

# Kindergarten

Teacher's Guide & Student Workbook



## A Time of Trust



“As for the Lord, His way is perfect, the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

(2 Sam 22:31)

Year 2 Book 2



This kindergarten Teacher's Guide is dedicated to those who serve God in the children's ministry. May God continue to grant you wisdom and strength to impact the future generations.

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## Teacher's Inspiration



### *Continue to Meditate on God's Word*

The psalmist David spoke frequently about meditating on God's word—on His unfailing love, His goodness, His works and ways. It is tremendously uplifting to think on the words of God, all of His goodness, and all the marvelous works of His hands.

It is the same for God's love. If we never meditate on His love for us, we will not experience it. Let's fill our mind with the Lord Jesus Christ; it will bring Him into our consciousness and we'll begin to enjoy a closeness with Him that also brings joy, peace, and victory in our journey of faith.

**"Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips, that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name." (Hebrews 13:15)**





# A Time of Trust

**W**elcome to the world of four- and five-year-olds. This year will be an exciting one as your young students are exposed to their first formal teachings from the Bible. Your students will come to you with a variety of backgrounds, both culturally and linguistically, along with how much experience they have had with church and the words of God.

Your students will learn in a variety of ways including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the individual needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are good reminders as you review prior lessons and connect them to future ones. Hands on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited in the future.

Take the time to be involved and get to know your individual students. Try to keep them excited, involved, and focused. As you plan the lesson, it is important to remember to let them have the opportunity to move around or change activities every five to ten minutes since their attention span is only about four to five minutes long. They can come up to the board and point to an answer, give you a thumbs up or thumbs down, whisper their answer to their neighbor, or stand up to answer a question. This can help keep them on task and involved throughout the hour.

This book is designed to be teacher friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. It is very important to read and review the lesson you will be teaching at least one week ahead of time in order for you to prepare the materials you will need. Vocabulary development will be a key step to each lesson at this young age, and it would be very beneficial to prepare visuals to go with each new vocabulary word. They can be posted up for the students to review each week. Also, if there are many characters to the story, you might consider preparing visuals for each one so that it is easier for the students to follow along. The last thing you will need to consider is which activities will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several for you to choose from. Some of your students will be able to draw on their own, but most will need a lot of help. They will likely work well on activities they can trace, color, cut, or glue.

Remember that all students develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. So be patient, persevere, and have fun as you teach. In the end it will be a wonderful experience for everyone.

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All Scriptures are quoted from NKJV

Welcome to this exciting opportunity to reach four- and five-year-olds with the wonderful news of God's love. This quarter's lessons focus on some of God's great workers.



In **unit one**, the children will learn about Samuel, the prophet. From stories about how he grows up in the tabernacle to anointing Saul as the first king of Israel, they will see how he served and obeyed God throughout his life. These lessons can teach the children about obedience and true worship.

**Unit two** focuses on King David and King Solomon. As the children hear stories about David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, and Solomon building the temple, they will see how the lives of God's people are set apart for His use. The children can be encouraged by these examples to show their faith through their words and actions.

In **unit three**, the power and grace of God are revealed through the lives of Elijah and Elisha. The children will learn about God's grace as He provides for Elijah during the drought, as well as His power as the prophets perform amazing miracles. They can praise God for His daily providence and thank Him for His everlasting love.

As you teach this unit, let the theme of each lesson shine through. Make the stories come alive so the children can fully understand and appreciate their teachings. They depend on us, the teacher, to interpret the stories for them. Invite them to learn about God, to share God's love with others, and to grow ever stronger in their faith. We hope you will enjoy growing with the Kindergarten Class as you teach them more about the word of God. Enjoy this new quarter and experience the good news with all the wonder and awe of four- and five-year-olds!



## Your Teaching Procedures

1

### Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** To help the children praise God through hymnal worship.

**Procedure:** Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the children in simple hymns, or action rhymes.

2

### In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** To let the children hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

**Procedure:** Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. The Bible story may be told to the class as a whole by one teacher, or the class may be broken up into smaller groups with a teacher for each group. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship Procedure. They are:

- 1) Bible Story
- 2) Check for Understanding
- 3) Life Application Story

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words which are listed in each lesson.

3

### Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Helping your students become familiar with the word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is helping the students put the word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

**Procedure:** Let the students work on the Student Activities. (If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers.) We have come up with a variety of activities as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

# Meet your Life Application Families

Praise and thank God that each lesson contains a Life Application Story to enhance the objective of the Bible story. We sincerely wish that you go through these family backgrounds before sharing them with the class. Enjoy sharing these stories with your loving kindergartners!

1

The Hayes Family

**The Hayes family is comprised of Pastor Hayes, his wife, and their daughters Cathy and Rachel. Cathy is six and Rachel is four. Being typical sisters, Cathy and Rachel get into arguments sometimes and those are the times they remember to rely on God to work out their problems.**

2

The Lewis Family

**Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have two children named Julie and Tommy. Julie is eight and Tommy is six. Mr. Lewis is often away from home due to his job, so most of the time it is just Mrs. Lewis and the two children at home, at church, etc.**

3

The Lopez Family

**The Lopez family came to believe through a great miracle. Ricky, the oldest son, was dying from a chronic disease, but Jesus healed him. Through this, the whole family was brought to Jesus. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Lopez and Ricky, there is the youngest son named Juan. Ricky is nine and Juan is six.**

4

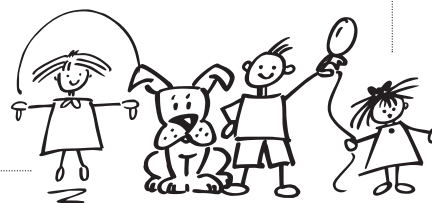
The Lim Family

**The Lim family is a relatively large family, comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Lim and their four children. Nicole, who is seventeen, is the oldest. Lisa, who is thirteen, is in junior high. Benjamin is nine years old and in the fourth grade. Susie is the youngest, at five years old. The Lim family converted from Buddhism some time ago. Nicole and Lisa might remember their former lives, but Benjamin and Susie pretty much grew up in the church.**

5

The Marsh Family

**The Marsh family are long-time believers in Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have two children who were baptized as babies. Michelle is seven and John is five. Both children have grown up in the church and have at least a fundamental knowledge of the truth.**





# Understanding Your Students

Kindergarten Stage (4-5 year olds)

## Characteristics

### Body

1. Fast development, non-stop activity
2. Big muscles begin to develop (need to stretch hands and feet)
3. Small muscles are developing
4. Vocal cords are developed

### Mind

5. Attention span is very limited
6. Limited vocabulary
7. Active imagination, cannot discern between fiction or real-life stories
8. Limited understanding toward time & space
9. Cannot understand abstract explanations
10. Like to listen to stories
11. Can repeat biblical terms but unable to understand the meaning
12. Like to ask questions, strong sense of curiosity

### Mood

13. Mood swings tends to occur: students might get angry suddenly; however, they often forget after a few minutes
14. The adult's mood will set the tone; rules must be posted and explained
15. Children are afraid of scary stories

### Social Skills

16. Begin to search for likable friends
17. Often quarrel and fight during play time
18. Strong sense of self, often use "I" or "me" in speech

### Spirituality

19. Understand Jesus' love through the love from adults
20. Faith towards God is expressed through faith in adults
21. Can learn to know God through worship
22. Have a certain level of understanding towards good & evil

## Pedagogic Application

Provide activities that involve physical movements  
 Vary activities so the students do not need to sit for too long at one time  
 Include more coloring and crafts involving cutting and pasting  
 Begin to teach songs that are a little longer and add some hymnal related activities

Limit story-telling time between 5 and 8 minutes  
 Use simple words with pictures during lessons  
 Hold the Bible when telling Bible stories, relate that the word of God is real and is different from folk tales, legends, or fairy tales  
 When describing time & space, use words such as "today," "tomorrow," "a long time ago," "a place far away," etc.  
 Do not use abstract ways of speaking  
 Tell more edifying stories using pictures and actions  
 Do not assume that the children understand the terms that they use  
 Check for understanding by asking, "What does \_\_\_\_ mean?"  
 Give simple answers to questions asked

Let the students try to resolve their own problems  
 If there are situations of anger, teach methods of resolving problems  
 Do not emphasize the horror sections of a story, & do not teach children by trying to scare them  
 Teachers need to be gentle but firm

Encourage the children to play with everyone, not just a few friends  
 Teachers need to be calm & fair when dealing with student problems  
 Remind students to share, and to show love toward others; teachers must be fair

Teachers need to show love when dealing with students  
 Arrange a suitable level of worship; teach appropriate behavior during worship hours in the chapel  
 Teachers need to teach the truth on repentance and how to ask God for forgiveness of sins

## Memory Verses For This Quarter



December, January, February

(NKJV)

1. "Worship the Lord." (Ps 96:9)
2. "You shall obey the voice of the Lord your God." (Deut 27:10)
3. "I chose you out of the world." (Jn 15:19)
4. "The Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7)
5. "For the battle is the Lord's." (1 Sam 17:47)
6. "A friend loves at all times." (Prov 17:17)
7. "Because He is your Lord, worship Him." (Ps 45:11)
8. "He gives wisdom to the wise." (Dan 2:21)
9. "Remember now your Creator." (Ecc1 12:1a)
10. "God is faithful." (1 Cor 10:13)
11. "And be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)
12. "Apply your heart to instruction." (Prov 23:12)



# Conveying Jesus Christ to Our Students

The following is a list of Bible truths kindergarteners are able to understand:

1. Praying is like talking to God. We can pray to Jesus anytime and anywhere.
2. Coming to church every Sabbath is to worship God. God loves us when we worship Him.
3. We can learn more about God when we come to church.
4. The Bible is a very special book. It is full of God's word. We love to hear God's word and obey what God tells us.
5. Jesus loves us when we share, obey and give what we have to Him and to others.
6. Jesus is God and He is the creator of all things—our planet and all the people.
7. Because of our wrong-doings (sin), Jesus died for us on the cross. But He promises us that He will come back again. He will take us back to heaven to be with Him.





# Samuel Helps God in the Tabernacle



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

1 Sam 1:24-28; 2:18-19, 26

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants all of us to be His good helpers

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To teach the children that they can worship God by being a good helper even though they are young

### Memory Verse

"Worship the Lord." (Ps 96:9)



## Bible Knowledge

### Samuel

As the son of Elkanah and Hannah, Samuel grew up to be the last great judge in Israel. He was also one of the first prophets. When Samuel was born, Hannah's heart-felt prayer for a son was answered. In return, she kept her promise to God and took Samuel to the shrine at Shiloh to be trained by Eli the priest. Hebrew children were often nursed for two or three years, possibly more. Therefore, Samuel was probably between three and five years of age when Hannah brought him to live at the tabernacle.

### Eli and His Sons

Eli was the high priest in charge of the tabernacle located at Shiloh. 1 Samuel 1:9 refers to the tabernacle, or worship tent. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were a disgrace. They would not listen to their father, and God warned Eli of their terrible fate. Later, they were both killed in a battle against the Philistines. When Eli heard that God's ark had been captured, he collapsed and died (1 Sam 1-4).

### Priests

Those who are called priests are Levites. The Levites were chosen by God from among the Israelites. They were to be set apart from the other tribes for religious duties. Priests had many duties, mostly connected with the tabernacle, temple sacrifices, and worship. But the most important duty was to teach the people the Law of God.

### The Tabernacle

The tabernacle, or the "tent of meeting," was a small provisional meeting place of God and His people. When the Jews settled in Canaanite territory the tabernacle was made into a more permanent form at Shiloh (Josh 18:1; Jdg 18:31). It was permanent enough to be called a temple, to provide rooms for Samuel and Eli, and to require that the entrance doors be opened and closed (1 Sam 3:2, 15). After the Philistines had destroyed Shiloh, they also captured the ark of the covenant. It was eventually returned via Beth Shemesh (1 Sam 6:1-10) and Kiriath Jearim (1 Sam 7:2). Even then, the ark of the covenant was kept in some kind of tent-temple (2 Sam 6:17; 7:2). It remained there until Solomon built a permanent temple.





## Understanding Your Students

Despite their young age, we want our students to have a positive “can do” attitude (1 Tim 4:12). As today’s story teaches, they are not too young to be God’s good helpers. Some of them may also be familiar with David and Goliath’s story. We need to explain why serving God is important—serving is an important way of worshipping. God loves us. We want to show God we love Him, and the best way to show we love Him is to worship Him.

If the students are not sure what the word “worship” means, back up to easier questions. Ask the students why they come to church. What do they do when they are in church? When the meaning of worship is established, talk about the different ways they’ve seen our brothers and sisters worshipping in church. Be sure to share that worship doesn’t just involve praying to God or sitting in the chapel to listen to the sermon. It also means serving God.

Because the students are young, they may feel that they are incapable of carrying out the work that

they have witnessed older members completing (e.g. interpreting a sermon, cleaning the bathrooms, cooking in the kitchen). Together, brainstorm age-appropriate chores the students can carry out. Begin with your own classroom by listing things such as wiping the boards, pushing in the chairs, picking up garbage from the floor, straightening the bookshelves, and tidying up the supply area. As they grow up, they will find other age-appropriate chores to do. The most important point is to allow the students to understand they are not too young to be God’s helpers and that helping can come in many forms. If time permits, talk about specific things the students can do at home to worship God (e.g. family altar, praying to God, helping parents).

Remember also that positive reinforcement techniques can definitely help to encourage the students as they serve God. When the children pick up scrap papers or do other considerate things, thank them. Praise them for doing good things, and they will be eager to continue being helpful. Relate their service to today’s lesson so that there will be a connection to the Bible and their daily lives.



## Vocabulary

### Tabernacle

a special tent where the people worshiped God

### Worship

to praise and love God

### Priest

someone who took care of God’s temple, and taught the people about God and what He wanted them to do

### Levite

a worker in the temple; a Levite helped the priest, and also helped the people understand God’s teachings



## Before You Teach

When we think about worship, we often think about all the things we do within the church. For example, we worship God by attending service, singing hymns, and praying in one accord. We also worship God through our service to Him (e.g. cleaning the church, translating on the pulpit, leading hymns). These are all wonderful ways to show God how much we love Him. However, true worship also involves worship in spirit and in truth. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart and soul. The second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. That is true worship. That means that almost anything we do can potentially

be a means to worship our God. It can be things we do at the office; it can be the words we say to a friend; it can be what we do when no one is watching. When we worship God wholeheartedly, we will act differently than the people of the world. We are supposed to be set apart and stand out for Christ. When we love God, we will be careful of what we say. Our words will be seasoned with salt and our lips will speak forth God’s praise. And when no one is watching, we still want to draw near to God. We will stay away from filthy things and we will not want to do things that will hurt God or put our status as a Christian in jeopardy. Let us be encouraged to worship our God with all our strength and might so that His name may constantly be glorified.



## Bible Story

In our last quarter, we learned many stories about Jesus. We learned about many miracles He performed. We also learned many teachings about the kingdom of heaven. Those stories are found in the New Testament. In this quarter, we are going to learn from the Old Testament. These stories happened before Jesus came into the world. But they are still important stories.

### **A Young Boy Called Samuel**

Today, we will learn about a young boy in the Bible who was a great helper of God. His name was Samuel. Samuel was a very special boy because he learned to be a good helper of God when he was very young. He started to help God when he was probably just about your age.

Samuel didn't go to a church like the one we go to today. During that time, there was no church building for the Israelites to worship God in. Instead, they went to a special tent. God gave it a special name, called the tabernacle. (Teacher may want to show the students pictures of the tabernacle.) That's a difficult word. Let's say "tabernacle" together. (Have students practice a few times.) So it was in the tabernacle that the Israelites went to talk to God and worship Him.

### **Samuel's Mother Keeps Her Promise**

Samuel learned to worship God and be His helper in the tabernacle when he was just a little boy. Do you know why he went there to be God's helper even though he was so young? There was a good reason. His mother, Hannah, loved God very much and wanted Samuel to know how great God was. You see, before Samuel was born, his mother prayed very hard to have a baby. She promised God that if God would let her have a little boy, she would take him to God's tabernacle. He would live there and help in the tabernacle. And do you know what happened after that? God heard Hannah's prayer and blessed her with a son. That was how Samuel was born. Hannah loved Samuel very much and it was probably hard not to be able to be with him every day. But she remembered her promise to God. Do you remember the promise? She said she would

let Samuel live in the tabernacle and grow up there so he could learn how to help God. So when Samuel was old enough, Hannah took Samuel to the tabernacle. Samuel was probably around your age, maybe four or five years old when his mother took him to live in the tabernacle. It was probably hard for Samuel when his mother left him there because he was so young. But Hannah understood the best place for Samuel to grow up was in God's tabernacle. She knew God would take care of Samuel and he could learn to be a good helper. Samuel didn't really understand what was happening. But he had seen his parents go to the tabernacle to worship God when he was a young boy. He knew it was good to be in God's house. So he obeyed his parents and stayed in the tabernacle. That made him very special in God's eyes.

Samuel did not stay in the tabernacle by himself. He was too young to take care of everything by himself. There was someone else who lived in the tabernacle. His name was Eli. He was a Levite and he was the priest. The Bible tells us that in the old days, God chose the Levites to be His helpers in the tabernacle. Eli was a priest. A priest was also God's helper. His job was to take care of all the things that happened in the tabernacle. It is just like at church today. We have many people who help do God's work and take care of the church. For example, we have pastors who spend all their time helping God. There are also other grown-ups who make sure the church has everything ready for the members who come to worship each Sabbath. So Samuel stayed in the tabernacle with Eli, the priest. Before Hannah left Samuel there, she said something to Eli.

Hannah said, "A long time ago, I stood here in this tabernacle and prayed that a baby boy would be born in our family. God answered my prayer so now I have brought Samuel here to serve the Lord as long as he lives."

Eli was happy and thanked God for his new helper.

### **Hannah Loves Samuel**

Samuel's parents knew it was good for Samuel to grow up in the tabernacle, but they probably still missed him. So every year, on a special day, Samuel's parents would come to God's tabernacle to worship the Lord and to see Samuel.

"Samuel, you've grown!" his mother probably

said. She also gave him a new robe every year she came to see him. (Explain that clothes during biblical times were different. Draw or prepare a picture of a robe so the students see the difference.) Hannah made the robe every year by herself because she loved Samuel very much. When Samuel wore the robe, he could remember how much his mother loved him, even though she didn't live with him. God also loved Samuel and his parents because they had good faith. God blessed Hannah with more children after Samuel went to live in the tabernacle.

### **Samuel Helps in the Tabernacle**

Samuel lived in the tabernacle for many years and grew up there. He learned about God and became a great helper. Eli the priest was like a teacher to him and taught him all about God. Samuel was a very good student. He paid very close attention to his teacher and did what Eli told him to do in the tabernacle. He was a good helper because he obeyed Eli.

When Samuel was not learning from Eli, he would worship God. He worshiped God in different ways. One way was by praying. He and all the other people who came to the tabernacle prayed and talked to God. In their prayers, they asked God to take care of them and told God how thankful they were to Him for loving them. Samuel helped the people, including his parents who came to worship

God, to give thanks to God. There was another special way Samuel worshiped God. He took care of the tabernacle. Samuel probably opened the doors to the tabernacle so the people could come and worship God. He helped to keep the tabernacle clean and tidy. Why is keeping the tabernacle clean and tidy important? For one thing, the people would not want to go into a dirty and messy place to worship God. Also, by cleaning the tabernacle, Samuel showed how much he loved God. Even though Samuel was just a young boy, he was ready to help God. He obeyed Eli and God and did his best.

### **We Can Be God's Helper Too**

In today's story, we learned that Samuel worshiped God by helping in the place where he learned about God. We can worship God this way too. This is our room (refer to the classroom) where we come and learn about God. We can take care of our classroom the way Samuel took care of the tabernacle. What are some things we can do to take care of our classroom? (Let the students volunteer their answers.)

Samuel didn't think he was too young to worship God and be God's helper. We can learn from Samuel. We are not too young to help do God's work. We are not too young to pray to God and worship Him in church.



### Check For Understanding

- 1. Who was the boy who lived in the tabernacle?** (Samuel.)
- 2. Why did Samuel live in the tabernacle?** (Samuel's mother promised God that if she had a son, she would bring him to the tabernacle to be His helper.)
- 3. How did Samuel learn about God?** (Samuel learned about God from a priest named Eli.)
- 4. What kinds of things did Samuel do in the tabernacle?** (Samuel learned from Eli, he

cleaned the tabernacle, he worshiped God.)

