Key Thought: God always provides, but it takes faith and the right attitude on our part to see that provision. God does genuinely care about us and our needs. If we ask… He will supply our needs!

**Key Information Page**

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Key Teaching Point: Know your students! If several of them are from under privileged families, be careful how you present this material. If your students have a problem with never being satisfied with what they have, know that as well, and address that need. Only you see the needs of your class! As we have said before, use this material only as a guide. You feed your flock what they need. In the making it your own section, you may want to make a list of needs of different students and the issues they have so that you can address those needs.

Key Materials: Ingredients to make bread; an extra yeast package and sugar package to keep referring back to; paper and pencils for each student; a basketball hoop or something to throw our cares into; print off pictures, or get more pictures of the great depression from a book; a piano and someone to play to jazz up your faith building song service; print off the letter and seal it in an envelope to read to the class.



Key of making it your own: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Miracle of God’s Provision

**Level 3 Lesson 12**

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**Bread dough rises**

This object lesson does take some prep time, and you may want to make one batch of dough an hour before church, so that you can divide it into three parts at the beginning of the class. But, at whatever stage you choose to be at when class begins, you want to stress that…. yeast mixed with sugar grows…or faith (yeast) mixed with the right spirit (sugar) grows! And we will see how much so by the end of class!

White Bread

3 cups warm water

3 TBSP. active dry yeast

3/4 cup sugar

1 TBSP. salt

1/2 cup butter, melted

3 eggs, beaten

8 + cups white flour

Directions

Mix warm water, yeast, and sugar in a large bowl.  Let set for 10 minutes or until foamy.  Then add salt, butter and beaten eggs.  Stir.  Add 8 cups of flour and mix well.  Gradually add additional flour as needed and knead until smooth.  Place dough in a greased bowl and turn several times to coat.  Cover with cloth, place in a warm area, and allow to rise until doubled.  (About 1 hour) Punch down dough and divide into three equal parts.  Shape into loaves and place in three 8 1/4 x 4 1/2 greased bread pans.  Let rise until almost doubled.  Bake at 350 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown and hollow sounding when tapped.  The loaves may need to be covered with foil in the last few minutes of baking to prevent excessive browning.  After removing from the oven, remove from pans to a wire rack and brush tops with butter.

***[http://signatures.mylivesignature.com/54488/103/F29780F26BC65312EDBFFE6611AE46D4.png](http://www.mylivesignature.com/)***

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Sing faith building songs!

There are a lot of songs that fit this bill! Such as: “God’s Gonna Finish Just What He Started;” “God Can Do Anything but Fail” and “God Will Make a Way When There is No Way.” You may even want a string of songs, or a mini song service, to get the Spirit moving in the right direction.

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**Have you ever not had enough?**

Very few children in America can say they have not had enough. If you are a missionary reading this in a different country, then that is a different story, and you need to approach this subject in a different way. But, in America, we all have food to eat (it may not be pizza and ice cream) but there is always something. Challenge your students to go home and look in the cupboards and be thankful. There was a time in America when food was scarce, and people did go hungry, or wait in soup lines for a bowl of soup. If you have an older person in your church, you may want them to come in and tell a story about living through the Great Depression. One man in our church tells of eating only onions for months when he was a kid! But he was always fed, and onions are full of vitamins, so he was healthy! His family prayed and was always thankful. It was that faith (yeast) and right altitude (sugar) that got him through. The writers also included some pictures to help with this portion of the lesson. 

 These are just a few pictures from Google images of soup lines in America.

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**Casting our Cares!**

Pass out pieces of paper and pencils to every student. Ask the students to write all the things that they need. Try to get them to write only true needs such as food, clothes, a place to live, love from an adult and so on. Then have them crumple up the paper into a ball. Then write on a white board or poster board this verse where the students can see it. 1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” Then, have each student take their paper ball, make a basket, and say, “God has got this!” as they do so. Usually, little basketball hoops can be purchased for little money, or any sort of basket can be used. Encourage each student to really “ham it up” as they make their shot and say, “God has got this.” This part of the lesson can be a real faith building experience in itself!

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\O8ZCLLJJ\MC900304325[1].wmf Making the connection to the Word!

**Old ladies and birds!**

Can you imagine God telling you that birds were going to come by and bring you food? Or, that a little old lady and her son, who were starving to death, were going to feed you for the next couple of years? Well, it happened to Elijah. Read 1 Kings 17:1-6. 1Kings 17:1 “And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, *As* the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. **2.** And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **3.** Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan. **4.** And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. **5**. So he did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan. **6.** And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.”

