1 Kings 17:7-16

Main truth:

* God is all-powerful and ruler over all things everywhere.
* God provides for those who obey Him.
* God made the flour and oil in the widow’s jar last many days (about 3 years)

“**Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.”** Psalm 54:4 NIV

Drip. Drip. Drip. “Oh no! The brook Cherith is drying up!” cried Elijah.

God had commanded Elijah to go to the little brook and stay there. Every day Elijah drank nice fresh water from the brook and every morning and evening the ravens brought him bread and meat. But now the brook was drying up. There had been no rain because the people had turned away from God and served idols instead of the true God. Elijah had warned the King and Queen, but still they worshiped idols. No rain would come until they came back to the one true God. It is God who provides the rain and sun and food. Only God is to be worshipped.

But what would Elijah do? Elijah loved and obeyed God. Elijah had listened to God’s words. What would God do now? This seemed really bad. No water is bad. But still Elijah trusted God. The Bible tells us that Elijah prayed a lot. Elijah would pray. Pray is talking to God, but prayer is also listening to God. Elijah listened to God!

(Read from 1 Kings 17:8) The Word of God tells us:

“Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah saying, Arise, go to Zarephath and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” (A widow is a woman whose husband has died)

So, Elijah listened and obeyed the word of the Lord and he walked and walked to the place called Zarephath. And when Elijah got there he saw her! The woman was gathering sticks.

Elijah called out to her, “please get me a little water in a jar”. As she was going to get it, Elijah called to her again and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread too.”

But the woman turned to Elijah and said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in a bowl and a little oil in a jar. I am gathering some sticks so that I may prepare what’s left and then my son and I will eat one last time; after that we will die. We have no more food.”

There was no more food for the woman and her son. She was planning to make one last batch of pancakes and then they would not have any more food! Oh no! God sent Elijah to a woman who had no food! That seemed really bad. But God is all-powerful! God is ruler over all things! God rules over even flour and oil!

Elijah knew he could trust God. Elijah knew God would take care of him and the woman and her son. Elijah trusted God. Elijah obeyed God.

So, Elijah told the woman, “Do not be afraid! Just make me a little pancake first and bring it out to me and afterward you may make one for yourself and your son. For the LORD God has said ‘The bowl of flour shall not run out and the oil shall not go empty until the day that I, the LORD send rain on the earth again.’”

And that lady…she obeyed! She went in and made Elijah the first pancake and brought it to him. Then she went in… and there was more flour and more oil! She made another pancake for her son and for her….and there was more flour and more oil! And the next day there was enough again and the next day and the next day and for almost three years every day there was a little flour and a little oil! Each day they had enough to eat!

Every single day God showed He is ruler over all things. Every day God proved He would be faithful to take care of the woman, her son and His servant, Elijah!

God is all powerful. God is ruler over all things. God provides food for all living things. God takes care of His people who obey Him! How great is the Lord God!

Did the brook Cherith stay full of water or did it dry up?

Elijah had no water, no water is really bad--Who trusted God even when it looked really bad?

Who did God send Elijah to?

Did the woman have lots of food or only a little flour and oil?

When Elijah asked her for her last food, was she selfish or did she obey God and give Elijah some first?

What happened to the little bit of flour and oil?

Who took care of Elijah, the woman and her son?

Who did Elijah and the woman have to trust and obey?

Who is always faithful to His people who trust Him?

Who rules over all things?

Who provides all that we need?

Who can we trust?

(The verse goes to “He’s a jolly good fellow”)

*Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me*

*Surely God is my hel--lp… Psalm 54:4 ☺*