- 5. How do we worship God today?** (We worship God by coming to church every Saturday, by praying to God in church and at home, by listening to the teacher when a Bible story is being told, etc.)
- 6. Can you name some ways that you can help in church?** (Let the children respond. Possible answers are cleaning up the classroom, putting things where they belong, and being helpful when the teacher or others needs help.)



## Life Application Story

### Praying For Others

It was Sabbath day. Rachel was especially excited today because her favorite teacher, Miss Johnson, was scheduled to teach the kindergarten class. Rachel liked all her teachers, but she especially liked Miss Johnson. She always brought all kinds of fun stickers and stamps for the class. Best of all, she always prepared fun games to play and new songs to share. Rachel and all her friends always had a great time in Miss Johnson's class learning about God.

"I wonder what cool stickers I will get from Miss Johnson today. I'd better pay attention in class. If I do well, maybe I will receive extra stickers," Rachel thought to herself as she ate her breakfast. Rachel knew Miss Johnson would give out special stickers to those who listened in class.

After Mrs. Hayes parked the car in the church parking lot, Rachel happily skipped to the classroom. She couldn't wait for class to start. But to her surprise, it was not Miss Johnson in the classroom. Instead, it was Miss Ross.

Rachel couldn't help but say to Miss Ross, "I thought it was Miss Johnson teaching this week."

"Rachel, why don't you sit down with the rest of the class? I have an announcement to make when everyone is ready," said Miss Ross.

Rachel sat down and wondered what happened to Miss Johnson.

When all the children arrived, Miss Ross said to the whole class, "I know I told you last week that it would be Miss Johnson's turn to teach you this week. But she called me yesterday to tell me that she was not feeling well. She was afraid if she came today, she might spread the germs around, so she asked me to teach you today."

Upon hearing this, all the kids said, "But we love Miss Johnson!"

Seeing the children's reaction, Miss Ross said, "I know Miss Johnson is a wonderful teacher and you are disappointed that she couldn't be here today. But she is very sick. I am sure you would want her to feel better, right?"

Tommy raised his hand, "Can we make a card for Miss Johnson? One time, when my grandpa was

sick, I drew a picture for him. Grandpa told me later that my picture made him feel better."

"That's a wonderful idea, Tommy," said Miss Ross. "Is there anything else we can do to help Miss Johnson feel better?"

Some children said they could draw flowers; others said they could make get-well cards too. Miss Ross welcomed all the ideas and she was happy everyone wanted to do something. Rachel wanted to do something too. She thought really hard. She wanted Miss Johnson to feel better. What could she do to help? Then Rachel thought of a good idea. She raised her hand.

"Miss Ross, can we say a special prayer for Miss Johnson today? My mom says that God will help sick people feel better soon!"

Miss Ross's face lit up. "Of course! Thank you all for being so thoughtful. Yes, we should say a special prayer for Miss Johnson today. I am sure when I tell Miss Johnson, she will be very happy to know that you all care so much about her. Let's pray together for Miss Johnson."

Everyone knelt down, closed their eyes, and clasped their hands together.

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the holy Sabbath. Thank you for all the blessings of the past week. Lord, please take care of Miss Johnson. She is sick and cannot be here today. We miss her. Help her to feel better. We love her and we dedicate this prayer in your name. May all the glory and praise be onto your name. Hallelujah! Amen!"

The children felt less sad after the prayer. They missed Miss Johnson but they were glad that God listened to their prayer and would make her feel better.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What did the children want to do to help Miss Johnson feel better?** (They wanted to make get well cards and say a prayer for her.)
2. **What do you think is the best way to help those who are in need?** (Allow students to respond.)
3. **Have you ever prayed for others? How do you feel when you pray for others?** (Allow students to share their answers.)



### Activity 1

#### **Help Hannah Bring Samuel to the Tabernacle**

Look at maze. Help Hannah bring Samuel to the tabernacle where he can learn to be God's good worker.



### Activity 2

#### **Who Is Being a Good Helper?**

Look at each set of pictures. Who is being a good helper? Circle the word "Yes" if the person is being a good helper. Circle the word "No" if the person is not being a good helper. Discuss why the "Yes" examples are good examples to follow.

1. One child is putting the Bibles away while the other is talking on the phone.
2. One child is helping with the groceries while the other is busy playing with a toy.
3. One child is helping to fold the clothes while the other is playing with blocks.



### Activity 3

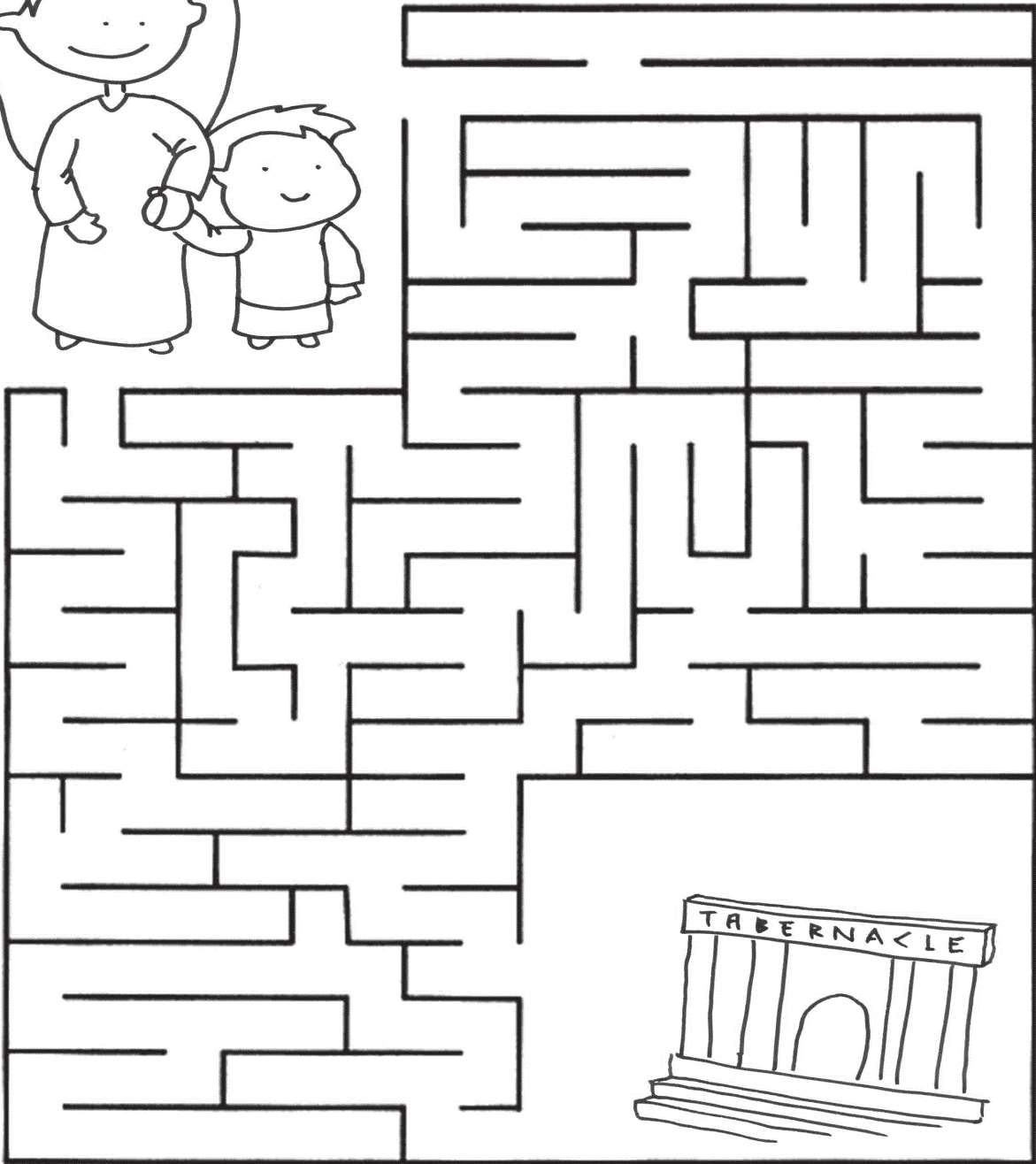
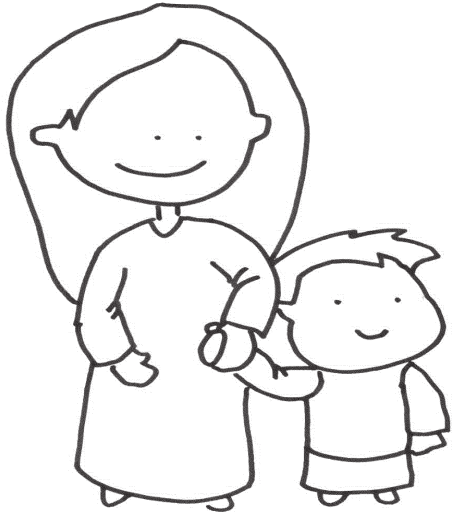
#### **Let's Be God's Helpers and Clean Up!**

After the lesson, encourage the students to clean up the room. Organize them into pairs so that they can be responsible for something together. They can clean the board, wipe the tables, throw out the trash, and organize the Bibles and hymn books. This is a good opportunity to get the students involved and put their learning into action. Remind them that they are good helpers of God.



Activity 1:1

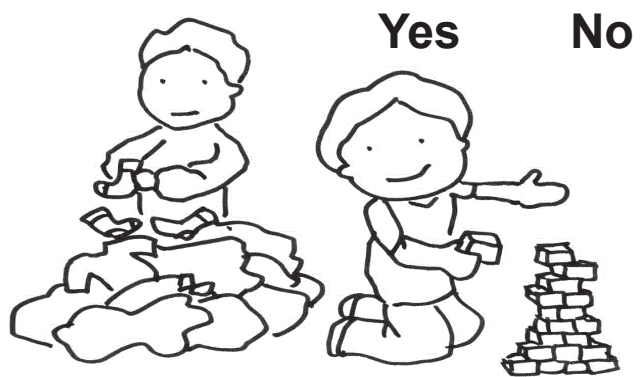
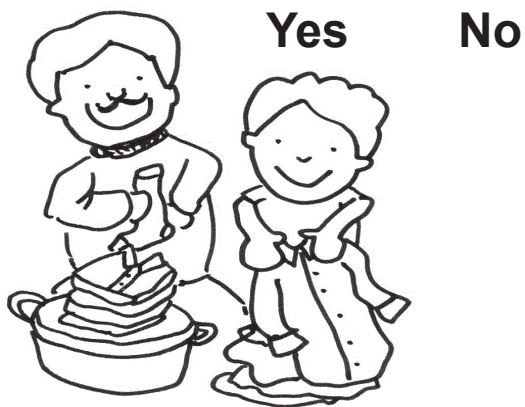
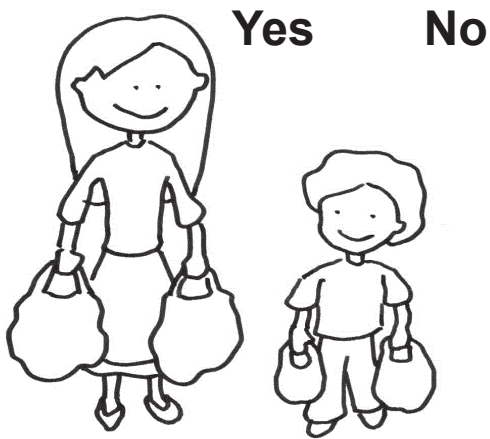
# Help Hannah Bring Samuel To The Tabernacle



Activity 1:2

Who Is Being A Good Helper?

Look at each set of pictures. Who is being a good helper?  
Circle the word "Yes" if the person is being a good helper.  
Circle the word "No" if the person is not being a good helper.





# Samuel Obeys God

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

1 Sam 3:1-21

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God blesses those who obey Him

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To be able to explain the benefits of obeying God; to identify actions of disobedience to God and to offer alternative behaviors

### Memory Verse

"You shall obey the voice of the Lord your God." (Deut 27:10)



## Bible Knowledge

### Samuel

As the son of Elkanah and Hannah, Samuel grew up to be the last great judge in Israel. He was also one of the first prophets. When Samuel was born, Hannah's heart-felt prayer for a son was answered. In return, she kept her promise to God and took Samuel to the shrine at Shiloh to be trained by Eli the priest. Hebrew children were often nursed for two or three years, possibly more. Therefore, Samuel was probably between three and five years of age when Hannah brought him to live at the tabernacle.

### Eli and His Sons

Eli was the high priest in charge of the tabernacle located at Shiloh. 1 Samuel 1:9 refers to the tabernacle, or worship tent. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were a disgrace. They would not listen to their father, and God warned Eli of their terrible fate. Later, they were both killed in a battle against the Philistines. When Eli heard that God's ark had been captured, he collapsed and died (1 Sam 1-4).

### Priests

Those who are called priests are Levites. The Levites were chosen by God from among the Israelites. They were to be set apart from the other tribes for religious duties. Priests had many duties, mostly connected with the tabernacle, temple sacrifices, and worship. But the most important duty was to teach the people the Law of God.

### The Tabernacle

The tabernacle, or the "tent of meeting," was a small provisional meeting place of God and His people. When the Jews settled in Canaanite territory the tabernacle was made into a more permanent form at Shiloh (Josh 18:1; Jdg 18:31). It was permanent enough to be called a temple, to provide rooms for Samuel and Eli, and to require that the entrance doors be opened and closed (1 Sam 3:2, 15). After the Philistines had destroyed Shiloh, they also captured the ark of the covenant. It was eventually returned via Beth Shemesh (1 Sam 6:1-10) and Kiriath Jearim (1 Sam 7:2). Even then, the ark of the covenant was still kept in some kind of tent-temple (2 Sam 6:17; 7:2). It remained there until Solomon built a permanent temple.



## Understanding Your Students

*“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Ps 19:7). God’s way is the best way. His words are perfect for us because God’s teachings are for our own good. As long as we obey His words, we will walk on the righteous path.*

*Throughout the lesson, emphasize the importance of obedience as part of our Christian faith. Since we trust in God, we also trust in His teachings, and therefore obey His commands. Samuel trusted Eli so he went back to sleep every time Eli told him to. Samuel obeyed because he had a simple faith. The innocence of four- to six-year-olds can actually help them exhibit this kind of simple faith. Our aim is to let the children know and accept the notion that God’s commands are good for us. Therefore we obey without questioning.*

*For example, children listen to their parents because they understand their parents know what is good for them. They follow the rules their parents set*

*up for them because they trust their parents to take care of them. The children also understand that their parents have authority over them, and so they need to obey even if they don’t always like the rules. Actually, children don’t like certain rules because they know disobedience comes with unpleasant consequences. But we need to show the children that even though God’s commands may sometimes seem strict, the commandments from God are actually designed by God for our own good. If we are able to obey God’s commands and teachings, God will protect us from temptations and deliver us from evil (Mt 6:13). Also, instead of focusing on the negative, we need to teach the children that when we obey, we will be blessed. This is His promise (Deut 28:1-2). God was so pleased with Samuel’s obedience that He made Samuel a prophet. When the students grow up, they can also be like Samuel, leading a life that is protected and blessed by God. But this kind of obedience and trust begins now and that is what we need to teach our students today.*



## Vocabulary

### **Obey**

to follow the rules; to listen to and do what others tell you to

### **Prophet**

a messenger of God; this person tells others about God’s words

### **Judge**

someone who tells others what is right from wrong; during the time of Samuel, the judge was also the leader of the people



## Before You Teach

*We teach our children to obey God and to listen to His teachings. But what exactly does that mean? Does it mean to just follow God’s commands? If that were the case, then the Pharisees would have been the most obedient of all the believers. They followed God’s laws down to the last iota. But Samuel reminded us that “to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Sam 15:22). That means we need to obey God with a sincere heart. Obedience is not just about following rules and regulations. If we don’t love God with our heart, then our actions would not mean anything.*

*Jesus spent a good part of His ministry teaching others about the true meaning of obedience. And He did not do it through mere words. He lived it. He prayed to God not because He was supposed to, but because He wanted and needed to. He did not heal someone on the Sabbath to deliberately stir up the people. He did it because that is what God taught Him to do. He did not raise Lazarus from the dead to show off His amazing powers. He was glorifying God. Even until the end, when He was about to be crucified, He asked that God’s will be done. Jesus is the best example of a completely obedient servant.*

*Today, we have many opportunities to demonstrate our obedience to God. In our words, in our behavior, and in our faith, we can show God our sincere desire to worship Him.*



## Bible Story

Have you played the game "Simon Says" before? What is the most important rule of that game? (Let the children respond.) To be a good player at this game, we need to listen carefully and do exactly as Simon says, right? (Teacher may wish to play this game now. Ensure it is structured. Be sure not to let the game take over the class. Alternatively, you may wish to play the game after the lesson to tie into the listening aspect of the lesson.)

Are you good at listening and following instructions? What do we use to listen with? That's right, we use our ears. God gives us ears so we can hear and listen. God wants us to use our ears to listen to His words. Today, we are going to learn how to obey God by being a good listener. Remember Samuel who grew up in God's temple? As soon as he was old enough, his mother brought him there to live. He was going to live with Eli the priest and learn how to serve God. Today, we are going to learn how Samuel used his listening ears to obey Eli and God's words.

### Samuel Gets Ready to Sleep

After he moved into the temple of God, Samuel was busy learning from Eli every day. Sometimes, Eli would teach him about God. Sometimes, he would pray to God. And other times he helped Eli in the tabernacle (review the meaning of tabernacle). He would clean it up and get it ready for the people to come worship the Lord. As Samuel grew up, he became Eli's best helper. Eli knew Samuel would be a good worker for God one day since he was obedient. That means Samuel always listened to what Eli told him to do.

One night, Eli was very tired after a long day's work and went to bed early. Samuel also got ready for bed. He lay down and closed his eyes.

### Samuel Hears A Voice

As Samuel was just about to go to sleep, something strange happened. Suddenly, Samuel heard someone calling his name.

"Samuel, Samuel!"

Upon hearing that, Samuel sat up in his bed. Who could be calling him?

"It must be my teacher Eli," Samuel thought to himself. He got out of bed and went to where Eli

slept.

"Here I am, teacher. Did you call me? Do you need something?" Samuel asked.

Eli opened his eyes. He looked puzzled.

"No, I did not call you," Eli said. "Now go back to bed, Samuel."

So Samuel went back to bed. He was pretty sure he had heard something but since Eli told him to go back to sleep, that is what Samuel did. Everything was quiet again after Samuel settled in. But then, he heard the same voice again.

"Samuel, Samuel!"

This time, Samuel heard it clearly. This voice was calling his name. Again, he quickly went to Eli.

"Here I am, Eli. I heard you calling me."

"No, Samuel," Eli said. "I did not call you. Go back to bed again."

This was very strange. But Samuel obeyed and went back to bed. He was about to go to sleep when he heard the voice one more time.

"Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel heard the same voice for the third time. Samuel ran to Eli.

"Here I am, Eli. I am sure you called me this time," explained Samuel.

At first, Eli didn't understand why Samuel kept coming to him. He did not call Samuel. Why was Samuel saying that? So he thought for a minute. Suddenly he knew why. It was God who was calling Samuel. Samuel thought it was Eli because he had never heard God's voice. This was the very first time that God called Samuel.

### Samuel Obeys

When Eli realized that God had been calling Samuel, he told him, "Go lie down. If you hear someone call your name again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" (Instruct the children to echo and practice this phrase, pretending they are Samuel.) This means that Samuel is telling God he is listening to God.

Samuel obeyed Eli and went back to bed. And it wasn't long before he heard that voice again.

"Samuel, Samuel!"

This time, instead of running to Eli, Samuel knew just what to do. He lay very quietly and said what Eli told him to say.

"Speak for your servant hears." (Have the children echo this phrase again.)

After Samuel said this, something amazing happened. God spoke to Samuel. Samuel listened carefully to everything God told him. God told him many things that would happen in the future. Do you know why God wanted to talk to Samuel? God told Samuel these things because He knew Samuel would be a good prophet and judge. A long time ago the people of Israel had prophets or judges to lead them. Prophets and judges were people who listened to God and helped the Israelites, God's people. Prophets and judges also told the people if they were doing something wrong, and showed them what God wanted them to do. After Samuel grew up, he became a prophet and judge. He was a good prophet and judge because he listened to God.