Here we see a man with a lot of faith. (Hold up the yeast package) Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three and a half years, and it did not rain. Now God tells him to move by a brook. We don’t see Elijah complaining about going where God told him to go, (Hold up the sugar) and he has more than enough!

Then read 1Kings 17:7-16 “And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. **8.** And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **9.** Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth* to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. **10.** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman *was* there gathering sticks: and he called to her, and said, fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. **11.** And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, “Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. **12.** And she said, *As* the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. **13.** And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. **14.** For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. **15.** And she did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days. **16.** *And* the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.”

Here again, a bad thing happened…the brook dried up. But Elijah (Hold up the yeast and the sugar) just did what the Lord said and went to Zarephath. When Elijah told the “Old Lady” what God said, at first, we see she was a little short on yeast (faith) and sugar (right attitude) but, she got with the program and put her faith and right attitude to work, and she and her son never went hungry! God provides when we have faith and a right attitude.

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**Life application story**

Print off this letter and put it in an envelope and act like your class just received this letter!

Dear Sunday School Students,

I know that you have each gone through hard times in your lives, and there are going to be many more. However, I am writing to share with you a few of the things I have been through, and I hope it will help you to have faith in God, no matter what!

I remember a time, right after I was saved, that I received an eviction notice. The owners of my building were kicking me out of my house! I only had thirty days to find a new house, pack, and move. I looked and looked but couldn't find a house. When I had almost given up, God made a way! Just before my thirty days were up, we found a house, but other people were looking at it too. It was a nice house with a big yard just outside of town, with plenty of room for my kids to play. We only had three days left to move, when we received the call that we got the house! Not only that, but God sent people to come and help us move our things, and we were out of the old house just in time!

Another time, we were almost out of food. I had five kids, plus my husband and myself, so there were seven mouths to feed! We didn't have money to buy food, but God knew what we needed. Someone pulled up in front of our house and opened their trunk and started taking out bags, and bags, and bags, and bags, AND BAGS of groceries! God has provided food for us this way many, many times. Just when we don't know where our next meal will come from, someone comes to my house and gives us food, from meat to milk, to vegetables and more! And not just any food! We have been given the best cuts of meat, fresh vegetables from someone's garden, expensive bread...it's always good, because we are God's children, and He always provides.

When my husband went to college and didn't have a job, we didn't know how we were going to pay our rent or other bills, but God made a way each and every month for our bills to be paid until he graduated and found a job.

There came a time in my life that I needed a larger vehicle because my children were growing up. I prayed and told God what I wanted. I had no money. It was three days late; someone I didn't even know contacted me about trading their larger vehicle for mine. Unfortunately, they lived in the southern part of the state, some six hours away from me, but God does all things perfectly! We happened to be leaving the very next day for that same area for a family reunion! We met the people, did a test drive of each other's vehicles, signed titles, and traded on the spot with no money! And it was the exact type of vehicle I had asked God for!

My husband has been out of work several times, but God has always provided. Just yesterday, we received a notice that we wouldn't be getting any more money because the unemployment benefits had run out, but God has already been working on it, because we found a way for several bills to be paid already!

When things have needed repaired, God sends someone to help us! Our air conditioner broke last month. I prayed and someone stopped by and looked at it. We prayed again, and the next morning it started working and is still working great today. Just yesterday, my husband was going to fix the brakes on our vehicle. We were going to have to buy a special tool, but someone stopped by and had that tool. Not only did he allow my husband to use it, but he helped replace the brakes.

God has never failed me! He always knows what we need. When I am sad, He gives me joy through prayer, or someone comes to me and says just what I needed to hear. He gives me strength when I am weak, He protects me from harm and evil, and He provides my every need. I know He always will because He never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." If He has always been there, and will always be the same, I know He will always be there to care for me no matter what comes my way. I am a child of the King and He gives good gifts to His children! When you believe that, you will have faith that He will take care of you too!

Love in Jesus,

Sister Thankful 4 Provision

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**Revisit the bread!**

Take another look at what yeast and sugar can do! Just like your faith with the right attitude you will always have enough! The dough should have doubled in size and your students will see for themselves what God does when we mix faith (yeast) and the right attitude (sugar) together.