

Church of God Sunday School

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW'S SON

1 Kings 17:17-24

A terrible famine had come on the land of Samaria because King Ahab was wicked. He worshiped false gods, especially the idol Baal (*BAY-uhl*). God's man, Elijah, had said to King Ahab, "There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (1 Kings 17:1).

Just as Elijah said, no rain fell for three-and-a-half years. During this time, God, at some point, sent Elijah to the city of Zarephath (*ZAIR-uh-fath*), where a widow woman lived with her young son. She took care of Elijah. God also worked a miracle that kept them supplied with food: the meal barrel and oil bottle were never empty during the drought.

Sometime after the Lord had worked this miracle for the widow woman, her son became sick. The sickness was so serious that he died. Oh, the widow was sad! Her son had died—and she blamed it on Elijah! She went to Elijah and said, "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?"

But it was not Elijah who had caused her son to die. God controls life and death. God was not trying to hurt the woman by taking her son. He just wanted to show her something.

Elijah looked at the grieving mother. He said, "Give me thy son." Elijah took the child out of his mother's arms. He carried the boy up to the loft, to his own room where he stayed.



Elijah laid the boy on his own bed. He began to pray to God, and he climbed up on the bed and laid down on top of the boy! Why? Because a dead body is cold. Elijah was trying

to warm the boy's cold body with his own body as he prayed. He stretched himself out full length on the child three times and cried in a loud voice to God: "O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again."

God heard the prayer of Elijah. God returned the soul of the boy to his body. The child started breathing again; he was alive! Elijah took the little boy back to his mother.

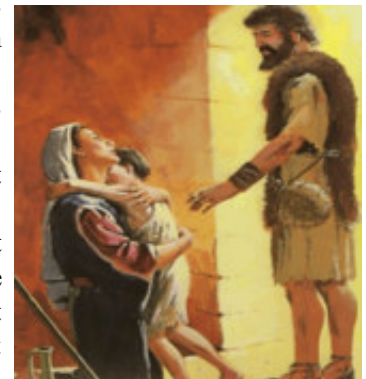
Elijah said to the widow woman, "See, thy son liveth." Elijah knew that God had the power to raise her son. Oh, how happy the mother was then when she saw her son alive and well again!

The widow woman must have had some doubts about Elijah being a man of God, because the woman said to him, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth." In other words: "Because of this, now I know that you are a man of God. You speak God's words, and they are the truth."

God used the boy's death and his resurrection (his return to life) to convince the widow woman that Elijah was a true man of God. He spoke the truth of God, and God listened to him.

The death of this young boy was for a purpose. God wanted to use this for His glory. The faith of both the widow woman and Elijah was strengthened.

We should trust that God's way is best also, even when we cannot understand why some things happen. Trust God to do what is right for you.