### **We Can Obey Too**

Samuel learned a special lesson that night—it is always important to listen and obey. Because Samuel

was a good listener, God loved him for his obedience, and God made him His prophet and judge. Samuel became a very important worker for God.

From today's lesson, we learned that listening to God's words carefully can help us do great things for God. Samuel didn't argue or talk back to Eli when he was told to go back to sleep, even though he heard the voice. Samuel just obeyed. To obey is to follow without questioning. Samuel obeyed three times in a row and went back to bed. He did not say, "I am sure I heard your voice," or "Why do you keep calling me and then telling me to go back to sleep?" He simply went to Eli every time he heard the call. God was very pleased with Samuel's obedience. In the same way, we can listen to and obey God's words. We will please God and feel good about ourselves too. And the Bible promises that God will bless His children who obey.



### Check For Understanding

1. **How many times did Samuel hear a voice call his name?** (Four times.)
2. **What did he do the first three times he heard his name being called?** (He went to Eli quickly and said, "Here I am.")
3. **Before Eli knew it was God calling Samuel, what did he tell Samuel to do?** (He told Samuel to go back to bed.)
4. **What did Eli tell Samuel to do when he realized it was God who was calling Samuel's name?** (Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak, for your servant hears.")
5. **What did God tell Samuel?** (God told Samuel about some things that would happen in the future.)
6. **After Samuel grew up he became a prophet and judge for God. What does it mean to be a prophet? What does it mean to be a judge?** (A prophet is a messenger of God. He tells people what God wants them to

know. He also tells them if they are disobeying God and teaches them what they should do. A judge is like a leader for the people. He can lead the people into battle. He also tells them what to do when there is a problem. He helps them solve their problems.)

7. **Our memory verse tells us to do what is right and good. How can we obey our teachers?** (Listen to the Bible story, do what the teacher tells us to do, follow the class rules, etc.)
8. **How can we obey our parents?** (Go to sleep early, pray to God as a family, not watch too much T.V., help do chores, etc.)
9. **How can we obey God?** (Pray to Him, come to class on time, help clean up the classroom, read the Bible, be helpful to others, etc.)
10. **Why do we want to obey God?** (God is pleased when we obey and do what is right. This is the best way to show our love for God.)





## Life Application Story

### **“We Choose to Obey!”**

“Mom, the mailman is here! Can I go and get the mail?” Juan Lopez yelled.

He was looking out the front window and saw the mailman come up. Getting the mail was his favorite responsibility at home. Since he learned to recognize his name, he loved to receive anything with his name on it. He wondered if he would receive something special today.

“Okay, go get the mail. Be careful not to let any letters fly away or drop on the driveway,” said Mrs. Lopez as she put a casserole into the oven.

Juan opened the front door and went outside. Their mailbox was at the curb in front of their yard. Juan carefully grabbed all the mail. It was Monday so there was a good stack of letters, but he was careful and carried them back into the house.

Juan came into the kitchen and put all the mail on the table.

“Mom, can I sort through the mail and see if there’s anything for me?” Juan asked politely.

“Sure! Can you also put the grocery ads aside for me? I need to see what’s on sale this week,” said Mrs. Lopez.

Juan looked at the pile of mail and he quickly put the ads aside. They were usually larger than the rest of the letters. Then he looked at the letters. The ones with his parents’ names on them he put into a different pile. There weren’t many letters left after that.

“They are probably junk mail,” Juan thought to himself. His mom had taught him that junk mail meant letters that weren’t important at all. Suddenly, he saw a small envelope with his name on it.

To: Juan Lopez.

“Mom, I have a letter! Someone sent me a letter! Ooh, ooh, I got a letter today!” Juan started dancing and singing in the kitchen.

Mrs. Lopez washed her hands and came to the kitchen table to look.

“Well, are you going to open it?” asked Mrs. Lopez.

Juan carefully ripped open one of the sides. His mom had taught him to do that too. He opened the

envelope and took a card out. He couldn’t read all the words, but it was a card with a picture of a swimming pool, a pair of sunglasses, and summer drinks in the front.

“Is it a birthday invitation, Mom? Is it? It’s a pool party, right? I know, it must be a pool party! I can tell from the pictures. Who is it from?” Juan asked excitedly.

“You are right. It’s an invitation from your friend Daniel, from school,” Mrs. Lopez said.

“Yes! I am going to a birthday party!” Juan was jumping up and down by now.

Mrs. Lopez continued to read the card.

“Let’s see. When is the party? September 17 at 12 noon at their backyard pool. Uh-oh, Juan. September 17 is a Saturday.”

“That’s great. I don’t have school. You can just drop me off and pick me up later,” Juan offered.

Mrs. Lopez put down the card and looked at Juan.

“No, I cannot do that. You should know by now that Saturday is the Sabbath day. We can’t go to a birthday party on Saturday at noon because we will be at church service.”

“What? That’s not fair!” Juan said as he blinked back some tears. Then he thought of an idea. “Can we just go to church in the morning so I can still make it to the party in the afternoon?” Juan looked at his mother with hope in his eyes.

Mrs. Lopez said gently, “Juan, I know it’s hard to give up a birthday party. It sounds like a lot of fun, and Daniel is a good friend of yours. But I need you to calm down and listen for a minute.”

Juan wanted to say something, but Mrs. Lopez said calmly, “Why don’t I pour you a glass of cold milk? I want you to listen to me as you are drinking your milk, and think before you make a choice.”

When both of them sat down, Mrs. Lopez said, “Juan, I know sometimes God’s rules may seem hard to obey. But I know you want to listen and obey. One of God’s rules for us is to observe the Sabbath. That means we need to go to church on Saturdays to worship God. That is how we show God we love Him. It is not right to skip church so we can have fun. Daniel will understand that you have important things to do on Saturday. I will help you explain this to his parents. You two can still play together some other day. How about I ask his mom if it’s okay that you two do something fun together on Sunday

instead?"

Juan thought about his mom's idea for a moment.

"But there will be so many friends at the party."

"I know. But you have to make a choice here. You know God loves us, and He has blessed our family so much. We want to love Him back. I hope you will understand that to be a good Christian means we obey God's words, no matter what."

"Are you sure you are going to call Daniel's mom and ask if we can play on Sunday instead?" Juan asked.

"Yes, I will. I think you are making a wise choice. You are choosing to obey God's commands. I am so proud of you," Mrs. Lopez said as she gave Juan a big hug.

"Does this mean I can't ever go to any parties?" Juan asked.

Mrs. Lopez looked at Juan and said, "No, only the ones that are on Saturdays because that's our special day with God."

"Well, I guess there will be other birthdays," said Juan. "Are you sure this will really make God happy?"



### Activity 1

#### What Happened to Samuel?

Look at the four pictures. Help the students answer the questions.

1. How many times did Samuel hear God call his name? (Four times; he went to Eli three times, then on the fourth time, he talked to God.)
2. How many times did Samuel go to see Eli? (Three times.)
3. What did Samuel say to God? ("Your servant is listening.")
4. Why might Samuel be smiling? (He is happy God talked to him.)



### Activity 2

#### Are We Obeying? Yes or No?

Circle whether the people are obeying or disobeying God. Talk about alternative behaviors to show obedience if the picture shows disobedience.

"Absolutely. He knows you are giving up something you love so that you can worship Him. God will bless you for obeying Him," said Mrs. Lopez as she took Juan's empty cup.

"I still feel a little sad, Mom," said Juan.

"How about we read a book together? Then my casserole should be ready. And after dinner, we can open that yummy chocolate ice cream we bought yesterday," Mrs. Lopez said, trying to cheer Juan up.

"Chocolate! Yummy!" Juan said as he ran to the family room to grab a book.

#### Questions to Think About:

1. **Have you ever had to give up something because you had to come to church? What happened?** (Allow students to share.)
2. **Why is it important that we keep Sabbath and come to church on Saturdays?** (God has blessed this day. We come to church to show God we want to worship Him.)
3. **How do you obey your parents and God?** (Encourage the students to give examples from everyday life.)

1. They are fighting. (Disobeying.)
2. They are arguing. (Disobeying.)
3. He is praying with his eyes open. (Disobeying.)
4. He is putting his toys away. (Obeying.)



### Activity 3

#### "I Am Listening and Obeying" Song

God called Samuel one night. Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, but Eli knew that God had an important message for Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go to his bed and wait to listen to God. Sing the song to the tune of "Frere Jaques." Encourage the students to do their best to listen and obey.

**I am listening.**

**I am listening,**

**To the Lord,**

**To the Lord.**

**I want to obey God.**

**I want to obey God.**

**Every day.**

**Every day.**

### What Happened to Samuel?



How many times did Samuel hear God call his name?



How many times did Samuel go to see Eli?



What did Samuel say to God?



Why might Samuel be smiling?



Activity 2:2

### Are We Obeying? Yes or No?

Circle the answers.



1. They are fighting.



2. They are arguing.

Obeying God

Disobeying God

Obeying God

Disobeying God



3. He is praying with his eyes open.



4. He is putting his toys away.

Obeying God

Disobeying God

Obeying God

Disobeying God



# Samuel Anoints Saul as the First King



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- large popsicle sticks
- colored construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers



### Scriptures

1 Sam 8-12

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

We are God's chosen people

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize we are special children of God

### Memory Verse

"I chose you out of the world." (Jn 15:19)



## Bible Knowledge

### Samuel

Samuel was dedicated to the Lord before his birth (1 Sam 1:1). When he was old enough, he was brought to the tabernacle and raised by Eli, the priest. He was taught the words of God and spent his early years serving the Lord. The Bible records that he "grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men" (1 Sam 2:26). After the death of Eli and his sons, Israel experienced many years of oppression from the Philistines. This was the time Samuel emerged as the judge of the Israelites. Eventually, he led the people to victory over the Philistines at Mizpah and drove them away from Israel's territory. After this, the Israelites were able to live mostly in peace.

When Samuel was old, he allowed his sons to judge over Israel (1 Sam 8:1-2). However, his sons did not walk in the ways of the Lord. This is when the Israelites asked for a king to rule over them. Instead of being God's special people, the Israelites wanted to be the same as all the other nations and have an earthly king fight their battles (1 Sam 8:19). They

rejected God as their king and wanted someone else. The Bible records that Samuel was displeased upon hearing their request. But as always, he prayed to God and asked for guidance. God told him to first warn the Israelites of the consequences of asking for a king (1 Sam 8:10-18). When the people did not heed the words of Samuel, he prayed to God once more, and God told him to do as they asked.

### Saul

Saul was the first king of Israel. He was the son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin. He is described as tall and handsome (1 Sam 9:1-2, 21). He was first secretly anointed by Samuel (1 Sam 10:1) and then later selected publicly by lot (1 Sam 10:17-24). Saul began his reign well and proved himself to be a fit leader by delivering the city of Jabesh Gilead and giving God the credit (1 Sam 11). But later, Saul allowed jealousy and mistrust to rule over his heart and made many errors in judgment. Eventually, he failed to trust God altogether and disobeyed God's commands. In the end, Saul and his sons were killed by the hands of the Philistines (1 Sam 31).



## Understanding Your Students

In today's lesson the first king of Israel, Saul, is chosen. We can be sure that the children will love hearing about him because they are fascinated by fairy tales about kings and queens, princes and princesses. This is because it is a completely different world to them. In all these children's stories, people are dressed up in fancy clothes, there are many parties to attend, and kings and queens can give out commands.

When Saul was picked to be the king in front of all the people, there may not have been a big feast. But there was certainly a lot of commotion and cause for celebration. The people shouted, "Long live the king!" It would have been a joyous occasion for Saul and the people. However, this was not a fairy tale. The

focus of this lesson is not that a king was picked and how happy everyone was. Actually, God was sad that the people wanted someone else to lead them. Therefore, it is important to turn the focus of the lesson to the simple fact that God chose Saul because he was the right person for the job at that time. Even though the people really wanted a king, they were not allowed to just select any one they wanted. They still needed to trust and obey God. God always has His plans for everything, and His way is the best way.

We can teach the students about obedience to God's will in many of the Bible stories. This is a constant theme. As they see how God is in control of everything, they will begin to naturally turn to Him for all things, big and small. They can pray to Him before a rehearsal, when someone is sick, or if they just want to share some news with Him. This is a great way to build up a solid foundation for their faith.



## Vocabulary

### **Nations**

countries and lands

### **Reject**

when we reject something, it means we don't want it

### **Anoint**

to pour oil on someone's head; it is a special way to show that person that God has given him an important job



## Before You Teach

In 1 Samuel 8:19, the Israelites said to Samuel, "We will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

Although we cannot place our human emotions onto God, God must have felt something similar to being heart-broken upon hearing these words. Why? It was not wrong to have a king lead the people. In fact, it was a part of God's plan (Gen 49:10; Num 24:17; Deut 17:14-20). It was the way the Israelites asked and their motive for wanting a king that displeased God. They wanted a king because they wanted to be like the other nations. They also wanted a king to lead them into battle. In essence, they were replacing God with an earthly leader. That is why God said to Samuel, "They have not

rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam 8:7).

The Israelites were a separate people. They were not supposed to be the same as other nations. Yet, that was what they were asking for. They could not have possibly forgotten all the great things God had done for them in battle. But they wanted to put their trust in a human being instead. We can see how the Israelites, again and again, rejected God's guidance.

What about us? Have we been rejecting Him without even realizing it? When we encounter a problem, do we use our own methods to resolve it or do we put it into our prayer? When we are celebrating, do we share our happiness with God? Whether we have ups or downs, do we turn to the world first for answers or do we look to God as our friend and guide? God is our constant companion and He wants to be by our side, leading us each step of the way. Let us remember to let Him reign.



## Bible Story

### Samuel Grows Old

In the last lesson, we learned about Samuel. Samuel grew up in the temple with Eli the priest. He lived there because his mother made a promise to God that Samuel would serve God all his life. One time, God spoke to Samuel when he was getting ready to go to sleep. At first, Samuel thought Eli was talking to him. But after three times, Eli knew that it was God's voice. God was trying to tell Samuel some important things. When Samuel told God he was listening, God told him many things that would happen in the future. God told Samuel these things because He knew Samuel would be a good helper and judge. A long time ago the people of Israel had judges to lead them. Judges were people who listened to God and helped the Israelites. Judges also told the people if they were doing something wrong and showed them what God wanted them to do.

After Samuel grew up, he became a judge. He was a good judge and listened to God. He led the Israelites for many years, and the people lived in peace. When Samuel became old he let his two sons, Joel and Abijah, lead Israel. But Joel and Abijah did not do what God wanted them to do. Instead they did wrong things including taking money from other people.

### The People Want a King

The people of Israel were very unhappy about Samuel's sons. They looked at the other nations around them. They saw that the other countries had kings to lead them, not judges. The people began to think, "Wouldn't it be great to have a king? Then we would be like other people."

So the Israelites went to Samuel and said, "Please find us a king. We want to be like the other people."

When Samuel heard this, he was not happy. He knew that God would not like what the people were asking for. This is because the Israelites were the special people of God. They were different. God was their leader. No other country had God as their leader. They were not supposed to be like other people. Samuel went to God to find out what he should do.

God said to him, "It's not you they have rejected, but Me." This meant that God knew His people did not want Him to lead them. God is the best leader but the people wanted a man to lead them instead. Samuel went back to the Israelites to try and change their minds.

"Having a king will not be good because he will take things from you and make you work for him," explained Samuel. However, the people did not listen and insisted on having a king. Samuel prayed to God again and told Him what the people wanted. In the end, God allowed them to have a king. But who would be the first king? God had a special person in mind for the important job. His name was Saul. He was a handsome and strong young man. The Bible also says that Saul was the tallest of all the people.

### Samuel Anoints Saul

One day, Saul's father lost his donkeys, and he sent Saul and a servant to find them. Saul obeyed and traveled far to find the donkeys. However, they couldn't find them even after looking for a long time. Then Saul's servant had an idea. He told Saul that he knew a man of God who knew many things. Maybe he could help them find the donkeys. So Saul and his servant went to look for this man of God. Who do you think this man of God was? That's right, it was Samuel.

A very special thing happened the day before Saul met Samuel. God had already told Samuel He was going to send a man to him who was going to be the king over Israel. This man was Saul. God told Samuel that he must anoint Saul. To anoint someone means to pour oil over the person's head. By doing this, it means this person has a special job to do.

When Saul and his servant finally found Samuel, God said to Samuel again that Saul was the one He had chosen to be king. Samuel knew that Saul was worried about the donkeys. So he told Saul not to worry about the animals because they had been found. Saul did not know this because he was so far away from home. But Saul was very glad that this man of God knew that the donkeys were safe. Samuel told Saul and his servant to stay one night. This is because the next day, Samuel wanted to tell Saul about the special job God had prepared for him.

Early the next morning, Samuel walked with Saul and his servant out of the city. As they walked, Samuel asked Saul's servant to walk ahead of them. Samuel did this because he wanted to tell Saul that God wanted him to be the king. After the servant walked ahead, Samuel told Saul all that God wanted him to know. Then Samuel took oil and poured it on Saul's head. This was a sign that God anointed Saul as king.

After this, Saul went home, and he told his family all about the donkeys and how he met Samuel. But he didn't tell anyone that Samuel had anointed him. Why don't you think Saul told anyone? (Let the children answer.) Maybe Saul was scared and did not really understand what a big job God had in mind for him.

### **The People Find Out Saul Is the King**

After Samuel anointed Saul, Samuel gathered all the people of Israel together. He told them that since they did not want God as their king, God had anointed a king to lead them. His name was Saul. The people were excited and wanted to know what this new king looked like, but they couldn't find him. This was because when Saul heard the news, he was a little scared about becoming a king. He found a place to hide so that the Israelites couldn't find him.

But God knew where he was hiding and told the people. The people ran to find him and brought him in front of all the Israelites. When Saul walked in front of the people, he was taller than all of them. The people were happy because now they had a king to rule them. They even shouted, "Long live the king!"

### **We Are Still God's Special People**

Even though God was not happy that the Israelites wanted a king, God still chose a king for them. He could not just let the people pick whoever they wanted. This is because God has His plans and we have to obey His plans. God chose Saul as the king over the Israelites because Saul was special to God. God knew he would be able to do the job. And even though the people had a king, they were still God's special people. That would never change.

We are also very special to God. Do you know why? (Let the children answer.) We are special because we have been chosen by God to be His children. We are called His children after we are baptized. (Recall the meaning of baptism. Ask the children what baptism means to them.) Isn't it great to be able to come to church on Saturdays and worship God and pray to Him? He has chosen us because He loves us.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who took over Samuel's job as the judge of the people after he grew old?** (Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah.)
2. **Did Samuel's sons do what was right in God's eyes?** (No.)
3. **Instead of God as their leader, what did the people of Israel want?** (They wanted a king, just like the other nations.)
4. **Why did the people want a king?** (They saw that other countries had kings and they thought a king could help them in battle.)
5. **What did Saul's father tell Saul to go look**

**for?** (The lost donkeys.)

6. **What do you do when you anoint someone?** (You pour oil on his head.)
7. **Why did Samuel anoint Saul?** (It meant that Saul would be king.)
8. **What was Saul doing when Samuel announced him as king?** (Saul was hiding because he was afraid.)
9. **Even though God had found a king for the people, He was sad about it. Why?** (The Israelites were God's special people. He was their leader and God. But now, the people wanted a person to be their leader instead.)
10. **We will always be God's special people. Why?** (Allow students to answer.)





## Life Application Story

### God's Very Special People

The kindergarten class was doing a special project today. They were going to decorate their classroom. Everybody was going to make something to put up on the wall. All the children thought very hard about what they had learned during their lessons and began to draw and cut.

Susie cut out many paper hearts. There were hearts of all colors and sizes.

Mrs. Hayes, who was the teacher that day, asked Susie, "Why did you decide to draw hearts?"

Susie replied with a big smile, "The hearts are to show how much I love Jesus and how much Jesus loves me."

"That's very true, Susie. Jesus loves you very much because you're special," said Mrs. Hayes. Then she said to the class, "Jesus loves every single one of you because you are all special to Him. He has chosen all of you to be His own special people, just like the Israelites we talked about."

Juan was busy cutting out the letters J-E-S-U-S.

Mrs. Hayes asked Juan, "Why did you decide to cut out the name of God to put on the wall?"

