



Listening to the story of Elija and the widow of Zarephath

“The one who obeys God's instruction for today will develop a keen awareness of His direction for tomorrow.” ~ Lysa TerKeurst

Sometimes it feels really hard to follow God's instructions – especially when they seem strange or don't make sense! Following instructions was a key component of our three Children's Gatherings held this fall on October 9th, 23rd and 30th. In order to cut down on travel for participants and decrease the chance of spreading COVID, the Commission for Working with Children and Youth (Dejan, Simona and I) decided to host the same children's event in three different locations.

The theme for the events was “Бог гледа и обезбедува” (“God Sees and God Provides”) and focused on God's provision for Elijah and the widow at Zarephath in 1 Kings 17:7-16. We only had three children participate in the event in Skopje, and one had to participate virtually due to recent contact with someone who tested positive for COVID. However, twenty-eight children were able to attend the event in Monospitovo and we had thirty-one participants in Kochani.



Reading clues during Skopje's children's gathering



Group photo in Monospitovo

There was a severe famine going on during the time of Elijah, but God saw the needs Elijah and the widow and did not forget them. God gave Elijah and the widow some pretty strange instructions to follow so He could provide food for them. Elijah had to travel to Zarephath and ask a starving widow to cook a meal for him. Then the widow had to trust God and give Elijah the last of her food! After sharing the story of how the flour and oil did not run out until the drought was over, we had the children play a game of *Elijah Says* modeled after the game *Simon Says* to practice following instructions. The game was new to the children and some of their reactions were quite funny!



Playing a game of "Elijah Says"

Next, we told the children that we would make vessels out of clay like the ones in the story. But then we couldn't find the supplies!! All I could find were envelopes with instructions for each group to follow. I handed each group their envelope and they got to go on a treasure hunt to find the clay for their vessels. The children loved hunting for the next clue and eventually, all found their bag of craft supplies.



Making vessels out of clay.

After the craft session, we enjoyed a lunch together, had free time to socialize or color and played some group games. Then we had our second time of worship with a Bible lesson. Simona did an excellent job sharing how God saw our need for forgiveness, restoration, and eternal life and did not forget us. He provided these things for us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, and gives us instructions in how to receive that provision in John 3:16 "...that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." We prayed with the children and then we had a second craft session where they could make a simple cross.

I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to work the many volunteers who came out to support these children's gatherings. Simona, Dejan and I could not have done it without them! It was such a blessing to reflect on God's provision and to gather as His community once again.

Jennifer Moore

A Long Awaited Gathering

Many of you know my mother was diagnosed with cancer back in February of 2019 and because of COVID, I could not travel to be with her. She is now cancer free and I am beyond grateful that I was finally able to travel this past November to spend several weeks hanging out with her, working puzzles, going shopping and of course, celebrating Thanksgiving!



Click [here](#) to donate



Global Ministries
© The United Methodist Church
connecting the church in mission