

The altar gathering — the essentials

One page, one gathering · ~35 min · for the room · on 1 Kings 17

Keeps almost all the effect with far less machinery. The **full booklet** (the eight cards, in-person/online, the leader's corner) is for **training the leaders**; this page is deployed **in the room**. Each week moves one step forward with Elijah — the text and the question are on the reverse.

THE FLOW — 4 MOVEMENTS

1 · We sing

5 min

One or two hymns. We lift the heart before we speak.

2 · We listen to the Word

10 min

Read the week's text (see reverse), then **the week's question**. Each answers in **one sentence** — no debate; we let the text speak.

3 · We pray for our home

15 min

We name the **first names we carry** (the faces on our phone), and pray for them **one by one, by name**.

4 · A step this week

5 min

Each says — and writes — **one thing to do** this week. Next week we ask: “did you do it?”

THE KIDS' CORNER · AGES 5 TO 10

Children stay with the grown-ups, but we make room for them:

- **During the Word** — we tell them Elijah's story of the week in one sentence (see reverse).
- **During prayer** — each child **draws** the person they pray for and says: “Jesus, take care of ____.”
- **The child's step** — a **kind act** this week: help, share, invite someone. We listen to them like the grown-ups.

First time here? You belong: we sing, we listen to a short text, we pray for the people we love, we leave with a step to take. Nothing to prepare.

The 8 weeks

The leader picks the week; the flow (front) does not change.

ONE WEEK, ONE STEP WITH ELIJAH

K1 · Go and hide 1 Kings 17.1-4

The question: “Where, this week, is God asking me to step away from the noise?”

Kids: Elijah hides near a little brook, and God takes care of him.

K2 · The replacement system 1 Kings 17.4-9

The question: “Through whom unexpected has God fed me lately?”

Kids: Birds bring food to Elijah! God uses even the smallest things.

K3 · The God who provides 1 Kings 17.4-6

The question: “Where is my dry season right now?”

Kids: Elijah drinks from the brook and eats what God sends. God never forgets.

K4 · Radical dependence 1 Kings 17.5-7

The question: “What do I insist on choosing myself, that God is asking me to let go?”

Kids: The brook dries up, but Elijah trusts. We can trust God.

K5 · The three tables 1 Kings 17.4-16

The question: “Where does God set a table for me in the middle of the desert?”

Kids: God prepares food for Elijah in the desert. God feeds us too.

K6 · Kerith reveals the Father 1 Kings 17.8-16

The question: “Am I praying to a boss I expect a service from, or to a Father I talk to?”

Kids: God sends Elijah to a poor lady; her flour never runs out. God is a good Father.

K7 · The counter-rhythm 1 Kings 17.8-16

The question: “Where does the rhythm of the world pull me away from God?”

Kids: God does things differently from everyone. His way is the best.

K8 · The silence 1 Kings 17.17-24

The question: “Can I bear God's silence, or do I fill it right away?”

Kids: A little boy gets sick and dies; Elijah prays very hard, and God brings him back to life! God hears prayer.
