

# Worship

*This term we are going to be thinking about treating other people with respect. Treating people with respect is a good thing to do, something that involves being kind to others and making them feel worthwhile.*

*There are several stories in the Bible that Christians believe highlight how much God values showing respect for others. There are three main characters.*

- *A man called **Elijah** who was a prophet, which means someone who heard God speaking and told others what he was saying.*
- *A **poor widow** who worshipped different things from Elijah. Both of these things would have made her a bit of an outsider at the time, so she would largely have been ignored.*
- *The **widow's son** - he was just plain hungry!*

*It hadn't rained for ages and Elijah was starting to feel hungry and thirsty.*

*'Don't worry,' said God. 'Go to a town called Zarephath. I've told a widow who lives there to give you some food.'*

*Just as God had said, when Elijah arrived at the town, he saw the widow gathering sticks for a fire.*

*‘Excuse me,’ he said. ‘Please could you bring me a drink of water – and a piece of bread, too?’*

*‘I’m sorry,’ replied the woman, ‘but I don’t have any bread. All I’ve got is a handful of flour and a little oil in this jug. I’m picking up these sticks to make a fire, and then I’ll make some bread with the flour and the oil so that my son and I can have one final meal before we die.’ ‘Don’t be afraid!’ Elijah said to the widow. ‘Go home and make the bread, and then bring me a piece, but keep some for you and your son as well. God has promised that the flour will not be used up nor will the oil run dry until the day that he sends rain on the land.’*

*The widow could have had several thoughts.*

- ‘Can I trust this man’s words? Will the flour and the oil really last that long?’*
- ‘I’ve got nothing to lose, so I’ll do it anyway.’*
- ‘Why has God chosen me, a poor widow, to provide food for Elijah the prophet?’*

*Explain that we don’t know what she really thought, but the story continues . . .*

*When the widow heard Elijah's words, she returned to her house, made the bread and gave some to Elijah. Then, the widow made some more bread . . . and then more . . . and then more . . .*

*As Elijah had promised, the oil and the flour did not run out until the drought and the famine were over.*

### **Reflection**

*Even if the people around the woman in today's story didn't see her as particularly valuable, God saw her as someone important who had a special job to do for him. In the story, Elijah and the widow treated each other with dignity and respect – they both listened to God and listened to each other.*

### **Prayer**

*Thank you god for this new day  
In my school to work and pray  
Please be with me all day long  
In every story, game and song.  
May all the happy things we do.  
Make you, our father, happy too.  
Amen*