"This is to remind us that Jesus is always here," Juan said.

"Very good, Juan," said Mrs. Hayes. "No matter what happens, remember that Jesus is always with you because you are very special to Him. When you're sad or happy, worried or scared, remember He is always here to look after you because you're special to Him."

Rachel, who was the youngest in the class, drew many flowers and colored them in. Then she cut them out with the help of Mrs. Hayes.

"Can you tell me why you made the flowers, Rachel?" Mrs. Hayes asked.

"I made flowers because God makes all the flowers and trees," Rachel said.

"Good thinking, Rachel. God is a wonderful Creator. He created everyone here and made everyone special in their own way," Mrs. Hayes said.

John was quietly sitting at his desk and was cutting out something from a white sheet of paper.

Mrs. Hayes looked over John's shoulder to see what he was cutting out.

"John, what are you making?" Mrs. Hayes

asked.

John said, "I'm cutting out a dove."

"That is an interesting choice," said Mrs. Hayes.

"Well, my mom told me that the dove is a special bird in the Bible," John said.

"That's right," Mrs. Hayes said. "In the Bible, the dove represents the Holy Spirit. God promised to give us the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is ask. The Holy Spirit is a guarantee for us to go to heaven."

When the children heard this, they decided to cut out doves too. They wanted to do it because the doves reminded them of how special they were to God. After all the drawings were colored and cut out, Mrs. Hayes posted them on the board.

When it was time to pray, Mrs. Hayes asked the children what they would like to pray for.

"I'd like to pray for my mom because she's a bit sick," said Susie.

Juan showed his scratched knee to the class. "I'd like to pray for my knee because I hurt it at school."

"Can we pray to God to help me find my rabbit?" Rachel asked. Rachel had lost her favorite stuffed toy that morning.

"Of course," said Mrs. Hayes.

When it was John's turn he said, "I don't know what to pray for."

"Well, why don't we pray for the Holy Spirit, just like the dove you cut out?" suggested Mrs. Hayes.

The others agreed that this was very important. So everyone also prayed for the Holy Spirit. Mrs. Hayes then told everyone to close their eyes.

"Remember to pray for your friends and to also remember how special you are to God," said Mrs. Hayes. They all began their prayer with, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Hallelujah!"

The kindergarten class concentrated and prayed really hard for the Holy Spirit that day. They knew that God would give all of them the Holy Spirit when He thought it was the right time. The children all remembered in their prayers that God had chosen each and every one of them to be His very special people.

### Questions to Think About

1. What did the students draw that showed they were God's special people? (Hearts, the word

"Jesus," flowers, and doves.)

2. **What is so special about a dove?** (In the Bible, the dove represents the Holy Spirit. Having the Holy Spirit is a guarantee that we can go to



### Activity 1

#### All About Saul

Help the students fill in the blanks with words from the word bank. Talk about each picture as the students are writing the words to help review the story.

1. Saul went to look for his \_\_\_\_\_ (donkeys).
2. Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ (tall).
3. Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ (anointed) by Samuel.
4. Saul became the first \_\_\_\_\_ (king) of Israel.



### Activity 2

#### How Are We Special to God?

Look at each picture. How do they tell us that we are special to God? Discuss each one and how they make us special.

1. Did you know God knows how much hair we have?
2. Did you know God knew us even before we were born?
3. Did you know we all have different fingerprints?
4. Did you know everyone look different? That's how God made us.



### Activity 3

#### "God Picked Me" Flowers

##### Materials:

1. large popsicle sticks
2. colored construction paper
3. markers
4. glue
5. scissors

##### Directions:

1. Give each student a popsicle stick. This will be the stem of the flower.

heaven.)

3. **How do we know that we are God's special people?** (Allow students to share.)

2. Help the students trace a flower pattern onto a piece of colored construction paper. (Teacher will need to prepare several flower patterns before class for students to trace. Make sure they are the right size for the stick. Use cardboard so that the students can use the pattern over and over. This is good practice for their motor skills.)
3. Cut out a circle of a different color to be used for the center of the flower.
4. On the circle, help the students write the words "God picked me!"
5. Help the students glue the circle onto the flower.
6. Glue the flower to the top of the stick. Students may also wish to cut out petals for the flower.
7. Remind the students as they complete this activity that God picked them because they are special.



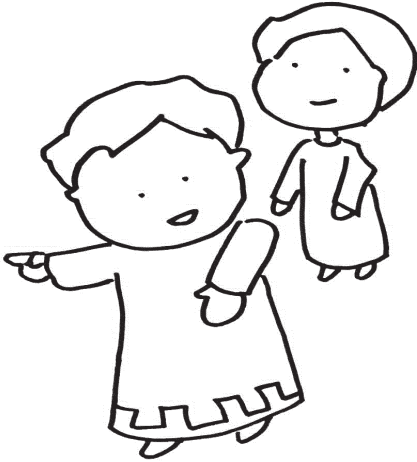


Activity 3:1

### All About Saul

Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank.

1. Saul went to look for his \_\_\_\_\_.



2. Saul was \_\_\_\_\_.



3. Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ by Samuel.



4. Saul became the first \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.



**WORD BANK**  
tall  
anointed  
king  
donkeys

Activity 3:2

### How Are We Special to God?

Look at each picture.  
How do they tell us that we are special to God?



Did you know God knows  
how much hair we have?



Did you know God knew us  
even before we were born?



Did you know we all have different  
fingerprints?



Did you know everyone looks different?  
That's how God made us.

# David Is Chosen King

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- person pattern
- colored construction paper
- pencils and markers
- scissors
- glue



### Scriptures

1 Sam 16; 17:34-36

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God chose each of us to be His special child

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize that we are God's chosen people; to identify things we do that separate us from the world

### Memory Verse

"The Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7)



## Bible Knowledge

### David

David was the youngest son of Jesse, from the tribe of Judah, and he was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz. David was brought up to be a shepherd. As a shepherd, he learned courage, which was later to be evidenced in battle (1 Sam 17:34-35). He also learned tenderness and to care for his flock, which he often referred to in many of his psalms. Like Joseph, he suffered from the ill-will and jealousy of his older brothers, perhaps because of the talents God had given him (1 Sam 18:28).

When Saul was rejected as the king of Israel, God sent Samuel to anoint David. God was quick to point out that in choosing someone, He looked at the heart and not the outward appearance (1 Sam 16:7). However, it is noted in the Bible that David was a good-looking young man.

David first entered Saul's court as a harp player. He came to soothe Saul when he was tormented by an evil spirit. Saul grew to love David and even made him armorbearer for the king (1 Sam 16:21-22). Later on, David defeated Goliath and was given a military commission. After a mighty vic-

tory over the Philistines, David won the hearts of the people (1 Sam 18). This event caused Saul to become jealous of David, and he sought many opportunities to kill David. Despite Saul's great dislike for him, David became best friends with Saul's son Jonathan.

After the death of Saul, David was crowned king by the people of Judah (2 Sam 2). Later, the northern tribes also hailed him as king, uniting all Israel under him. Although David was known for being a great warrior, and Israel experienced much peace under his leadership, he was not without sin. Because of his lust for Bathsheba, he ordered the death of her husband, Uriah. David did confess his sin after he was rebuked by the prophet Nathan, but the first child of David and Bathsheba died. Much of the rest of his life was plagued by family disputes and revolts.

Because the promised Messiah descended from David's line, there are fifty-eight New Testament references to David, including the oft-repeated title given to Jesus, "Son of David." Paul states that Jesus is "born of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Rom 1:3), while Jesus Himself is recorded by John as saying "I am the root and the offspring of David" (Rev 22:16).



## Understanding Your Students

Kindergarten students like to feel special. For example, they like to sit next to their teacher, and they like to receive attention for the things they do. We can let our students know they are special to us through various means. One thing we can do is shower each of them with attention at appropriate times (e.g. when they do something that deserves praise). This is a form of positive discipline, and it will help the students develop healthy habits while receiving attention from grown-ups.

It is also important that they know they are special to God. In today's lesson, David was chosen because he was special to God. Even though we are not kings, nor do we have any particularly important job to do, the students need to understand

that God chose us because He cares about us. Each of us has been chosen by God to be His follower. It doesn't matter if we are a baby or an old man, He still loves each of us. It doesn't matter if we are the president of a country or just a student in the kindergarten class, God knows each of us, and promises to love us. Highlight some of the things they do that make them special: they can pray to God whenever they need to, they come to church and learn His teachings, and they have so many brothers and sisters who are a part of their extended family.

In addition to learning how special they are to God, the students can also be taught to return that love. God loves us and wants us to return that love by developing the talents we have received and doing the best we can do. Brainstorm some of the things the students can do to show God they love Him back.



## Vocabulary

### **Disobey**

to not listen or follow the rules

### **Prophet**

a messenger of God; a prophet tells others about God's words

### **Anoint**

to pour oil on someone's head; it is a special way to show that person that God has given him an important job



## Before You Teach

When Saul was chosen as the first king, the people saw that he was taller than all others (1 Sam 10:23). To them, that was an important criterion. Perhaps his height made him seem capable in battle and of being a good king. But we know that in the end, God's spirit left Saul because he did not obey God's will.

So when David was anointed by Samuel to become the next king of Israel, God made it clear that David was not chosen for his good looks, but rather for what was in his heart (1 Sam 16:7, 12). And from the life of David, we can see that for the most part, he was a man who was after God's heart. He was obedient and asked for the will of God to be done. He faltered when he allowed the lust of his eyes and the pride of life to take control. First, he ordered Uriah to the front-lines of battle

so that he would be killed. Then David could rightfully take Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, as his own (2 Sam 11). Later in his reign, David took a census of the people of the land to see exactly how numerous and powerful God's people had become (2 Sam 24). However, the difference between Saul and David when they sinned was that David sincerely acknowledged his sin and was quick to repent.

Like Saul and David, we can easily fall into sin. However, we can respond in different ways once we realize our sin. We can be like Saul who, despite many warnings, continued in his own path. Eventually, he was rejected as king and God was no longer with him. David, on the other hand, repented and changed his ways. Although he fell into sin, he was still sensitive to God's will. Today, when we find ourselves in similar situations, let us also be quick to ask God for forgiveness and guidance so that we may not stray from the path.



## Bible Story

### **Saul Cannot Be King Anymore**

In the last lesson, we learned that God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. The people wanted a king to lead them instead of God. God was sad that the people wanted a person to be their king, but He chose someone for them. God chose Saul because He thought he would do a good job. After Saul became the king, he did some good things. But later on, King Saul disobeyed God. He didn't listen to God anymore or follow His ways. God was sad to have Saul as king. So He decided to choose another person to be the next king. His name was David. God chose David because he was someone who wanted to do what God wanted.

### **David Is a Good Shepherd**

David had a big family. His father's name was Jesse, and he had seven older brothers. David's family had a lot of sheep. David's job was to help look after the sheep. He was a shepherd and he had a lot to do. When the sheep ate all of the grass in one area, David took them to another place where the grass grew thick and green. When the sheep were thirsty, he made sure they had water to drink. Sometimes a naughty lamb wandered off and he had to look for it. When a sheep was hurt or sick, David took special care of it. Sometimes, it would be really hot but he would still watch the animals. Other days it would rain but he did not leave his sheep. He knew it was an important job. It was so important that when wild animals like bears or lions came to attack the sheep, David would not run away. He would stay to protect his sheep. He even killed them to save his animals. He was not scared because he knew that God was with him. He knew God would keep him safe. One special thing David liked to do when the sheep were safe was play his harp and sing songs to God. He liked to sing about God because he loved God. And David also loved his sheep. Do you think David was a good shepherd? Yes, he was good at what he did. He always did his best.

### **David Is Chosen as King**

One day, God told the prophet Samuel that He

would choose someone else to be king. God was not happy with Saul because Saul had disobeyed Him. God told Samuel to go to a man named Jesse. Jesse lived in a town called Bethlehem. God told Samuel he was going to choose a king from one of Jesse's sons. Samuel was a bit worried when God told him what to do. Saul was already the king. If King Saul heard that someone else was going to be the king, he would want to kill Samuel.

So Samuel told God, "How can I go and make someone else king? If Saul hears about it he'll get very angry and kill me."

God answered Saul, "Don't worry. Just say that you have come to worship Me at Bethlehem. I'll show you what to do when you get there."

So Samuel obeyed God and went to find Jesse and his family. When Samuel got to Bethlehem many important people in the town came out to meet him. They knew Samuel was a prophet, a messenger from God. They didn't know why Samuel had come to see them.

They asked Samuel, "Why have you come?"

Samuel replied, "I have come to worship God. Come with me."

Samuel asked Jesse and his sons to come too. So Jesse and his sons, along with other people in the town, went to see Samuel and worship God together. When Jesse came before Samuel, he also called his sons to walk before Samuel. The first son, David's oldest brother, passed by. He was tall and handsome—just like Saul had been.

Samuel thought to himself, "This must be the one God wants to be king. He is so tall and strong, and he is good-looking too." But this was not the person God had chosen.

God said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance, because I have refused him. For the Lord doesn't see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." God was saying to Samuel that He did not choose the oldest brother to be king. He wanted someone who had a good heart. This oldest son was tall and handsome but that's only what he looked like on the outside. That's what people see. God looks on the inside and the king has to be good on the inside too.

Then the second son walked past Samuel. God said, "No, that's not the one either." One by one David's brothers all walked in front of Samuel.



One...two...three...four...five...six...seven. Each time, God said to Samuel, "No, that's not the one." When all seven of them had passed by, Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"No," Jesse answered, "there is one more—the youngest. He is outside working hard, looking after the sheep."

"Call him in," Samuel said. "We won't start until he is here."

So Jesse sent someone to go and find David. David probably wondered what was going on. He was doing his job looking after the sheep. Why did his father want him to come to Samuel? Even though he didn't know why, he obeyed and went to where Samuel was waiting for him. When David came, Samuel saw that he was a healthy young man with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. David was good-looking too. But that was not why God chose Him. He chose David because He knew David loved God in his heart. Can you guess what happened next? As soon as David walked toward Samuel, God told Samuel, "Arise, and anoint him. This is the one!" So Samuel anointed David. Samuel took out the oil and rubbed it on David's head. That was the

way to show other people that David was given a special job to do. David was going to be the new king! He was chosen especially by God to look after His people. After Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord was with David. That means that God gave him power to do God's work.

### **We Are Special**

Today, God has chosen us to be His special children. He is our God, and we can talk to Him, pray to Him, and receive His Holy Spirit. That makes us special. When we receive the Holy Spirit, that means we can go to heaven one day. Sometimes, to be God's special people also means we need to be different from other people. For example, many people go to church on Sundays but we worship on Saturday. We are different because we are following God's command to keep the Sabbath, which is on Saturday. Many people celebrate Halloween by getting dressed up. We don't because it is a day that celebrates bad spirits. We are different because we are God's special people. God chose us because He loves us, and He wants us to love Him back by obeying His commands.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Why did God choose another king to replace Saul?** (Because Saul disobeyed God.)
2. **How would God feel if we disobeyed Him?** (He would be sad.)
3. **What can we do in order to make God happy?** (We can obey our parents, we can obey our teacher, and we can pray to God to help us.)
4. **God found another person to be the next king. Who was he?** (David.)
5. **What did David do to help his family? Did he do his job well?** (He was a shepherd. He looked after his sheep very well.)
6. **What kind of animals did David kill to protect his sheep?** (Lions and bears.)

7. **Why was David not afraid of the bears and lions?** (He wasn't afraid because he knew God would help him.)
8. **When Samuel went to see Jesse and his sons, he thought God would pick the one who was tall and strong. But what did God tell him?** (God told Samuel that man looks at the outside, but God looks at the heart.)
9. **When David was anointed by Samuel, what did this mean?** (He would be the next king of Israel.)
10. **God chose us because He wants us to be His special people. What does it mean to be His special people?** (It means we can pray to Him because He is our God, we can go to heaven one day, and we need to obey His commands, which sometimes means doing different things than the rest of the world.)



## Life Application Story

### To Celebrate or Not to Celebrate

Rachel was excited. Her preschool teacher told everyone in the class that Thursday was Halloween. Everybody was going to dress up as something special and they were going to have a parade.

During play time, Rachel chatted excitedly with her friends. They were all thinking about what they were going to wear.

"I want to be a pumpkin. I can ask my mom to paint my face orange," Oliver said.

"I have a white bed sheet at home I can use so that I can be a ghost," James said as he waved his arms over his head.

"I don't know what to wear yet. I will have to ask my mom. But I can't wait to dress up," Rachel said happily.

Rachel was really looking forward to the parade. She had never been in one before. When her mom came to pick her up, she couldn't wait to share her exciting news.

"Mommy! Mommy!" Rachel called as she ran up to her.

"What are you so happy about?" Mrs. Hayes asked as she walked with Rachel to the car.

"Mommy, the teacher said that we're having a parade on Thursday, and we have to get a costume right away. Everyone's so excited. What can I dress up as?" asked Rachel. "Maybe I can be a pirate. I could wear an eye patch and carry a sword!"

"Let's slow down a little," said Mrs. Hayes as she opened the car door. Rachel climbed into the back of the car. Mrs. Hayes buckled her in and then instead of getting into the front to drive home, she sat next to Rachel.

"Does this parade have to do with Halloween?" asked Mrs. Hayes.

"Yes, that's why we have to get dressed up."

"I know you're really excited about dressing up as a pirate, but don't you remember we talked about this before?" asked Mrs. Hayes.

Rachel thought for a moment.

"No," came her reply.

Mrs. Hayes continued to explain, "We talked about why we don't celebrate Halloween."

"Why can't we celebrate Halloween?" asked

Rachel.

"That's because we worship Jesus. Jesus is about love and not about scary things. People used to dress up on Halloween to scare away ghosts and other scary things," Mrs. Hayes said. "They believed that if they dressed up as scary things, they would scare the ghosts away."

"But the parade at school is for fun. The teacher didn't say we would be scaring anything away," protested Rachel.

"Well, maybe the parade at school is just for fun but if we got dressed up and paraded around, we are still a part of this Halloween celebration. Jesus is our Lord. He is always protecting us. We don't have to dress up to scare away ghosts and scary things," said Mrs. Hayes.

"But I'll be the only one who doesn't dress up!" Rachel said. She was sad.

"Rachel, I know it's hard sometimes. But it's okay to be different from other people. Actually, being different is what makes you special in God's eyes," Mrs. Hayes said.

"But I won't have any fun when all my friends are dressed up," said Rachel.

"I will talk to the teacher tomorrow and find out when the parade is going to be. Maybe we can go to school later, or you could stay home with me and we can do something special together," offered Mrs. Hayes.

Rachel didn't know what to say. She was just sad. Mrs. Hayes slipped out of the backseat and got into the driver's seat. As she was about to drive off, Rachel thought of another question.

"Mom, did Cathy get dressed up before?"

"No, Cathy did not get dressed up before," answered Mrs. Hayes. "Maybe you can talk to her about it when we get home. She could tell you how she felt and that might make you feel better about not taking part in Halloween."

"Okay," Rachel said as she looked out the window. She wasn't feeling really great about missing the parade but she knew her mom was always right about God. She knew she should listen to her.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Rachel sad?** (She couldn't dress up and be a part of the parade.)
2. **Why don't we take part in Halloween?** (It is about ghosts and other scary things. It is not something God would want us to celebrate.)

3. **Have you celebrated Halloween before?** (Allow students to share. Do not be judgmental but do

emphasize again why we don't take part in Halloween.)



### Activity 1

#### David Is Chosen As King

Review the story by talking about what David did. Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. David looked after the \_\_\_\_\_. (sheep)
2. David killed a \_\_\_\_\_. (bear)
3. David was anointed by \_\_\_\_\_. (Samuel)
4. David praised \_\_\_\_\_. (God) with his songs.



### Activity 2

#### We Are Special Because...

What are some of the things we can do because we believe in God? Talk about how each of these things makes us special and privileged.

1. We can come to church.
2. We can pray to God.
3. We can read the Bible.
4. We can pray for the Holy Spirit.



### Activity 3

#### God Looks At the Heart

Materials:

1. person pattern
2. colored construction paper
3. pencils and markers
4. scissors
5. glue

Directions:

1. Provide each student with a person pattern (see page 33).
2. Help the students trace the pattern onto colored construction paper and cut out. (The students could also use the white paper pattern if they don't want to use construction paper.)
3. After the pattern is cut out, help them cut out a heart (use red construction paper) to fit in the

middle of the person.

