# LESSON 21

# THE BIRDS FEED ELIJAH



**Aim:** **To show the children how God, who is the Creator and sustainer of all life, cared for his servant Elijah during a drought.**

**Scripture Reading:** **1 Kings 16:29–33; 17:1–15**

**Memory Verse:** **Psalm 1:6** (complete v 6)
**[T]he Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## Presenting the Lesson

### Starting point

**Show Pictures 15 and 20. By means of questions remind the class of the various kings they have learnt about. Emphasise what kind of king each one was.** Saul was a disappointment, as he preferred to go his own way instead of obeying God. David was a good king, but also a sinner. However, he truly repented and found forgiveness.

### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Some years after David and Solomon, Ahab became king of Israel. His wife was a foreign princess called Jezebel. She was a very different foreigner from Ruth. (Ruth was a Moabite, remember?) **Show Pictures 2 and 3.** Jezebel did not worship the living God of Israel; instead, King Ahab and his people started worshipping her idols and the false god Baal. Jezebel ordered God's prophets to be killed. The people of Israel believed her when she said Baal controlled the earth, that it was Baal who made the rains come and the grain grow (16:29–33).
2. God sent his prophet Elijah to King Ahab. Elijah had to bring Ahab a message from the living God: There would be no dew or rain in Israel for three years, not until God gave the command. That would show the people that Baal was not the one who had power over the forces of nature (17:1–2).
   **Ask the class to tell you what happens if there is no rain.** Drought is a terrible thing. There are no crops to harvest, and the rivers and wells run dry.
3. During the terrible drought that followed God took special care of his servant Elijah. God showed him the way to a river that still had some water, and then God sent some black birds that could fly a long way every morning and evening to bring him bread and meat. **Show Picture 21.** No-one knew where Elijah was. He was safe from King Ahab, who was very angry about the drought (17:2–6).



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4. After a while the river dried up. Then God sent Elijah on a long walk to a neighbouring country. There he was directed to a poor widow, who shared her last food with him. In those days widows usually had very hard lives, as women were not allowed to work for a living. But God provided. He promised that her food supply would last until the rains came. And it never ran out (17:7–15).

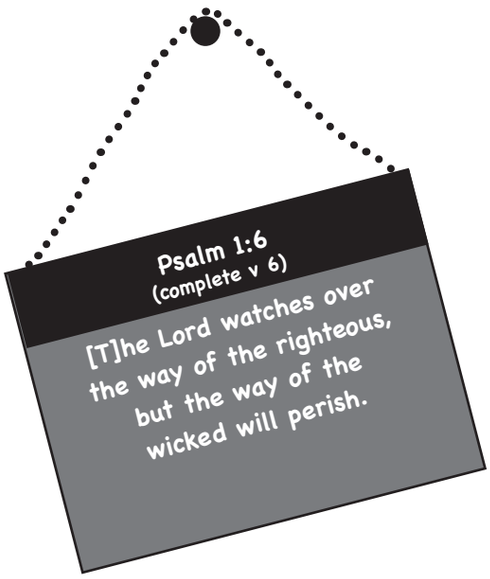
## Our Response to the Story

Why did God send the drought? He wanted to show King Ahab and the people of Israel that he is the only living God, the Creator and sustainer of all life. Baal had no power. It was just a lifeless wooden statue.

The Lord wants us to worship him as Creator and trust him to meet our needs as he did for Elijah.

**It would have a great impact if you could provide a personal example of God's provision from your own life.**

## Instil the Memory Verse






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