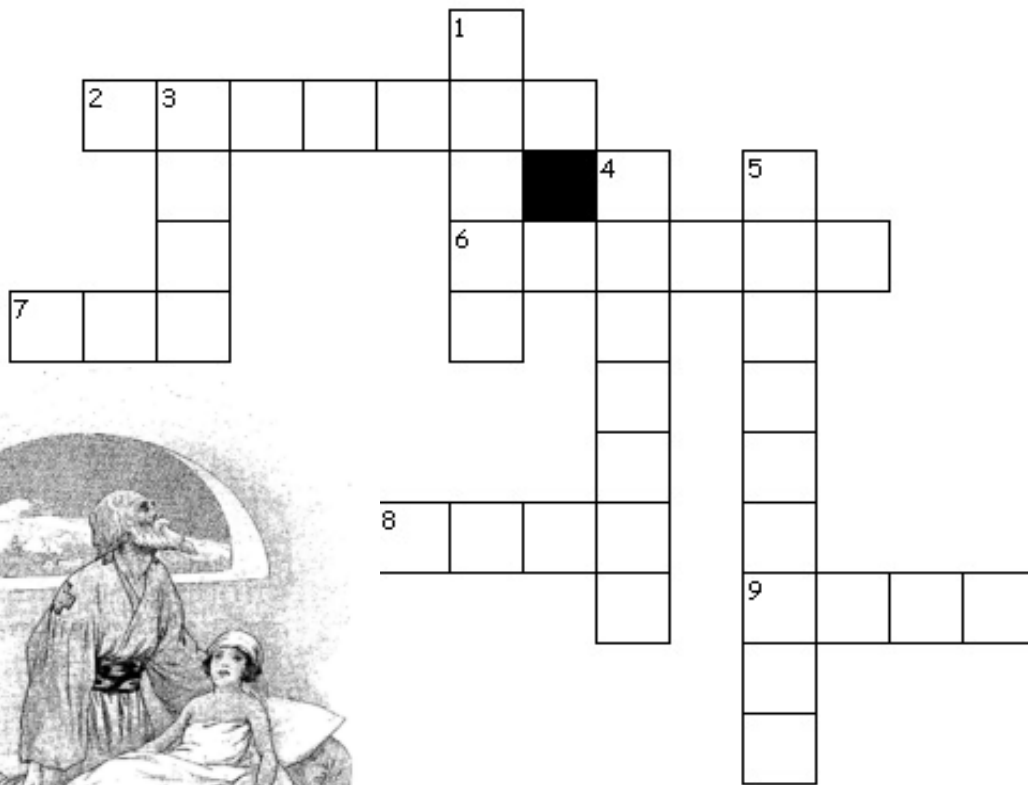


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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth."*

*—1 Kings 17:24*

# Elijah and the Widow's Son



**Across**

- 2. This caused a famine
- 3. The Prophet of God
- 7. He was sick and died
- 8. A false god
- 9. The wicked king

**Down**

- 1. Elijah prayed for the boy \_\_\_\_\_ times
- 3. This did not fall for three years
- 4. God performed this
- 5. The city where the widow lived

**Use These Words:**

**Zarephath   Drought   Rain   Baal   Son**

**Miracle   Three   Elijah   Ahab**

# Elijah and the Widow's Son

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The Prophet \_\_\_\_\_

BAHA 

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The wicked King \_\_\_\_\_

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A terrible \_\_\_\_\_ came on the land.

ABLA 

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The king worshiped the idol \_\_\_\_\_.

WOIWD 

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The woman whose son died was a \_\_\_\_\_.

ONS 

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Elijah said, "Give me thy \_\_\_\_\_."

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God worked a \_\_\_\_\_.

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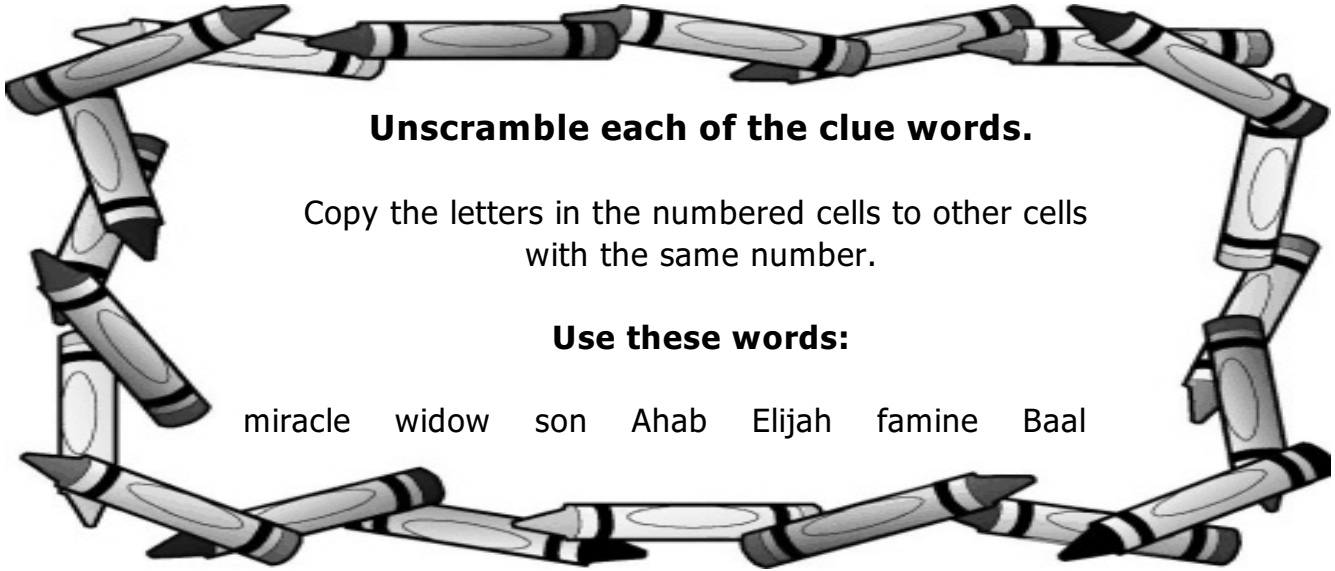
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**Unscramble each of the clue words.**

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

**Use these words:**

miracle   widow   son   Ahab   Elijah   famine   Baal