4. Help the students write "God looks at the heart" on the person. Also include the students' names. They can draw in the eyes, nose and ears.
5. If time allows, discuss what God looks at inside of us (e.g. if we are full of love, if we are kind, etc.).

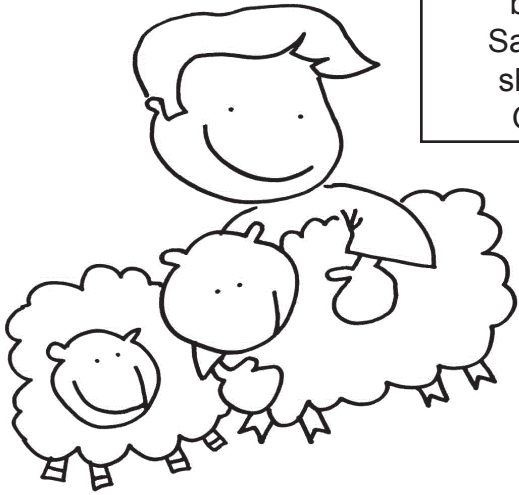
Activity 4:1

### David Is Chosen as King

What were some things David did?  
Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

**WORD BANK**

bear  
Samuel  
sheep  
God



1. David looked after the \_\_\_\_\_.



2. David killed a \_\_\_\_\_.



3. David was anointed by \_\_\_\_\_.



4. David praised \_\_\_\_\_  
with his songs.

Activity 4:2

## We Are Special Because...

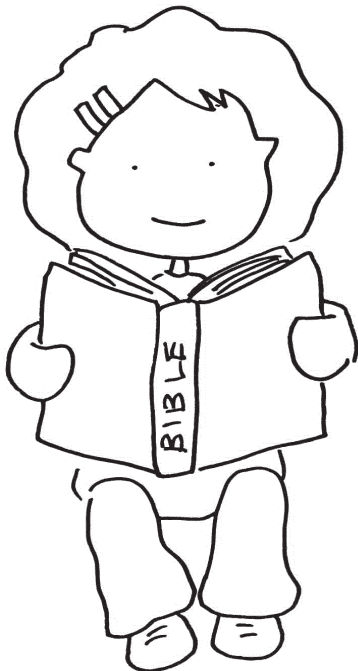
What are some of the things we can do because we believe in God?



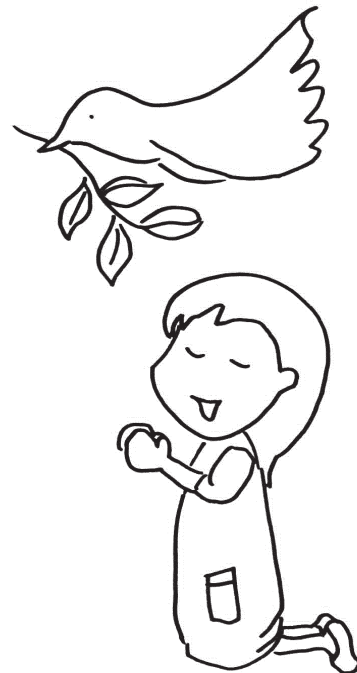
1. We can come to church.



2. We can pray to God.



3. We can read the Bible.

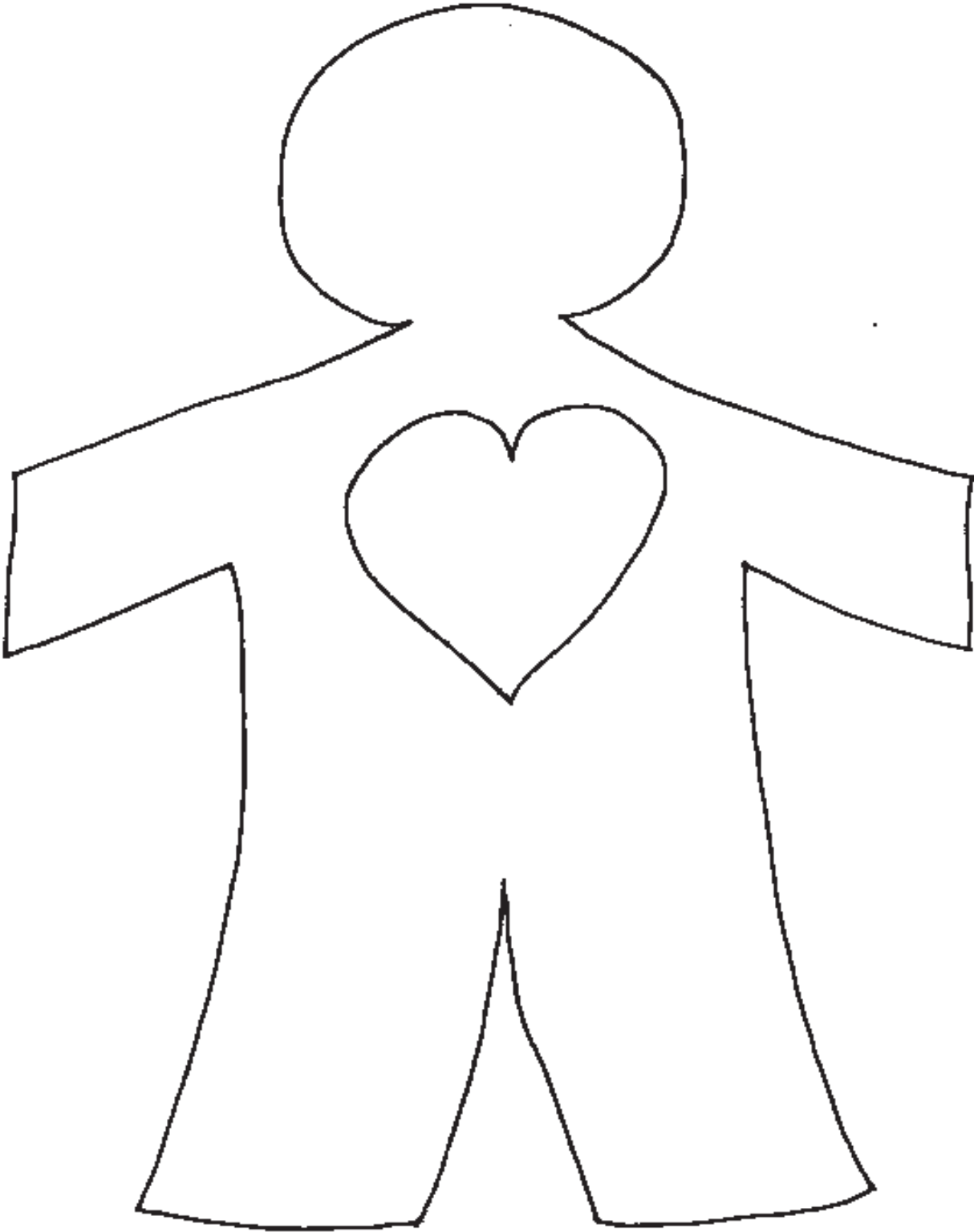


4. We can pray for the Holy Spirit.





Person Pattern



# David and Goliath

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- construction paper
- foam shapes or shapes cut out from construction paper
- tape
- stapler
- scissors
- markers
- glue



### Scriptures

1 Sam 17

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God has the power to do anything

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To ask God to help the students overcome specific things they are having difficulty with

### Memory Verse

"For the battle is the Lord's." (1 Sam 17:47)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Philistines

The Philistines were a sea people who migrated across the Mediterranean Sea. They are first mentioned in Genesis (Gen 21:32), but their history really began during the period of the Judges. They were a constant threat to the Israelites, as witnessed in the stories of Samson. During the time of Samuel, the Israelites were able to defeat the Philistines on occasion but it was only when David became king that he was able to curb their invasions (2 Sam 5:17-25).

Goliath, from Gath, was the huge Philistine champion who taunted the Israelite army for forty days. The Bible records that he was six cubits and a span tall (1 Sam 17:4). A cubit was about eighteen inches and a span was nine inches. Therefore, Goliath would have been nine feet and nine inches tall. He also wore extremely heavy armor and carried a formidable sword. He would have been a menacing opponent. Saul and the Israelites were afraid of him, and the army was pretty much immobilized.

### David

David was the youngest son of Jesse, from the tribe of Judah, and he was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz. David was brought up to be a shepherd. As a shepherd, he learned courage, which was later to be evidenced in battle (1 Sam 17:34-35). When Saul realized that David was serious about fighting Goliath, he offered him his armor. But because David was still very young, he could not fit into it. In addition, David knew it was not the armor that was going to protect him from an almost ten foot tall giant; it was God who was going to guide him.

David picked a sling as his weapon. A sling was typical equipment for a shepherd. Therefore, David would have been very comfortable using it. A sling was made of two cords fastened to a hollow pocket of leather. A stone would be put into the pouch and the hurler would whirl it around his head to build up momentum. A stone hurled by an expert could exceed one hundred miles per hour. David was able to hit his target with one blow. He was quick to run to Goliath and cut his head off. This was a disgrace in battle for the enemy and this was what sent fear throughout the Philistine camp.



## Understanding Your Students

When the children hear the story of how Goliath was killed by David, they will no doubt feel a sense of awe. With just one stone, this giant was knocked to the ground and killed. This is what makes a superhero these days. As amazing as the story is, it is important to emphasize the presence of God throughout this entire event.

Saul had offered to fit David with his own armor, but David understood that no piece of metal would protect him if God was not with him. In addition, David did not just blindly go into battle. His experience as a shepherd fighting off wild animals had prepared him for this day. He was also careful in picking out the right stones to use in the sling. He charged at Goliath at the right time so that the stone would hit the giant with one blow.

None of this came about by accident or through David's own skill. David had led a life that was filled with God's guidance. In fact, he acknowledged that just before he went into battle. He said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Sam 17:45).

Imagine if our children said these words one day. That would be an amazing moment. It would be a triumph in their faith. We can see from the life of David that his was a moment that came about because he knew God from a young age. Even before he was anointed by Samuel, God had said he was someone who loved God and obeyed His will. That is why it is vital we talk about God all the time. When we praise and acknowledge Him in all that we do, our children will sense how God is a part of their daily lives. Then they too will be able to give glory to God as they grow.



## Vocabulary

### **Enemy**

someone who is not your friend; someone who might want to hurt you

### **Philistines**

they were the enemy of the Israelites

### **Armor**

a metal suit someone wore during battle to protect him

### **Sling**

two cords with a leather pocket for throwing rocks far away



## Before You Teach

The Bible records that Saul and the Israelite army were filled with fear and dread because of Goliath. He was huge and menacing. How could they possibly win in battle against him? While it may be true that Goliath was tall, and seemingly a great warrior, he would have been no match for God.

Again and again, when faced with a problem, the Israelites failed to remember all the things God had done for them. He was the one who had saved them from the hands of the Egyptians. He was the one who had parted the Red Sea. He was the one who had given them manna and quail to sustain them during their forty-year journey in the wilderness. He was the one who had caused the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down. How could such a mighty God be forgotten?

Yet it is in our human nature to turn to our own powers when we come upon a problem. And when we can't find a solution, we just assume that there is nothing else that can be done. But nothing is impossible for God. When we choose to come to Him, He will not disappoint us. He will always provide a path for us if we are patient and obedient. And He doesn't just help us face physical giants. He can also help us overcome the things that are burdening us in our lives. It could be the "giant" of pride, or the "giant" of anger, or the "giant" of jealousy. What we cannot overcome on our own, God can help us with. We need to first come to Him and confess our weaknesses. Then we need to pray earnestly for guidance and strength. We have heard many testimonies of believers who have been able to overcome addictions and bad habits through the power of prayer. If we have a giant to face today, let us face it with God on our side.



## Bible Story

Before the class, tape a strip of paper from the floor to at least seven feet high. Mark each student's height as they enter the room (they can be called up one by one after class has started, ). Ask them to stand up against the paper to see how tall they are. The teacher can also mark his or her height on the paper to show the contrast.

Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a young boy and a giant. There aren't any giants today but a long time ago, there was a really tall and mean giant. This giant was an enemy of God's people, the Israelites. He was so tall that he almost reached the ceiling (point out that Goliath was about nine feet, nine inches tall; teacher can mark this on the strip of paper if the room allows). He was much taller than any of you and he was taller than any grown-up you know. Let's hear about this story.

### **Goliath the Giant**

Last week, we learned about David and how he was chosen by God to be the next king. But it wasn't the right time to be the next king yet. So David still continued to help his father look after the sheep. Remember that David was the youngest in his family? He had seven older brothers. These brothers did not look after the sheep like David did. David's brothers were in the army. They were soldiers, ready to fight any enemies that might come and attack them. At that time, the Israelites were enemies with the Philistines. The Philistines wanted the land that the Israelites were living in so they always fought.

One time, these enemy soldiers marched into the land where David lived. They wanted to take the good land for themselves. They wanted to make God's people their servants. At that time, Saul was still the king. So King Saul gathered together all his soldiers to chase out the enemy soldiers. They gathered and faced each other: the enemy army was on a mountain on one side, and King Saul's army was on a mountain on the other side. Each army waited on their mountain, and wondered what they should do to win the battle.

As the Israelite army thought about what to do, a man who was tall, strong, and mean walked out of the enemy camp. King Saul's soldiers all ran back to their tents when they saw him. They were afraid. This

man was taller and bigger than any person they had ever seen! He was much taller than the paper we put on our wall. He was almost as tall as the ceiling. He was a giant, and his name was Goliath.

The giant wore a heavy helmet on his head, a heavy coat of armor, and heavy shoes to protect him. He carried a shield in front of him. The shield also protected him from anything that might be thrown at him. So Goliath came out, and he stood between the two armies.

He shouted with a loud, thundering voice, "Have you come to fight me? Am I not your enemy? Aren't you all servants of King Saul? Choose one man, and come and fight me if you dare! If he wins and kills me, then we will be your servants. But if I win and kill him, you will be our servants."

The giant frightened King Saul's soldiers. They were so scared they started shaking.

"What are we going to do?" they probably whispered to each other. Not one of them dared to go out to fight Goliath. Even David's big brothers did not dare to go.

### **David Goes to See His Brothers**

While all this was happening, David was at home taking care of his father's sheep. One day his father was worried about David's brothers. So he said, "David, take this bread, corn, and cheese to your brothers who are in the king's army. Find out how they are doing."

So David left someone else in charge of his sheep. He obeyed his father and went to visit his brothers. It was a long, long walk but he arrived safely at the army camp. After David got there, he left the food with the person in charge of all the food, and he ran to see his brothers. As he was in the army camp talking to his brothers, Goliath came out of his tent and called in a loud voice, "Choose a man to come out to fight with me!" David heard what the giant said about God and His chosen people. He waited to see who was brave enough to go. But not one soldier was ready to fight the giant. They were all afraid.

### **David Is Willing to Fight Goliath**

"How dare this man come and say these terrible things against God's army! I will fight the giant," said David.

He knew that God was mightier and stronger than any giant. If no one dared to go and fight,

then he would rely on God and fight this giant. Someone told the king what David had said. King Saul called David to see him.

"You are only a young boy," the king said to David. "You're so small and he's so big. You cannot fight the giant. This giant has been fighting since he was a boy!"

"God helped me take care of my sheep. The Lord saved me when a lion or bear tried to eat my sheep. He even helped me kill them," answered David. "This giant is just like a lion or a bear. The Lord will help me fight this giant."

Finally, the king said that David could try. But he didn't want David to fight without any armor on. So King Saul gave David his own armor. But when David put it on, it was too big and heavy. It was so big and heavy he couldn't even walk. So David took the armor off. Instead, he went to a little brook. He carefully picked out five smooth stones and put them in his bag. In his hands David carried his staff and sling. (Teacher may wish to bring in a home-made sling to show to the students what it would have looked like.) As a shepherd, he had learned to throw stones very, very straight and very, very hard with his sling. He had practiced when he was in the fields with the sheep. He knew that with God's help, it was all he needed to fight the giant.

When Goliath saw David coming, he was angry because David was only a boy. He expected the king or someone stronger to come out. Then he saw the staff and sling in David's hands.

"What? You have chosen this little boy to fight

me? And he is trying to fight me with these sticks?" yelled the angry giant.

Even though the giant was loud, David was not scared.

"You fight with a sword and spear, but I come against you with the help of the great Lord God," answered David.

Then he put a smooth stone into his sling and whirled it around and around over his head. After the stone spun around many times, David let it go. It flew far away and it hit the giant on the forehead. Do you know what happened next? Goliath fell down and died.

### David Kills Goliath

King Saul's army could not believe what had happened! They couldn't believe that David had killed the giant with just a sling and a stone.

"Hurry! Hurry!" shouted the king's soldiers. They ran forward to drive out the enemy soldiers from their land. "David has killed the giant! We have won the war!"

But David knew it was the Lord God who had helped him kill Goliath. David was glad he had trusted God. He knew God would help and protect him, just as He had when he was a shepherd.

Even though we don't have to fight with giants today, there may still be things that are hard for us to do. God can help us, just like the way He helped David. We have to be like David and trust that God will show us what to do. We have to believe that God can do anything.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What was the name of the giant who wanted to fight the Israelites?** (Goliath.)
2. **What did David use to fight Goliath** (He used a sling and a stone.)
3. **What did David say to Goliath before he fought him?** ("You fight with a sword and spear, but I come against you with the help of the great Lord God.")
4. **Where did the stone hit Goliath?** (On his forehead.)

5. **Who helped David kill Goliath?** (God.)
6. **We don't have to fight giants today like David did, but we have things which are just as hard to do. What is hard for you to do?** (Let the children respond. Possible answers: listening to our parents, going to bed early, praying to God, sharing our toys with others, etc.)
7. **How can we fight these "giants"?** (Let students share their ideas. Possible answers: ask our parents to help us, pray to God for help, set up a chart so that we can work on something that is hard for us, etc.)





## Life Application Story

### A Great Teacher

Michelle Marsh came into the family room with a sad look on her face.

"What's wrong?" Nicole Lim asked. The Lim family had come to visit the Marsh family that day.

"My friends are riding their bikes to the park this Sunday, but I can't go with them," Michelle explained

"Why not?" Nicole asked.

"I still don't know how to ride my bike really well," Michelle said sadly. "I just can't seem to stay on the bike for a long time. I keep falling off."

"Come on, Michelle," Nicole said, putting an arm around her. "I can help you."

Nicole was a good bike rider. She had been riding her bike for a long time. Her family often went bike-riding together on Sunday mornings.

Michelle and Nicole walked outside to Michelle's purple bike, which was resting on the driveway. Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim were outside looking at the garden.

"Nicole is helping me with my bike-riding," said Michelle to her mom.

"Okay," said Mrs. Marsh, "just remember to put on your helmet."

After Michelle put on her helmet, she picked up her bike.

"I keep falling to one side," Michelle explained. "I can't seem to stay on the bike."

"Well," Nicole said, "it's easier to stay on when you're already going. Let's just practice going along the driveway first. That way you don't have to worry about pedaling too far."

Nicole held onto the bike, steadying it as Michelle went along the driveway. After a couple of tries, Michelle went by herself.

"Whoa...here we go," Michelle said to herself. Michelle started off a little shaky, but she steadied herself. Faster and faster the bike went. Faster and faster Michelle went. Pretty soon, she was all the way at the end of the driveway.

"Way to go, Michelle!" Nicole shouted.

But Michelle could not stop.

"How do you stop this thing?" Michelle yelled out to Nicole.

"Put on the brakes!" Nicole started running after Michelle. Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim came running too.

Michelle went past the mailbox and headed straight to the tree by the curb. But before she hit the tree, her front wheel hit a rock.

"Aaaargh!" Michelle cried. She landed by the sidewalk.

Nicole came running to Michelle. "Are you okay?"

"I'm okay. It's just a scraped knee. I got so nervous I forgot how to stop the bike. I'll never learn how to ride my bike by Sunday," Michelle sighed.

Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim were just glad Michelle was okay.

"Don't worry. I had a hard time learning how to ride my bike too," Nicole said, as she helped Michelle up

"You did?" Michelle asked. "But you're so good at it now."

"Well, it took a lot of work. You may not be able to learn how to ride a bike by Sunday, but if you keep practicing, you will learn one of these days. And you know what? When I have a hard time at something, I always pray to God to help me. It makes learning new things easier," explained Nicole.

"Really?"

