perfection. If you said, ‘A) Flour and olive oil,’ you were right! She finished up by saying she had enough food for one last meal for herself and her son. She went on to say they would starve to death after that meal.”

### **DAILY PROVISIONS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Crazy, right? Pretty tragic! So Elijah had a choice: He could be afraid that he was going to eat the last of this widow’s food, or he could trust God would provide what was needed from the widow’s generosity. Elijah knew God had a big plan and he placed his trust in God. Elijah instructed the widow to make him a small loaf of bread and then feed herself and her son with the food she had left. With confidence coming from God, Elijah proclaimed to the woman that her jar of flour and the jug with oil would not run out before the next rain!

“Did you hear that? God promised a miracle! They could make as much food as they needed out of the same jar and jug without it becoming empty. Elijah explained that God would provide a miracle for her and her son because of her trust and faith in God. Holding onto Elijah’s words, she went and did as Elijah told her to do.

“Do you think God kept His promise? Let’s find out. It says (*open Bible and read 1 Kings 17:15*), ‘She went away and did what Elijah had told her to do. So Elijah had food \_\_\_\_\_.’ (*NIRV*)

#### **CG: Fill-in-the-Blank Slide 4**

“Think about this fill-in-the-blank question. How often do you think Elijah had food?

- A) Once a week
- B) Every day
- C) Once a month

“Everyone shout out what you believe to be the correct answer when I count down from three.

*Count down from three and listen to the answers screamed out. Briefly dialogue with kids to see why they chose the answer they picked.*

“The Bible tells us Elijah had food every day. Every day the widow pulled flour and oil from her jar and prepared food for Elijah, herself, and her son. Even though the jar had low supplies, she never ran out! God kept His promise! I wish my cookie jar operated like this!”

#### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “God provided for the widow AND Elijah in an impossible circumstance! With no food and no water, the widow was really worried that she and her son might not make it. She learned that she could trust God no matter what. God not only provided for her family, but God also provided for Elijah. God demonstrated His power and willingness to help those who help others. So many times, we really underestimate God. We don’t think He could possibly provide for us in our circumstance. But the truth is it’s easy for God to help us out. We need to be in the habit of going to God for help! It’s like our Bottom Line for today.

#### **CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**Ask God for what you need to lend a hand.** When we do that, God might just provide exactly what we need to serve others. God provided Elijah with food from birds and from jars that never ran dry! Leaning on God for help requires us to have faith that He hears us and He will provide. God is certainly capable of providing for us and for the people we are helping. If He can provide for a widow who is about to starve to death during a drought, He can certainly provide for us. This week, let’s go to God and ask for His help as we serve others. Let’s pray.”

**Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for the example of Elijah and the widow. They didn’t act in fear; they trusted You and You gave them what they needed. We know You are big and powerful. Please remind us of this when we need Your help to serve others. When we feel like our resources aren’t enough to help others, please remind us that You are bigger than our limitations. Thanks for always being available to us when we need You. We love You and ask all these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*