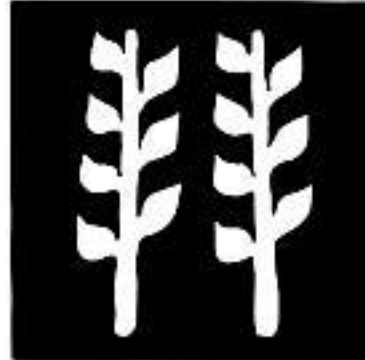


# Year 2

## God is Provider

5 Weeks



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will:

- Appreciate the goodness of God in providing for our needs
- Recognize the importance of giving thanks to God for his provision
- Be responsible in using God's provision wisely
- Understand that God has provided enough food for the whole world and it is therefore our responsibility to share with others who don't have enough

### Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Plants: requirements for growth; Plant foods for health

### Link between "God is Provider" and classroom topics:

God provides for all of His creation. He provides plant food for us to eat.

### Values:

Faith; care for the environment; peace; generosity; thankfulness

# God is Provider

## Week 1

### God is good to us

#### Bible references

Psalm 103:5 He fills my life with good things. (GNB)

Psalm 50:10 He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

1 Kings 17 Miraculous provision for the widow when Elijah prays

#### Introduction

Think of some of the good things God provides for us.

God wants to give us good things. Can you imagine a Mum or Dad who never ran out of money? God, our Heavenly Father, owns everything. He never runs out of good things to give us. We can ask Him to provide the things we need.

#### Bible Lesson: God provides oil for Elijah and the widow

Elijah was a prophet of God. That meant that he listened to God's voice and he told the people what God was saying.

There had been no rain for a long time. The brook dried up. God said, "Elijah, I want you to go to the town."

Elijah did what God said and went to the town.

There he saw a woman. She was picking up sticks.

Elijah said to her, "Please get me some water to drink. And could you please give me a piece of bread to eat?"

The woman looked unhappy "I'm sorry," she said sadly, "I have no bread. I have a little flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. That is all I have. I think my son and I will die. We have no more food."

"Do not be afraid," said Elijah. "Make a little bread for me. Then make bread for yourself and your son. God has told me that your jar of flour will not be finished and your jug of oil will not be empty, until the day when God sends rain.

That is what happened. The jar of flour was never empty; the jug always had enough oil to make bread for each day. This was so for one whole year. God kept His promise to care for Elijah, the woman and her son until at last the rain fell and the grass was green again.

#### Art/Craft

Make items of imitation food from flour/salt dough. Bake in moderate oven 4-5 minutes. Paint them.

#### Recipe for flour/salt dough

1 cup plain flour; 1/2 cup salt; approximately 1/3 cup water

# God is Provider

## Week 2

### God keeps on giving.

#### **Bible references:**

2 Kings 2 & 3 Elijah goes to heaven and the blessing is passed to Elisha

2 Kings 4 Miraculous provision for another widow when Elisha prays

#### **Bible Lesson: Elisha helps a widow**

Elijah was now an old man. God gave Elijah a helper named Elisha. Elisha went everywhere with Elijah and gave God's message to the people of Israel. But now it was time for Elijah to go to heaven.

Elijah said to Elisha, "You stay here. I have to go across the River Jordan."

But Elisha would not stay. He wanted to go with Elijah. At the edge of the river, Elijah took his robe and hit the water with it. At once the water went apart. Elijah and Elisha crossed the river together on dry ground.

When they reached the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "I'm going to leave you now."

Elisha asked Elijah, "I want to be a good prophet like you. Please let your spirit rest on me."

Suddenly the two men saw a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. A strong wind began to blow. The chariot came down between the two men. It picked up Elijah. Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Elijah's robe had fallen off. Elisha picked it up. Elisha went back to the River Jordan. He stood at the river's edge. He hit the water with the robe just as Elijah had done. The dry path came again and Elisha crossed over to the other side.

Now Elisha listened to God and gave the people God's word, just as Elijah had done.

One day a widow came to him. The widow said to Elisha, "Please help me. My husband has died. He owed a man some money and now the man has come to ask for his money. I have nothing to pay him. He wants to take my children to work for him.

Elisha said to the woman, "Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"I do not have anything at all except one jar of cooking oil," said the widow. The women in those days used this oil with flour to make bread.

Then Elisha said, "Go home and borrow as many empty oil jars as you can from your neighbours. Then take your jar of oil and pour the oil out into all the empty jars."