"Yes, Jesus taught me not to be afraid to try new things, and I know I can ask Him for help when I need it."

"Do you think Jesus will help me learn to ride my bike, too?" Michelle asked.

"Of course! All you have to do is ask," Nicole said. "Besides, Jesus has already helped you get halfway down the street!"

"He did, didn't He?" Michelle smiled, as she walked back to the house.

"Come on, we'd better go back inside," said Mrs. Marsh. "Let's go and clean up your knee."

### Questions to Think About

1. **What are some things that are hard for you to do?** (Allow students to share.)
2. **How can you ask God to help you?** (Allow students to share.)



## Activity 1

### David and Goliath

Review the story with the help of the rebuses.



## Activity 2

### God Can Help Me

Look at each picture. How can God help you?

1. God can help me pray longer.
2. God can help me go to bed on time.
3. God can help me not be afraid of the dark.

How else can God help you?



## Activity 3

### "God Helps Me" Crown

#### Materials:

1. construction paper strips, long enough to wrap around the heads of the students
2. foam shapes (store-bought) or shapes cut from construction paper (rectangles, circles, triangles, ovals, stars)
3. tape
4. stapler
5. scissors
6. markers
7. glue

#### Directions:

1. Provide each student with a strip of construction paper long enough to wrap around their head (teacher may need to tape two pieces together to lengthen it).
2. Cut pointed ends to create a crown.
3. Help students glue foams shapes to the pointed ends of the crown. This is a good time to review the names of the shapes with the students.
4. Along the crown, write "God helps me."
5. Wrap the construction paper around the student's head and tape or staple at the appropriate length so the crown will fit the head.
6. As the students wear the crown, remind them

that God can help them overcome anything. The crown can show them that God is the King and He can do anything to help His children. Encourage them to place their trust in God.



Activity 5:1

David and Goliath

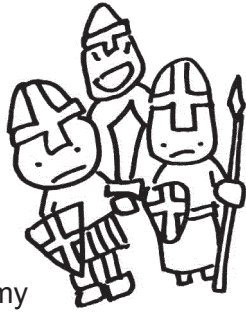
Review the story with the help of the rebuses.

The Philistines came to fight Israel. The Philistines sent



Goliath

to fight Israel's



army

. Everyone was afraid of



Goliath

went to



David



King Saul

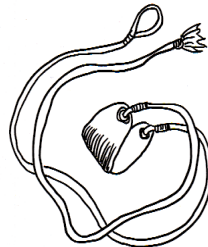
. He said, "I am not afraid. God will help me

fight this giant."



David

took his



sling

and got five



stones

put a stone in his



David



sling

and shot it at



Goliath

died.



Goliath

trusted in God.

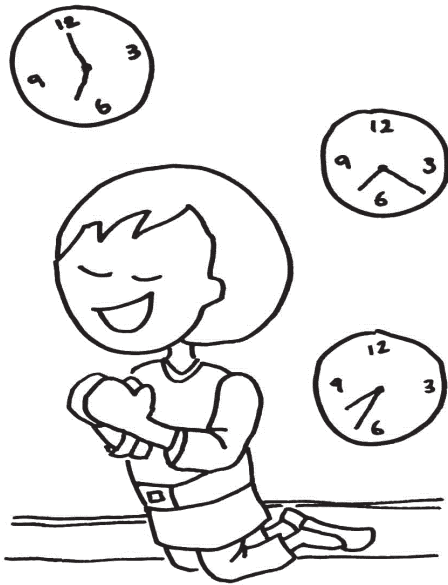


David

Activity 5:2

### God Can Help

Look at each picture. How can God help you?



1. God can help me pray longer.



2. God can help me go to bed on time.



3. God can help me not be afraid of the dark.

How else can God help you?

# David and Jonathan Are Friends



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

1 Sam 16:14-23; 18:1-11; 19:1-7

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to show love to the people around us

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To teach the children that we should show love to our friends; to identify ways to show love

### Memory Verse

"A friend loves at all times." (Prov 17:17)



## Bible Knowledge

### Jonathan

Jonathan was the eldest son of King Saul by his only wife (1 Sam 14:49-50). That made him the heir to his father's throne. He possessed some qualities that would have made him a good leader. First, he was courageous. Jonathan led one thousand soldiers to defeat the Philistines at Gibeah (1 Sam 13:2-3). He was also loyal to his friends, as witnessed in his relationship with David. Since David already knew he would become king based on God's promise, it was likely that his best friend Jonathan would have known as well. Yet, Jonathan never hesitated when he helped David escape from the plots of his father to have David killed. He only offered what he could. His love was pure and free of personal interest, born out of trust in God (see 1 Sam 20:13-15).

### Saul's Mental State

In 1 Samuel 16:14 the Bible says, "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing

spirit from the Lord troubled him." A question that often arises is whether the evil spirit is from the devil or from God. Since no evil could come from God, the spirit must be from the devil. But, as in the story of Job, God could have allowed the evil spirit to disturb Saul, which accounts for the Bible's wording. To make this story age-appropriate, this lesson simply refers to the spirit as an evil spirit.

Other questions of consistency arise when Saul asks David to play the harp for him (1 Sam 16:14-23) and when David defeats Goliath (1 Sam 17:55-58). When Saul talks to David after his victory over the giant, Saul appears to be introduced to David for the first time. However, the Bible seems to say that David first played the harp for Saul, so Saul should have known David by the time he killed Goliath. There are two ways to explain this inconsistency: (1) Saul may have asked about David's parentage again so that his family could be rewarded for his bravery and victory, or (2) Saul was already afflicted with an evil spirit so his mental state may have been unstable. Again, to make the story more accessible to young children, this lesson does not go into the details of what Saul said to David.





## Understanding Your Students

Your students need to learn the value of true friendship, the importance of loyalty, and the meaning of kindness. It seems like a lot for them to soak up at such a young age but keep in mind that expressing love by actions doesn't just happen as a natural part of a child's growth, like losing a tooth. Showing love must be learned through repeated positive experiences. That's why it is never too early to begin.

As teachers, we can help them learn to be loyal to each other, to work harmoniously, and to share unselfishly. We can model the love and respect that we want to see the students show. Then they will begin to imitate the words and actions. Children at

this age are great at modeling behavior they see. And when we see a child show love, reinforce and encourage that attitude. For example, "\_\_\_\_\_ (insert child's name), thank you for giving Sam a turn with the toy. That's a way to show love."

Do not expect a child's ability to share and love to fluctuate. A child may willingly share and work harmoniously with others one week but be reluctant the next. This is a normal part of development. Accept the child's reaction. For example, "\_\_\_\_\_ (insert child's name), maybe you'll be ready to share next week. Sharing is a good way to show love." Simply state the Bible principle. Also look for opportunities to put the students' relationships into words. For example, "\_\_\_\_\_ (child A), it sounds to me like you and \_\_\_\_\_ (child B) have fun together. You and \_\_\_\_\_ (child B) are good friends."



## Vocabulary

### **Evil Spirit**

a bad spirit that makes the person it is inside of feel bad

### **Jealous**

when someone feels jealous, he feels upset and a bit angry because he wants something that another person has



## Before You Teach

The relationship between David and Jonathan is a classic example of true friendship. They were loyal and faithful to each other till the end, even though they faced many bumps on the road.

For example, Jonathan and David were technically rivals for the throne. Even if Jonathan did not know it at the beginning of their friendship, at some point, he would have realized that David would take over the throne one day. Even though he was the rightful heir, he would not have the opportunity to become the king of Israel. Yet this knowledge did not make him miserable or cause him to find ways to secure his own kingship. In fact, if we study the things he did for David, we will come to see a man whose intentions were pure and without selfish motives. Jonathan loved David unconditionally, and that is the kind of love God wants to see in all of His believers.

And despite Saul's ill-will towards him, David never thought of Jonathan as anything other than his best friend. After Jonathan's death, the Bible records that David mourned for him (2 Sam 1:11). David also kept his promise to take care of Saul's family for Jonathan's sake (1 Sam 20:14-16; 2 Sam 9:1). The kind of grace he showed to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was almost unheard of at that time. In fact, it was common to kill the children of former rulers so that they would not have the chance to regain the throne in the future. But not only did David not do that, he restored all the land that belonged to Saul and even gave Mephibosheth a place at the king's table.

When we read about such friendships, we can only wish we have someone who cares just as much about us in an unselfish manner. And the fact is, we do. Jesus gave His life for us so that we may have eternal life. That is grace. We did not earn it, nor do we deserve it. Yet, Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself. That is why in addition to calling Him our Savior, we also call Him our friend.



## Bible Story

### Our Friends

Today, we're going to talk about some people we all love to spend time with. Does anyone want to guess what kind of people I'm talking about? (Give students time to guess. Be prepared that they might name members of their family.) Yes, we do like to spend time with our family, but I'm thinking about a different group of people—our friends. Friends are wonderful because we can play with them and talk to them. They can also make us feel better when something goes wrong. Let's think about some fun times we've had with our friends. Can anyone give us an example? (Give students time to share.) Friends are great to have during good times, but what about bad times? Can someone talk about a time when a friend made you feel better? (Again, give students time to respond.)

Our friends are actually wonderful gifts from God. In this lesson, we're going to learn about two people who shared a very deep friendship with each other. We're going to learn how David and someone named Jonathan were the best of friends.

### David Plays Music for King Saul

Last week, we learned how David killed a giant named Goliath. Even though all the other soldiers were scared, David was not because he knew God would help him. With a small stone and his sling, he was able to kill Goliath. David had said to King Saul before he went out to meet Goliath that he knew God would help him, just like the way God helped him when he was a shepherd. When a lion or bear came to attack the sheep, God helped him kill the animal so that the sheep would be safe. So David knew that it was God who always kept him safe. And when he had time, David would sing songs to praise God. Actually, David didn't just sing by himself. He knew how to play an instrument. Do you know what it was? He played a harp, which is an instrument with strings (show picture if needed), when he watched his sheep. And he became very good at playing the harp. He played some beautiful music. He was so good that someone told King Saul about him. That person thought David should play the harp for King Saul. But why?

### King Saul Has an Evil Spirit

It all started when King Saul began to get very angry and sad because an evil spirit was inside him. His servants saw how King Saul was unhappy all the time and tried to think of something to make their king feel better.

One of King Saul's servants had an idea.

"King Saul," he said, "we could find someone to play music on the harp for you. When the evil spirit comes, the music might make you feel better."

King Saul thought this sounded like a good idea.

"Find a harp player for me," he commanded.

"David plays the harp very well," another servant said.

So King Saul sent a messenger to find David and bring him to the king's house. Soon, David was playing his harp for the king. Do you think the music helped King Saul feel better? Yes, it did. When David played his harp, the evil spirit would leave King Saul, and he would feel peaceful again. Because of this, King Saul liked David very much, and David was glad to help.

### David and Jonathan Become Best Friends

Because David played the harp for King Saul a lot, he got to know many of the people in the palace, including the king's oldest son. His name was Jonathan. Jonathan was older than David, but soon, they became best friends. They probably did many of the things that we do with our friends. They walked and talked together. They probably played some sports or games together too. They even made a special promise to each other.

"We will always be good friends," they said.

After they made this promise, Jonathan gave David some gifts.

"David, here is my coat," Jonathan said. "You may have my bow, belt, and sword, too."

Can you imagine giving your friend the most valuable things you have? Would you give your friend the things that you love the most? That's what Jonathan did. Jonathan gave these gifts to show that he and David were the very best of friends.

### Saul Is Jealous of David

Even though David was happy, and Jonathan

was happy, and other people in the kingdom were happy, there was this one very unhappy person in Israel. Can anyone guess who that was? Yes, it was King Saul, Jonathan's father.

King Saul still had the evil spirit inside of him, but something else was bothering him too. He was jealous because everyone seemed to love David more. The people in Israel loved David because he had killed Goliath; his son loved David because they were best friends. Even the women praised David more than Saul by singing, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." That means they thought David was a better soldier than Saul. Saul began to get very upset at David and thought about ways to harm him. Saul didn't want people to like David better than they liked him. When someone is jealous and angry, he will make many mistakes. And Saul made a big mistake. One day, King Saul became so angry that he threw his spear at David while David was playing the harp for him. Thankfully, the spear missed, and David quickly escaped from the room.

### Jonathan Saves David's Life

Do you think Saul felt sorry for what he had done? No, he didn't. In fact, he still wanted to kill David. He told his son Jonathan and his other helpers to kill David. But Jonathan was David's

friend. Do you remember that special promise they made to each other? Well, Jonathan kept his promise. Instead of hurting his friend, he protected and helped David.

"David," Jonathan warned, "my father wants to kill you. Be careful; go and hide. I will talk to my father about you and tell you what I find out."

Then Jonathan went home and took a walk with his father.

He explained, "You should not be angry with David. He has done nothing wrong. Don't you remember how David saved Israel when he beat Goliath? Weren't you so happy about David then? Why do you want to kill someone who has done nothing but good toward you?"

When Jonathan was finished speaking, King Saul agreed.

"Yes," he said, "as God lives, I will not kill David."

Once Jonathan heard that, he ran to bring David back to the palace. David must have been very glad to have Jonathan as his special friend.

We learned from this story that good friends are kind to each other. They help each other and love each other. This is the kind of friendship God wants to see. It makes Him happy when we are kind and helpful to our friends.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Why did King Saul need David to play the harp for him?** (Saul had an evil spirit and when David played the harp for him, Saul felt better.)
2. **Was King Saul jealous of David?** (Yes, he was jealous.)
3. **Who was Jonathan?** (He was King Saul's son.)
4. **What did Jonathan give to David as gifts?** (He gave him clothes, a bow and arrow.)
5. **How did Jonathan help David?** (He helped David escape from King Saul.)

6. **Do you have good friends? What do you do with them?** (Allow students to answer.)
7. **The Bible says that a friend loves at all times. What do you do with your friends that shows love?** (Allow students to answer. Some ideas: letting them choose the toys first, sharing things, helping them, etc.)
8. **How does showing love to our friends tell God we love Him?** (When we show love to our friends, we are following God's command to love others. When we follow God's commands, we are telling God we love Him.)



## Life Application Story

### True Friends

The bell rang. Lunchtime was both Benjamin's favorite and least favorite part of the school day. While he loved eating with his friends, he hated all the noise, and the pushing and shoving that always came with lunchtime. There was this one boy everyone called Bobby the Bully whom Ben was especially afraid of. Even though Bobby was younger, he made up for it in size. He was huge. And whenever he got the chance, he made fun of Ben because of his glasses. But Ben's mom told him, "Just do your best to ignore him. If there's trouble, remember there are always teachers around you, and God is right beside you." Ben grabbed his jacket and hurried to the cafeteria along with everyone else.

Ben's friend Julie found him in the lunch line.

"Hi Ben!"

Ben breathed a sigh of relief. He always felt better when Julie was with him.

"Hi Julie! What do you think you're going to eat?"

Julie looked around at all the food in front of them: pizza, macaroni and cheese, fries, and her favorite, corn dogs.

"Hey, it's corn dog day!" Julie squealed. "It's about time! I'm definitely getting one. Maybe two."

Ben laughed, "I've never seen anyone like corn dogs like you. I think I'll get pizza."

As they made their way through the line, paid for their food, and were about to find the rest of their friends, Ben suddenly heard a loud thud.

He quickly looked over his shoulder to ask Julie what had happened. But then he realized that Julie was not right behind him! Instead, his friend was on the floor with her juice spilled, and her two corn dogs broken into pieces. People all around them were laughing.

"She didn't see my foot," Bobby the Bully howled. "She was the easiest person to trip in the whole world!"

Ben was furious at Bobby, and he wanted to stand up for his friend, but he knew that if he said something, Bobby would make fun of him too. All

Ben wanted to do was to quietly sit down, but he knew that he couldn't leave Julie in the middle of the room like that. So, remembering what his mom told him, Ben put down his tray, helped Julie get up, and then marched right up to Bobby's face.

"You know, you might think that tripping people is funny, but if it happened to you, you wouldn't be laughing. Julie's never done anything to you, and that's not how you should treat her."

Bobby was so surprised, he didn't know what to say. Then, Bobby's surprise turned to horror when he heard the steps of a grown-up behind him.

"Ben is right, Bobby. This is not how we treat people," a soft but stern voice said. Mrs. Rydle, the school's principal, happened to see what was going on. "You need to pick up the food that is on the floor and come to my office when you are done. I will be waiting for you," she finished.

At that point, Bobby had turned red because he hadn't planned on getting caught. His face crinkled as he thought of his mom's reaction. She would not be happy to get a phone call from school again.

When Julie and Ben saw Bobby about to cry, their anger melted away. Ben was the first to bend down to the ground and help Bobby pick up the food. Soon Julie began to help too.

"I guess you feel pretty bad, huh?" Ben whispered.

"It's just that if...if," Bobby sniffled, "if my mom finds out, I'll be in big trouble. This is the third time this month."

"Well, you should have thought about that before you tripped me. That hurt a lot, you know," Julie said, rubbing the elbow that slammed to the floor when she fell.

"I...I'm sorry," Bobby said, "I won't do it again."

"Promise?" asked Julie.

"Yes," he said.

"Fine, then maybe we can all go to the office, and I'll say that it's okay because you learned your lesson."

"You would do that for me?" Bobby asked, not believing what he had just heard.

Julie shrugged, "Sure. If you agree to not go on making fun of people."

After they cleaned up, all three headed to Mrs. Rydle's office. Ben knocked on the door.



"Come in," Mrs. Rydle called. "Ben, Julie," she said with surprise, "are you two all right?"

"Yes, Mrs. Rydle. We just came with Bobby to say that we think he learned his lesson. He says he won't do it again," Ben said.

Mrs. Rydle raised her eyebrows.

"Well, Julie and Ben, this is very kind of you. Bobby, I hope you realize that most people would not do this for you, and I'm glad to hear that you've learned your lesson. I'm looking forward to seeing better behavior from you. But I'm afraid I will still have to call home to let your parents know what happened in school. But you know what? I will tell them about this conversation, and I'm sure they'll be glad to hear that the three of you were able to make peace. Now, I think all three of you still have time for lunch, so why don't you head back to the cafeteria?"



### Activity 1

#### Jonathan's Gifts

Look at the picture of David and Jonathan. Can you find the things Jonathan gave his friend David? Look for a sword, a belt a robe and a bow.



### Activity 2

#### Friends Always...

Look at the pictures. Write down what friends do for one another. Use the words in the word bank to help you.

1. Friends always share.
2. Friends always help.
3. Friends always pray for each other.
4. Friends always stick together.



### Activity 3

#### How to be a Good Friend

As a follow-up to the previous activity sheet, take time to explore what it means to be a good friend. The teacher could present the students with specific scenarios (e.g. what if you were invited to a party but your friend was not, or you got the last piece of

As the three shuffled back, Bobby quietly murmured, "Thank you."

Julie and Ben smiled back.

"That's what our parents and God would want us to do," they said together.

#### Questions to Think About

1. **How did Ben show love to Julie?** (He helped her up and stood up for her.)
2. **How did Julie show love for Bobby?** (She forgave him.)
3. **How can we show love for our friends?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **Have you gotten mad at your friends before? What would God want you to do?** (Allow students to answer.)

candy and your friend did not get anything), and discuss what friends might do for each other. The teacher can also bring in a video of a children's show that portrays how friends treat one other. Throughout the discussion, remind the students that in order to have good friends they must be a good friend. Here are some of the ways good friends treat each other:

1. Good friends listen to each other.
2. Good friends don't put each other down or hurt each other's feelings.
3. Good friends try to understand each other's feelings and moods.
4. Good friends help each other solve problems.
5. Good friends give each other compliments.
6. Good friends can disagree without hurting each other.
7. Good friends are dependable.
8. Good friends respect each other.
9. Good friends are trustworthy.
10. Good friends care about each other.

Be sure to explain each one by providing the students with examples.



Activity 6:1

### Jonathan's Gifts

Look at the picture of David and Jonathan.  
Can you find the things Jonathan gave his friend David?  
Look for a sword, a belt, a robe, and a bow.

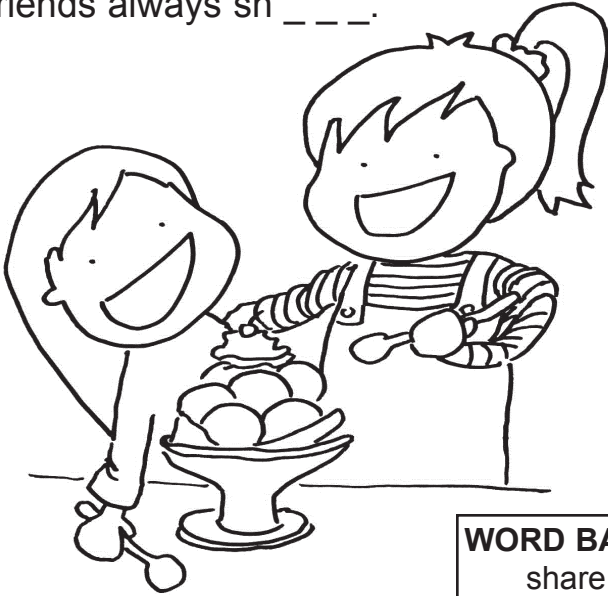


Activity 6:2

### Friends Always...

Look at the pictures. Write down what friends do for one another.  
Use the words in the word bank to help you.

Friends always sh \_\_\_\_.



Friends always h \_\_\_\_.



**WORD BANK**  
share  
help  
pray  
stick

Friends always s \_\_\_\_ k together.



Friends always p \_\_\_\_ for each other.



# David Becomes King

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

1 Sam 31; 2 Sam 2:1-7, 11; 5:1-12; Ps 18:48-50; 65:9-13

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God has His plans for each of us

### Behavioral Objective(s)

For the children to acknowledge that God has a plan for each of them; to identify the attitudes they need to have while waiting for God's plan to materialize

### Memory Verse

"Because He is your Lord, worship Him."  
(Ps 45:11)



## Bible Knowledge

### David

David was the youngest son of Jesse, from the tribe of Judah, and he was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz. David was brought up to be a shepherd. As a shepherd, he learned courage, which was later to be evidenced in battle (1 Sam 17:34-35). He also learned tenderness and care for his flock, which he often referred to in many of his psalms.

David first entered Saul's court as a harp player. He came to soothe Saul when he was tormented by an evil spirit. Saul grew to love David and even made him armorbearer for the king (1 Sam 16:21-22). Later on, David defeated Goliath and was given a military commission. After a mighty victory over the Philistines, David won the hearts of the people (1 Sam 18). This event caused Saul to become jealous of David, and he sought many opportunities to kill David. Despite Saul's hatred for him, David spared Saul on numerous occasions. He said that he could not "stretch out [his] hand

against the Lord's anointed" (1 Sam 26:11).

David was actually anointed three times. When Saul was rejected as the king of Israel, God sent Samuel to anoint David. After the death of Saul, God directed David to Hebron where he was crowned king by the people of Judah (2 Sam 2). He reigned there as king for over seven years (2 Sam 5:5). Later, at his third anointing, the northern tribes also hailed him as king, uniting all Israel under him.

After being crowned king of Israel, David's first move was to conquer Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:6-12). An earlier name of Jerusalem was Salem. It was then known for its righteous king Melchizedek (Gen 14:18-20). This city was strategically located in the hill country near the border of Judah and Benjamin, thus creating a natural fortress. Even the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, boasted that the city would be impenetrable because of the steep cliffs that surrounded it (2 Sam 5:6).



## Understanding Your Students

We know very well that God has His wonderful plans for each of us. We know that He knows what is best for us. Yet, even for grown-ups, it is sometimes hard for us to really live out this truth. Therefore, it is even harder for kindergartners to grasp how great God's plan is. We can, however, help them break things down into smaller, tangible forms.

For example, at this age, children see most of what they do as just fun or a part of their day. There isn't necessarily a purpose or reason for why they are doing

what they are doing. We can point out that they go to school so that they can learn. Then when they grow up, they can use what they have learned to help God and His work. If they are learning to play the piano, they can also be encouraged to play hymns for God in the future. Even when they are just playing, they are still learning important skills such as sharing, listening, and helping. These are all characteristics God wants to see in all of His believers. We can help the students see that all the things they are doing are a part of God's plans. Bit by bit, the children can see how God is a part of their every day lives.



## Vocabulary

### **Patient**

to wait for something without complaining

### **Honor**

obeying or listening to what someone says

### **Jealous**

when someone feels jealous, he feels upset and a bit angry inside because he wants something that another person has



## Before You Teach

When David finally became king over all Israel, he had been anointed three times. The first time was when God asked Samuel to find a person to replace Saul, who had been rejected by the Lord. The second time was after the death of Saul, and he was made king over Judah. This was only after much persecution by King Saul. The third time was when he was declared king over Israel by the northern tribes. This did not happen until after he had ruled Judah for over seven years.

If we look at how David became king, it was certainly a long process. It had been many years from the time he was anointed by Samuel to when he really became the official king of Israel. The crown was not handed over to David outright just because he was chosen by God. This journey to the kingship was a lesson in patience and endurance, probably the exact traits God wanted David to develop in order to become a good leader for the people.

We know very well that God has His plans for us.

But most of us lack the patience to wait for those plans to manifest themselves. We always want to see immediate results. When we pray, we want feedback to our prayer requests right away. We want to know God's will as soon as possible so that we may act on it. But God does not rush into anything. He understands all too well our human weaknesses. He knows that when we make rash decisions, we will probably regret them. Plus, if we are making decisions hastily, we probably did not take time out to ask God for His guidance.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." This verse reminds us that although we have the freedom to do our own planning, in the end, we cannot accomplish anything without God. He is the one who ultimately shows us where to go and directs our path. Though many of us travel along different routes, or take turns we did not need to take, we will still get to where God wants us to be. God's will is always done. And if we are patient and in tune with His plans, He will make straight our paths.



## Bible Story

### **David Waits for God's Timing**

In our last lesson, we learned that David and Jonathan were best friends. Do you remember who Jonathan was? He was King Saul's son. David became friends with him because David would go to King Saul sometimes and play the harp for him. He played music to help King Saul feel better whenever an evil spirit came upon him. King Saul had this evil spirit because he did not obey God. God picked someone else to be king. Do you remember who that person was? It was David. And even though David was already anointed by Samuel (review the meaning of anointed), he did not become the king right away. God had His plans. David knew that he had to wait for God's timing. He honored God by waiting patiently to become the king. Do you know what the word honor means? It means obeying and listening to what someone says. And David was very good at doing that. He did not whine to God every day, saying, "Why haven't you made me king yet? Why not? Why not? You said you would." No, instead David knew that God would keep His promise, so he trusted and honored God by waiting patiently. Actually, many things happened to David before he became the king. Today, we are going to talk about some of those things.

### **David Waits by Honoring God**

While David was waiting to become king, many exciting things happened to him. What do you think was the most exciting thing that happened to him? (Take various responses.) Yes, he fought the giant Goliath.

When Goliath wanted to fight against God's people, everyone in Israel was too scared because Goliath was big and mean. Whenever the soldiers looked at Goliath, their knees shook, and they wanted to run away. But Goliath kept saying, "Give me someone to fight with! If I win, the people of Israel will become our servants. If I lose, we will become your servants."

No one was brave enough to fight Goliath. No one was willing to honor God by standing up for Him. No one, that is, until David came. He said, "I will fight

Goliath in the name of God!" And God helped David beat Goliath with just a sling and a stone. So David did not just sit around and wait for God to make him the king. He was doing what God needed him to do.

### **David Waits by Helping Others**

While David was waiting for God to make him the king, he helped people too. For example, David played the harp for King Saul whenever King Saul felt bad or troubled because of the evil spirit. David had learned to be a good harp player when he was a shepherd. He used what he had learned to help someone else feel better. That is a good way to wait for God.

But it wasn't just David who helped others. David got help from Jonathan, his best friend. Remember when Saul became jealous of David because the people thought that David was a brave and good soldier? He was so angry that he wanted to kill David. Jonathan warned David and told him to run away. Then, he talked to his father and told him not to kill David. At first Saul agreed not to hurt David, and David was able to go back to the king's palace like he used to.

### **David Waits by Obeying God**

But later, King Saul became angry and jealous at David again. He broke his promise to Jonathan and tried to kill David. David had to run away from Saul many times. But God helped David get away from Saul every time. One time, when Saul was chasing after David, they met in a cave. Some of the people who followed David to help him told him to kill Saul in the cave. Then David could become the next king. But David did not do that. He knew he could not kill Saul just so he could become the king. That was not God's plan. So he did not touch Saul. He just kept on hiding and running away from him. He obeyed and honored God by not hurting Saul.

Many years had passed, and David was growing older. He spent a lot of time running away from King Saul. And even though he still wasn't king, he never stopped praying to God; he never stopped honoring God. David knew that God would make all His good plans come true when the time was right.



## David Becomes King

David had to wait a long time to be king, but God kept His promise. One day, King Saul and Jonathan fought a battle with enemy soldiers. During the battle, a terrible thing happened. Both Saul and Jonathan died. David felt very sad when he heard the news. Jonathan was his best friend. And even though Saul had tried to kill David many times, David did not hate him. Saul was still the king God had once chosen.

After the people heard that King Saul had died, they said, "Let's make David our new king!" Was this the right time now? David had waited a long time, but he wanted to be sure this was what God wanted. Since David wanted to do God's will, he prayed and asked God, "Where shall I go?"

God answered, "Go to a town called Hebron."

So David went to Hebron, and there he became king over Judah. This was a small part of Israel. Later on, David would become king over an even greater part of the land, and he was the king of Israel for a very long time. Throughout those years, David kept praying to God and honoring

Him. And God helped David be a great king.

## We Should Wait for God's Plans

David had to wait a long time to become the king. Many things happened to him along the way. But the most important thing was that he never whined or asked God when he was supposed to be the king. He waited patiently for God's time and did things according to His will while he waited.

God also has His plans for each of us. Sometimes, like David, we don't know when they will happen. For example, it is hard for us to know what we will be when we grow up. But God knows what is best for us. He already has His plans but we need to be patient and trust God. He will allow things to happen at the right time. And while we are waiting, we can do our best at everything else. For example, we can study hard at school. It is a way to honor God while we wait for His plans. We can listen to our parents too. It is another way to honor God while we are waiting. Let us pray that we can wait patiently for God's plans and do His will, as David did.



## Check For Understanding

- 1. God did many wonderful things for David. Can you name some of those things?**  
(Chose him to be king, helped him kill Goliath, gave him Jonathan as a friend, kept him safe from King Saul, made him king, helped him to be a good king.)
- 2. Why did Saul want to kill David?** (He was jealous of David and did not want him to become king.)
- 3. Why didn't David kill Saul in the cave when he had the chance to?** (David wanted to honor God and Saul, the king God had anointed in the first place.)
- 4. What happened to Saul and Jonathan during a battle?** (They were both killed.)

- 5. After Saul died, the people wanted David to become king. But David wanted to make sure it was God's will. What did he do to be sure?** (He prayed to God. God told him to go to a place called Hebron where he was crowned king of Judah.)
- 6. David honored God and obeyed His plan, even though it took a long time. What does it mean for us to honor God?** (It means that we need to obey the rules, be kind, share, and help. When we do these things, we are honoring God.)
- 7. Do you know the plans God has for you? Sometimes it is hard to know what they are since you are so young but you can learn from David and be patient. While you are waiting, what can you do?** (Study hard at school, obey parents, pray to God, etc.)



## Life Application Story

### Waiting For the Game

Mrs. Lewis knocked on Tommy's door.

"Tommy, it's time to get up," she said.

She didn't hear an answer, so she opened the door. Tommy was still tucked under the covers.

"You're going to be late for school," Mrs. Lewis said as she gently nudged Tommy. Tommy groaned and stuffed a pillow over his head.

"I don't want to go to school," Tommy said. "It's no fun. For three days, the teacher said we're going to play a game. But every day, we only color little square pieces of paper and make clay statues. That's boring."

"Tommy, every part of your school day has something for you to learn. If your teacher needs to make square pieces of paper, there must be a reason. You just need to be patient. Besides, didn't you say you liked your teacher, Mrs. Lerner?"

Tommy paused to think. "Yes, I think she is the best teacher. I just wish we could play that game she is talking about."

"Tommy, you need to trust her to keep her word," Mrs. Lewis said. "Maybe you will play the game today. If not, go to your teacher and very nicely ask, 'Mrs. Lerner, you said we were going to play a game, and I've been looking forward to it for three days. Can you tell us when we're going to play it?' If you say that, I think Mrs. Lerner will let you know what she has planned. Believe me, going to school will be much better than staying at home and complaining."

"Okay, Mom," Tommy replied.

When Tommy arrived at school, he saw that markers were laid out again. He groaned. More coloring. Class hadn't begun yet, so Tommy went up to Mrs. Lerner's desk and asked her very politely when the class was going to be playing the game. Before she could answer, a boy named Bobby suddenly shouted out, "Yeah! I want to play a game! I'm so bored. I hate coloring those pieces of paper!"

Mrs. Lerner's eyes quickly looked towards Bobby.

"Bobby, please come here and listen to what I'm going to say to Tommy."

Bobby got up and went over to Mrs. Lerner's desk.

"Tommy, I know that some students have been impatient to start the game, but I want to thank you for asking in such a polite way. Because you asked so nicely, I'm going to let you in on a secret: we've been building the game pieces for the past three days, and today we're going to put everything together. We'll just need to do a little more coloring and gluing this morning, but by the afternoon, we'll be having lots of fun together! So do you think you can work hard for one more morning? I promise you, it'll be worth it!"

Tommy breathed a sigh of relief.

"Yes, Mrs. Lerner, I think I can do that. Thank you for telling me."

"Now Bobby," Mrs. Lerner continued. "I will let you in on the secret too so that you can see what happens when you ask nicely. I don't answer rude complaints, but I do answer polite questions. Now are you going to remember this for next time?"

"Yes, Mrs. Lerner," Bobby said softly with his eyes to the ground.

"Good, let's get started with the day then."

That afternoon when Mrs. Lewis came to pick up Tommy, Tommy hopped into the car excitedly.

"Mom, Mom!" he shouted.

"Tommy, what is it?" Mrs. Lewis said, as she drove away from the school.

"That game was so much fun. It was the best game in the world!" Tommy gushed.

Tommy told his mom what had happened that day, and he realized that the game was definitely worth the wait, and that asking politely instead of whining was the right thing to do. As Tommy was finishing his story, Mrs. Lewis pulled into their driveway.

"Well, Tommy, it seems you learned a lot today. You learned that it is okay to wait for some things. Sometimes, that is God's plan. He wants us to learn to wait and be patient while we are waiting."

"Yes, and I didn't whine to my teacher. I tried to wait for the game to start," said Tommy as he walked into the house.

"Yes, she thought that you were very polite and patient. After she told you the plan, she asked if you could wait for one more morning, and you

said 'yes.'"

"Mom, I am glad I listened to you this morning," Tommy said.

"I am proud of you, and so is God. It is not always easy to wait for things. God is happy that you were able to be so patient," Mrs. Lewis said as she took out lemonade from the fridge.

"I think I waited so much that I'm ready for a snack!" Tommy said as he went to get his cup.



### Activity 1

#### David Does Many Things

Look at the pictures. Write down what David did while he was waiting to be king.

1. David looked after the \_\_\_\_\_. (sheep)
2. David was \_\_\_\_\_ (anointed) by Samuel.
3. David killed \_\_\_\_\_. (Goliath)
4. David played the \_\_\_\_\_ (harp) for King Saul.



### Activity 2

#### How Do We Wait?

Look at the pictures. How should the children wait in each situation? Discuss the attitude (e.g. no whining and complaining) and words they may say to show they are waiting nicely.

1. We are waiting in line to go on a ride.
2. I am waiting to open my present.
3. I am waiting for a friend to come over.
4. I am waiting for my turn on the computer.



### Activity 3

#### God Made Me Special

God knew that He wanted David to be a king, even when David was just a young boy. God sent Samuel to tell David about those plans. God has made special plans for each of us too, even though we may not know what they are right now. Just like David, we need to trust and wait for God's plans to hap-

#### Questions to Think About

1. **What was Tommy tired of waiting for?** (He was tired of waiting for the game to begin.)
2. **What do you have a hard time waiting for?** (Allow students to answer.)
3. **How does God want us to act while we are waiting?** (Allow students to answer. God wants us to wait patiently; He doesn't want us to whine and complain.)
4. **What can we do while we are waiting?** (Allow students to answer.)

pen. While we are waiting, let's sing a song to praise and thank God for loving us so much.

(Sung to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine")

**God made me special, God made me special.**

**And we will all join hands and pray.**

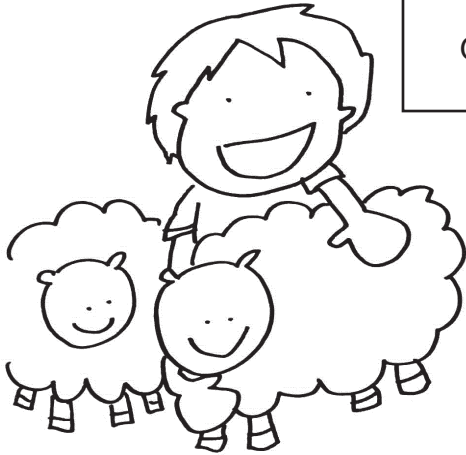
**We will say, "Thank you," and count our blessings,  
Because God has made you and me.**

Activity 7:1

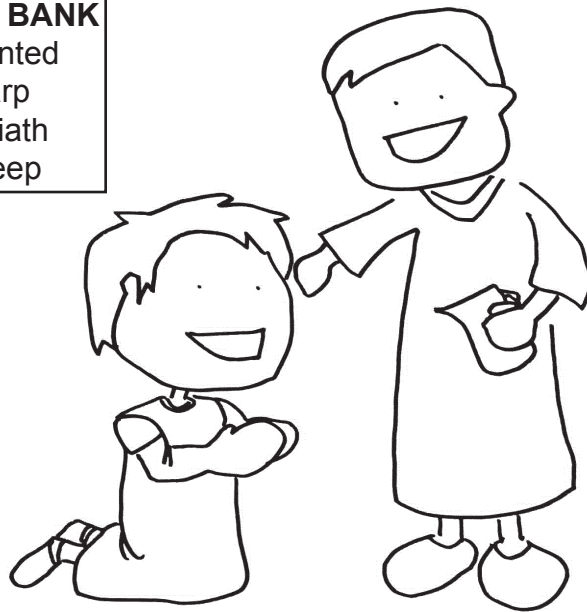
### David Does Many Things

Look at the pictures. Write down what David did while he was waiting to be king.

**WORD BANK**  
anointed  
harp  
Goliath  
sheep



1. David looked after the \_\_\_\_\_.



2. David was \_\_\_\_\_  
by Samuel.



3. David killed \_\_\_\_\_.

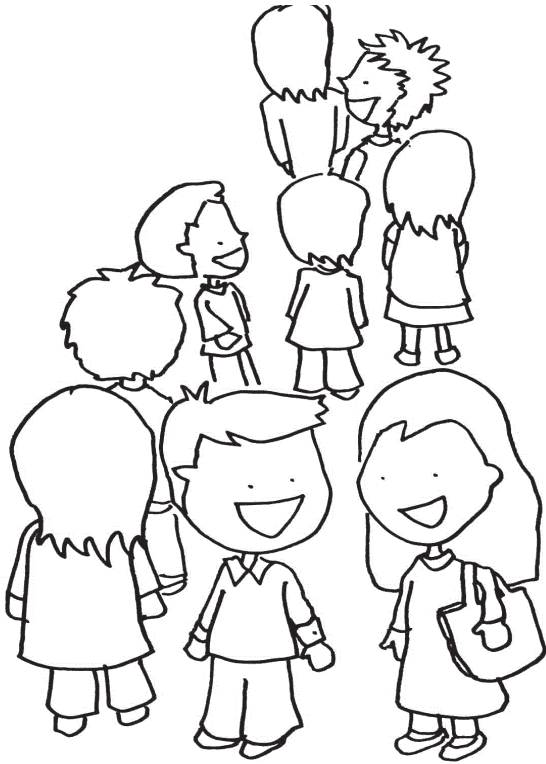


4. David played the \_\_\_\_\_  
for King Saul.

Activity 7:2

## How Do We Wait?

Look at the pictures. How should the children wait in each situation?