The woman collected lots of jars and set them out on the table. She did exactly as Elisha had said. She took her jar of oil and began to pour her oil into the empty jars. God gave her more and more oil until all the jars were filled.

The woman went back to Elisha and told him what had happened. Elisha said, "Go and sell the oil and pay the man who you owe money to. Then you and your children can use the rest of the money to buy food for yourselves.

There was enough money left for herself and her two boys to live on for a long time.

**Activity**

Elisha told the widow to borrow lots of jars so she can pour oil into them. Make a picture showing all the different jars she collected.



# God is Provider

## Week 3

### God looks after families.

#### Bible references

Genesis 37-46 God provided food for Joseph and his family.

Psalms 104:24-28 God provides food for His creation.

Matthew 6:25-34 Do not worry about food and clothes.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd. I have everything I need. (GNB)

#### Introduction

Look at different grains, e.g. wheat, rice, barley.

Discuss the different uses of these grains.

#### Game

You will need two or three pairs of tweezers, some cups and some grain. Give each child a pair of tweezers and a cup. Place a bowl of grain in the centre. Someone says 'Go' and counts to 20. Players must pick up one grain at a time with their tweezers and place the grains in the cup. The player with the most grains in their cup on the count of 20 is the winner.

#### Bible Lesson: Joseph

This is a very long story, so we will tell it in two parts.

#### Part 1

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name is Jacob, and they lived in Canaan in the land of Israel.

Joseph had eleven brothers; and only had one brother younger than him.

Because Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent more time with him, and he became very special to him. So Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. It was very beautiful and had every colour you could imagine in it.

All of Joseph's older brothers saw this and they got very jealous. The word jealous means that Joseph's brothers disliked him because they thought his father liked him more, and because he got the special coat. They got so jealous they couldn't even say a kind word to him.

One day Joseph had a dream, and he went to tell his brothers. He said, "Guess what? Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me. Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

"Who do you think you are?" The brothers said. "Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?" This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more.

When he told his father about his dreams he said, "Those are strange dreams." But he thought carefully about what Joseph had told him.

A few days later Joseph's father asked him to check on his brothers. They were in the fields quite a distance away. So Joseph went to find them.

When the brothers saw Joseph in the distance, they made a plan to kill him. But when Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother heard this he said, "Let's not kill him. Instead we can just throw him in a well out here in the field." He said this because he was secretly planning to come back and rescue Joseph when the other brothers had left.

So when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful robe and they threw him in an empty well. A little while later some men on camels came along. They were taking things to sell in Egypt. One of the brothers spoke up, "Why don't we sell him to these people, this way we never have to see him again, and we don't have to kill him."

The other brothers liked this idea, so they sold him as a slave to the people who were going to Egypt.

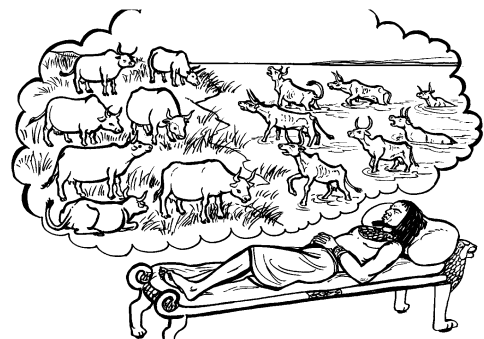
Unfortunately, Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what happened. When he returned to the well he noticed that Joseph was gone. He had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, an assistant to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in animal blood and took it back to their father. When the father saw this he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days, so much that nobody could comfort him.

But God had a plan for this family. God was going to turn this bad thing into something good. He was going to use Joseph to provide for his family several years from now. Jacob would have to wait a long time to see his son again. But God was at work, still caring for Jacob's family.

### **Discussion**

- Who was the father of the family? (Jacob)
- Where did the family live?
- Did Jacob love God?
- How many sons did Jacob have?
- Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph?
- Why was there no food in Israel?



# God is Provider

## Week 4

### God looks after families

#### Introduction

Show Israel and Egypt on a map.

Explain that the people of Israel followed the true God.

The people of Egypt worshipped false gods.

In Egypt we find the Great Pyramids.

#### Discussion

Briefly revise Part 1 of the story of Joseph.

Who was the father of the family? (Jacob)

Where did the family live? (Show Canaan on the map)

Did Jacob love God?

How many sons did Jacob have? (twelve)

Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph?

Why was there no food in Israel?

#### Bible Lesson: Joseph Part 2

Now Joseph had started out as a slave, but the Lord was with Joseph and He helped him do everything right. Potiphar, Joseph's master, made him his helper, and put him in charge of everything that he owned.

The problem came when Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph to her husband. She told him that Joseph had done something wrong when really, he hadn't. So Potiphar had Joseph put into jail.

The Lord was still with Joseph in jail. Because Joseph was a good man the jail keepers could see that Joseph could be trusted. He was put in charge of all the prisoners.

One night two of the prisoners had dreams. They told their dreams to Joseph. "Your dream," he said to one, "means that you will soon be out of jail." And he was.

One day the Pharaoh had a dream, and nobody could explain it to him. Someone remembered that Joseph could tell the meaning of dreams.

"Can you understand dreams?" Pharaoh asked. "I can't, but God helps me." Joseph replied. After Pharaoh had told him his dream Joseph explained, "God is warning you. There will be seven years when nothing will grow and there won't be any food for anyone."

"What can I do?" Pharaoh asked. "God has shown you what to do. There will be seven years before the bad years that will be very good...so good that there will be extra food for

everyone. So you should save some of the grain from the harvest every year. Then you will have enough to get you through the bad years." Joseph said.

Pharaoh believed all that Joseph told him, and put him in charge of all the land of Egypt.

People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because the whole world was in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. (It had been over 10 years since they had seen him).

The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person. Just as he dreamed they would at the beginning.

After a few meetings with his brothers he could not keep it in any longer and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.

This is a true story about a family who saw God provide for them.

### **Discussion**

How did Joseph become a very important person?

How did God tell the king to save up food?

How did God provide for Joseph's family?

Why did the brothers travel to Egypt?

Why didn't the brothers recognize Joseph?

What happened when Joseph finally told the brothers who he was?

How did Jacob feel when he saw Joseph again?

How does God provide for your family?

### **Activity 1**

Children can draw pictures from the story of Joseph.

These can be put together in a book, with simple sentences under the drawings.





# God is Provider

## Week 5

### God gives to us. He wants us to share with others.

#### **Bible references:**

Genesis 1 God provides through the creation

John 16:1-14 A little boy gives his lunch to Jesus

#### **Introduction**

Although there is enough food for everyone in the whole world, some people have a lot and some people do not have much at all. In some countries children are dying because they live in places where there are diseases but no medicine; where there is only dirty water to drink; where the children cannot go to school because they have to work hard to earn money for their family.

How can the people with too little be helped?

Some people have set up organizations to help the poor. For those people who have plenty, they can give money each month so that children of poor families can go to school and have good food and good water.

#### **Bible Lesson: Jesus fed 5000 people**

Jesus does not want anyone to go hungry. But sometimes he asks us to help those who do not have enough food.

Jesus loved to teach people about God. Many, many people were sitting on the grass listening. Everyone was so interested in what Jesus was saying that they didn't realize how late it was. It was almost dinner time! And the people were hungry!

"What are we going to do?" the disciples asked Jesus? "There are all these hungry people and we have no food for them. We don't have enough money to feed all these people!"

"Don't worry," said Jesus. "You can give everyone something to eat."

"But how?" wondered the disciples.

"There is a little boy here," said Jesus, "who has brought his lunch. He has five little bread rolls and two little fish."

Jesus asked the little boy to come up.

"Would you give me your lunch?" asked Jesus.

The little boy gave Jesus his lunch.

Jesus gave the lunch to the disciples.

"Tell everyone to sit down on the grass," he said. Then he asked them to start sharing out the lunch.

"There are 5000 people here!" said one of the disciples. "This little lunch will not go among all these people!"

But the disciples did as Jesus said. They gave out the food, and as they did, the loaves and fish did not run out. More and more loaves and fish kept coming, until everyone had enough to eat. Then they gathered up the left overs. There were 12 baskets full of food left over!

Because the little boy had given what he had, Jesus was able to use it to provide for many people.

### Discussion

What has God given us?

What do you have to give to others?



### Activity

Sharing with 20 pencils

Ask children to demonstrate in front of the class:

- One child shares the pencils between two children. How many each?
- Another child shares the pencils between three children. How many each? How many left over?
- Another child shares the pencils between four children. How many each? How many left over?
- Keep going with this pattern up to ten.