1. We are waiting in line to go on a ride.



2. I am waiting to open my present.



3. I am waiting for a friend to come over.



4. I am waiting for my turn on the computer.



# Solomon Asks For Wisdom

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- prayer poem
- markers
- poster board
- glue
- self-adhesive magnets
- scissors



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 1:32-40; 2:12; 3:3-15; 4:29-7:51

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to be full of the wisdom from above

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To learn to make wise choices so that we may please God

### Memory Verse

"He gives wisdom to the wise." (Dan 2:21)



## Bible Knowledge

### Solomon

Solomon was the third king of Israel. He was the son of David and Bathsheba (2 Sam 12:24). He was also named Jedidiah ("beloved of the Lord") by Nathan the prophet (2 Sam 12:25).

Solomon was famous for a number of reasons. He was renowned for his wisdom and his wealth. He was remembered for his 3,000 proverbs, 1005 songs, and his observations on plant and animal life (1 Kg 4:32, 33). He was the founder of the type of Hebrew literature represented in the Bible by the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

Solomon was also responsible for building the temple that David had wanted to build and dedicate to God. The design of Solomon's temple was basically the same as that of the tabernacle, but with the dimensions exactly doubled. Its foundation stones measured twelve to fifteen feet or more, and weighed many tons. Cedar logs were transported on the Mediterranean Sea one hundred miles south to Joppa; then they were dragged over land thirty-five miles. The stone temple was

lined with this cedar and ornamented with gold, silver, and bronze. Seven years were spent on the temple's construction.

As great as Solomon and his contributions were, he had his faults. Most notably, he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Many of these women came from countries with which he had treaties (1 Kgs 11:1). He allowed his wives to continue to worship their native gods and idols, thus compromising his faith as well as that of the people—many altars to these gods were erected in Jerusalem (1 Kgs 11:7-8).

### Wisdom

Wisdom, as defined by the world, is knowledge that helps one succeed in life and gain happiness. The wisdom from God, however, comes from one's fear and faith in God, and the knowledge of Him. The real essence of wisdom is spiritual because it is not just about being rewarded physically. Biblical wisdom is both religious and practical (Ps 111:10; Prov 1:7, 9:10.) Wisdom takes insights gleaned from the knowledge of God's ways and applies them to daily life. In fact, when reading Proverbs, we can see how it branches out to touch all areas of life.



## Understanding Your Students

Wisdom is a hard word to define for young children. In fact, the art of obtaining wisdom has become a philosophy for some scholars. The best way for this age group to understand this word is to talk about wisdom as knowing what God wants them to do. When we have wisdom, we will want to do what makes God happy. We can give specific illustrations. For example, would God want us to argue? No, and so when we choose to not argue, we are demonstrating wisdom from God. When we help another person, would that make God happy? Yes, and so when we help someone, we are showing that we have wisdom



### Vocabulary

#### **Permanent**

something that will not change or be moved

#### **Temple**

the special building where the people worshiped God, like the church today

from God.

Let the students know they can still be full of wisdom, even though they are young, because wisdom is a gift from God. But it is a gift they must seek, just as Solomon asked God for wisdom. That means they need to pray about it. How will they know when they have received wisdom from God? They will know because of their actions and words. They will be kind, helpful, and courteous. They will naturally want to share, sacrifice, and love. Of course, as teachers and grown-ups, we need to be the ones to point these out to our little ones. Through positive encouragement, they will come to know that what they are doing and saying makes God happy, and thus, be strengthened in faith.

#### **Wisdom**

to know right from wrong and what pleases God

#### **Feast**

to have a big meal, with a lot of food and drinks

#### **Offerings**

to give things to God to thank and praise Him



## Before You Teach

When God appeared to Solomon and asked him what he wanted, Solomon replied, "Give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil" (1 Kgs 3:9). God was pleased with Solomon's request and not only granted him wisdom, but also wealth and honor. The Bible records that there was no one more wise than Solomon during his time (1 Kgs 4:29-34). We have evidence of his wisdom through the many proverbs he wrote, as well as the decisions he had to make (1 Kgs 3:16-28). His fame spread to many nations and even reached the Queen of Sheba (1 Kgs 10). Solomon was indeed blessed by God.

If we followed Solomon's example, would we not receive wisdom from above? Strictly speaking, we should. Yet, not many of us feel as though we are wise beyond our years. Why is that? Today, many people seek different ways to obtain wisdom. They might read writings of philosophers. They

may pray to their gods. They may meditate. But in return, they expect something for their effort. They may ask for protection or other blessings. They may want peace and happiness. They may even ask for riches and fame. This is not the kind of wisdom that God gives.

God granted Solomon's request because he asked God from a pure heart and motive. He was not doing it for fame or praise. He was not hoping to have peace and happiness for himself. He asked for a heart of understanding because he was not sure how to lead God's people and wanted God to help him. He wanted to understand God's way and will. God granted his request and more. Solomon was not only one of the wisest who ever lived, but was also very famous, very rich, and very blessed.

Wisdom from God helps us know what God's ways are so that in turn, we can apply those teachings to our lives. To have wisdom is to lead a godly and God-fearing life. God's wisdom is not a means to joy, fame, or wealth. When we have this understanding, then we can pray to God and seek this wisdom from Him. God will hear our prayers and fill us with His Spirit and strength.



## Bible Story

### **David Wants to Build a Temple**

We learned last week that David became the second king of Israel. He waited a long time to become the king. While he waited, he fought Goliath, he played the harp for King Saul, and he became best friends with Jonathan. He also had to run away from King Saul because King Saul didn't want David to be the next king. He didn't want the people to praise David more. One time, when David was running away from Saul, he was hiding in a cave. Saul also went into that cave but he didn't know David was hiding there. David could have killed Saul, but he did not do that. He knew he had to wait for God's plan. Later on, King Saul died in a battle, and David was crowned the king of Israel. David was a good king because he loved God. He did his best to be a good leader and he always remembered God.

One important thing David wanted to do after he became the king was to build a special place where the people could come to worship God. He wanted to build this special place called the temple because he loved God very much. Today when we worship God we have a special place to go to. Where is that? (Church, or prayer house). For many years the people of Israel did not have a special building where they could worship God. Sometimes they worshiped in a tent, called the tabernacle. Sometimes they worshiped outside. Even though they knew that God was with them wherever they were, there wasn't really a permanent place, a special place they could always go to, to talk to God. So King David decided he would build the most beautiful temple for God. King David made a lot of plans, and he helped get the temple started. But he did not get to finish it. This is because God wanted King David's son to be the one to finish building the beautiful temple for Him.

### **Solomon Becomes the King**

After King David died, his son Solomon became king. King Solomon loved God very much, just like his father, and he wanted to obey Him. But Solomon had just become the king and there were many things he still had to learn. He wanted to be a good king like his father but he knew it was hard work

too. God knew that Solomon wanted to be a good king. He wanted to help Solomon. One night, God came to Solomon in a dream.

God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

King Solomon wanted to do what God wanted. He also wanted to be a good leader for the Israelites.

King Solomon replied, "Please help me be a good ruler and give me a heart of understanding." Solomon was asking for God to help him know what to do so that he could be a good king.

When God heard this, He was very happy. He said, "I will give you a wise and understanding heart." To be wise is to have wisdom. Do you know what wisdom is? To have wisdom is to know what is good and what is bad, and what pleases God. This means that God promised to help Solomon know right from wrong so that he could make good choices. When Solomon woke up, he remembered what God had said to him in the dream. Solomon was happy that God gave him wisdom. Having wisdom would help Solomon know what is good and what is not.

### **Solomon Finishes Building the Temple**

Solomon was a good king, like his father King David. He tried his best to do what God wanted. He also knew his father wanted to build a temple. So Solomon wanted to finish the temple. He wanted it to be the most beautiful building in the world, so he needed the very best workers, and the very best things to build the temple. This is just like when we do work for God; we need to always give God our very best.

When King David was alive, he had a friend called King Hiram. When Solomon became king he also became good friends with King Hiram. King Hiram lived in a country far, far away called Tyre. Tyre had big beautiful trees called cedars and pines that King Solomon wanted to use to build God's temple. The two kings made a deal to help each other. That means they came up with a plan that would be good for both of the countries. King Solomon would send food to the people in Tyre, and King Hiram would send the wood from Tyre to help build the temple.

Almost everyone helped build the temple. Each person did what he could do best. Some lifted

the stones to build the walls of the temple, some carried the wood inside the temple, and some made the furniture that would be used. No matter what the jobs were, God helped each person be a wise worker.

### **Solomon Prays to God**

It took the workers seven years to build God's temple. Everyone was happy when the temple was finished. It was a very long time, but this was because everyone took great care to make sure everything was perfect. Sometimes it takes a long time to do something in order to make sure God gets the best. This teaches us to also be careful and not to rush our work because anything we do is a gift to God. The finished temple was very large. Many people from many different places wanted to see the beautiful temple. King Solomon planned a special time for all the people to come to the temple and praise God. People came from everywhere to see the temple and to thank God for it. Solomon was glad that the people wanted to come.

On that special day, King Solomon knelt down and began to pray to thank God. He prayed loud enough so all the people could hear

him.

"Dear God, you are so special! Thank you for helping us build the temple, just as you promised my father, King David. Help this temple be a holy place where people can worship you. Please forgive us when we do wrong things, Lord. And help us follow the good rules that you have given us."

After he prayed, Solomon stood up and talked to the people.

"Praise the Lord!" he said. "Let's love the Lord and do what He says to do!"

Many people brought offerings for the new building. Then they had a big feast for fourteen days! A feast is a big meal. After that, the people went home. They were happy to have a beautiful temple where they could worship God together.

### **We Should Ask for Wisdom**

King Solomon was wise. He knew what God wanted him to do and how to help the people love God more. We can learn from King Solomon and ask God to help us make wise choices. That means we want to do things that will make God happy. We don't want to do things that are not right, because then God would be sad. Let's remember to love God with all our hearts.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What did King Solomon ask God for when he became king?** (He asked for wisdom.)
2. **What does it mean to have wisdom?** (It means to know how to make good decisions, fear God, and do things according to His way.)
3. **Who was the king who wanted to build a temple so people could worship God there?** (King David.)
4. **Who did God choose to finish His temple?** (King Solomon.)
5. **How long did it take to finish the temple?** (Seven years.)
6. **What did Solomon say to God when he**

**prayed?** (He thanked God for helping them build the temple; he asked God to forgive the wrong things they did; he prayed that all of the people would love and obey God.)

7. **Why was King Solomon a wise worker for God?** (He made plans for the temple to be beautiful; he sent for the best materials; he got the best workers to do the job.)
8. **Today, we can also be like Solomon and help build up God's church. What are some things we can do to make the church beautiful for God?** (Allow students to answer. e.g. clean up, talk with inside voices.)
9. **Why should we pray to God for wisdom?** (We want to obey God and do the right things, especially when we are not sure. We want to please God with our actions and words.)





## Life Application Story

### Wise Little Children

One day the kindergarten class was learning about King Solomon. Mrs. Hayes taught the children how King Solomon asked for wisdom and how he built a beautiful temple for God. At the end of the lesson, Mrs. Hayes asked the children some questions.

"Why was King Solomon a great king?" asked Mrs. Hayes. Many of the children raised their hands to answer the question.

"Yes, Susie?"

"King Solomon was a great king because he asked God to help him be a good king."

"Good answer, Susie!" praised Mrs. Hayes. "What about you, John?"

"He was a great king because he built a temple for God so people could go there," replied John.

"Good job, John!" said Mrs. Hayes.

After the children had finished answering the questions and working in their books, Mrs. Hayes explained what they were going to do next.

"It's very important for us to be wise and good workers for God. Today we are going to paint pictures of how we can be wise and good workers for God."

The children were very excited about painting. They put on their smocks. Everyone was very careful with the paint and made sure they didn't spill any or make a mess. All the children took their time to do their best work because they knew from the story of King Solomon that they had to give God their very best work. When the class had finished and the paintings had dried, Mrs. Hayes displayed them around room. Mrs. Hayes then asked each person to tell the class what they had painted.

Mrs. Hayes pointed at a picture. "What did you paint Susie?"

"I painted myself cleaning the church," Susie said.

"That's a pretty picture of the church, Susie," Mrs. Hayes said. She smiled and then asked the other children how they could be wise workers for God.

"I painted myself being nice to others," Juan

said. He pointed to a painting with two boys. "That's me and that's Tommy."

"That is very important Juan. We need to treat others the way we want to be treated. Our good behavior will also show others we love God very much," Mrs. Hayes explained.

"I painted myself doing all my homework," John said.

"That's great John," Mrs. Hayes replied. "It is important to complete things given to you including school work and church homework. That is giving God your best."

"I painted myself doing my best to help you, my mommy," said Rachel.

"Good thinking, Rachel," Mrs. Hayes said. "A wise worker of God honors their father and mother."

Tommy was the last to tell the class what he had painted.

"I painted myself praying."

"Excellent, Tommy. Why did you think of that?" asked Mrs. Hayes.

"Well, a few days ago, my sister was having a hard time doing her homework, and my mom told her she would help her. But she also asked my sister to pray to God for help, so that He could help her understand," explained Tommy.

"Your mom is right. We can only be wise and good workers for God if we remember to pray."

Mrs. Hayes looked at everyone and said, "Remember, it is very important to pray to God every day to help us and protect us in all we do. All of us can be like Solomon, and ask God to give us wisdom to know right from wrong. For homework I want you to remember to pray every day this week. Let's end our class with a prayer."

### Questions to Think About

1. **How can we be wise?** (We can pray to God and ask Him to give us wisdom.)
2. **Why is it important to know what is right from what is wrong?** (We want to do what is right because we want to show God we love Him.)
3. **What can we do if we do something wrong?** (We should try our best to do what makes God happy. But when we do something we shouldn't, we need to ask for forgiveness. Then we need to pray and ask God to help us do what is right next time.)





## Activity 1

### Solomon Builds God's Temple

Look at the picture. Fill in the blanks. The students can color in the picture.

King Solomon wanted to build the temple.



## Activity 2

### Wise or Unwise?

Look at each set of pictures. Who is doing what is wise? Put a check mark below that picture. Who is doing what is unwise? Put an "X" below the picture (or cross out the picture).

1. Jumping on the sofa or sitting on the sofa.
2. Climbing the chair to reach the cookie jar or asking a grown-up.
3. Telling a lie or telling the truth.
4. Pulling on a toy or sharing the toy.



## Activity 3

### Wisdom Prayer Magnets

#### Materials:

1. prayer poem
2. poster board
3. markers
4. glue
5. self-adhesive magnets (can be purchased at craft stores)
6. scissors

#### Directions:

1. In this activity, the students will be making fridge magnets.
2. Copy the poem on the right so that each student will have one. The teacher may wish to enlarge it or type it out again. Cut it to size.
3. Provide each student with a piece of three by four inch (3" X 4") poster board.
4. Help the students glue the poem to the board.
5. Read the poem out loud with the students and explain any words they may not understand. Talk about how Solomon asked for wisdom and

how they can also ask for wisdom.

6. Encourage the students to decorate their poem, by adding a border or other drawings.
7. Turn the board over and stick a self-adhesive magnet to the back of the poem.
8. Encourage the students to show their family the poem and place it on the fridge so they can practice saying it to God.

God, please give me wisdom  
So I can walk in Your way.  
I want to do what pleases You  
Every single day.

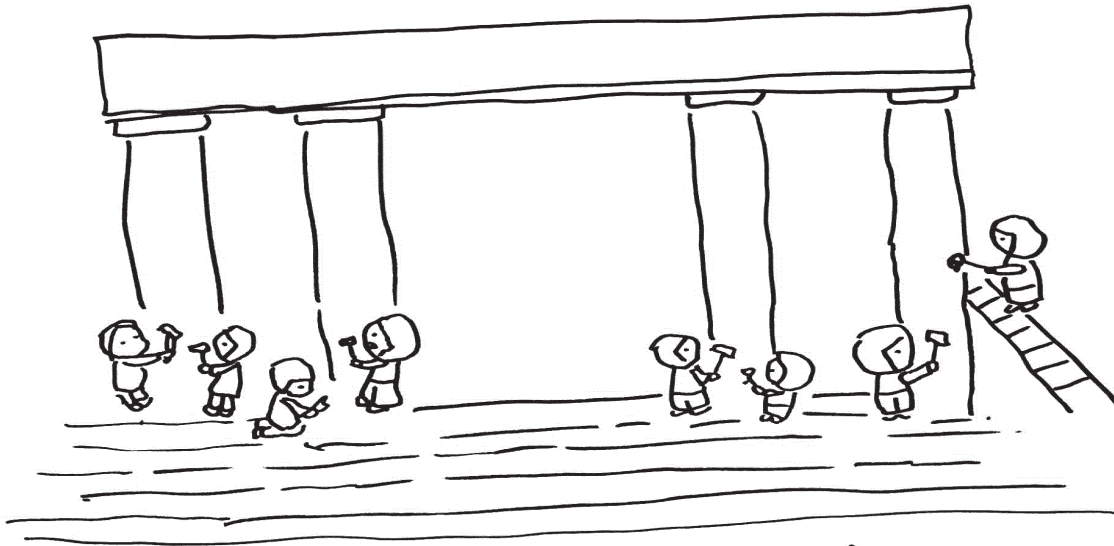
Please help me, Lord  
So that I may know  
The kinds of things  
That can help me grow.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Activity 8:1

### Solomon Builds God's Temple

Look at the picture. Fill in the blanks below.



King

\_\_\_\_\_ wanted  
to build the  
\_\_\_\_\_.



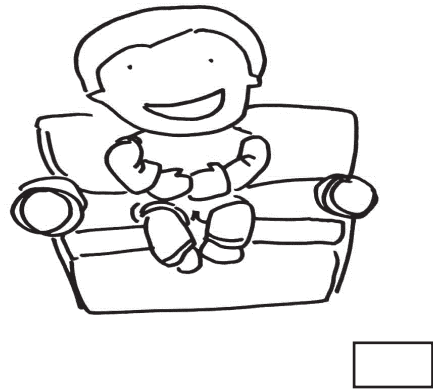
Activity 8:2

### Wise or Unwise?

Look at each set of pictures.

Who is doing what is wise? Put a check mark below that picture.

Who is doing what is unwise? Put an "X" below the picture (or cross out the picture).





## Understanding Your Students

In today's lesson, God provided everything that Elijah needed during the drought and resulting famine. There was no doubt in Elijah's mind who gave him the food and water. If it was not God, then who else could it be? For young children, they often don't see God as their provider. Rather, it is their parents who buy things for them, who go to work to earn money, and who take them out to have a good time. And they know their parents are willing to do all this for them because their parents love them. While this is true, we must also take opportunities to point out the amazing grace of God. He is the Creator of all things. If God did not plant the first seeds, we would not know what vegetables and fruits are. If there were no sunshine and rain, then crops would not grow. If He did not give us families, we would not have parents to look after us.

To help your students recognize God's love in everyday experiences, introduce conversations about

God while the students are involved in an activity. For example, we could say during snack time, "Jennifer, that orange smells good. God has made so much good food for us to eat. God loves us very much." If it happens to be a rainy or sunny day, we could talk about the weather and how God gives us what we need in order for plants, trees and even human beings to grow. We can also talk about the love and care our families demonstrate. But all these are only possible because of God's love for His people.

It is easier for a child to learn about God's love when it is a part of their everyday lives. They are living in a world that is created and planned out by God. They should not think that things around them are the way they are because they exist. God has provided everything for us to enjoy because He loves us. During the famine, things looked bleak. Where would Elijah or the widow get food from? But God said that as long as we trust in Him, He will give us all we need. We know that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust that He will do the same for us.



## Vocabulary

### **Prophet**

a messenger of God

### **Brook**

a small river

### **Raven**

a big, black, flying bird



## Before You Teach

The God who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in it, is a God of power, and a God of wisdom. And yet, our mighty God took the time to create each and every one of us. We have different fingerprints, and no two people really look exactly alike among the billions of people who are living in this world. That is amazing.

Yet, have you ever wondered how the all-powerful and all-knowing God could care about you-one person out of billions? Have you ever felt that God could not possibly be concerned about the trivial, seemingly inconsequential details of your daily life? If you have, you're not alone. David, meditating on God's majesty and glory, says in Psalms 8:3, "When I

consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?" David also wondered how God could care so much about him, when really he was nothing more than a speck of dust.

Yes, God is a God of power. And He is a God of wisdom. But He is also a God of love. His love is eternal. He loves us with an everlasting love because God is love (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:8), and nothing can separate us from this love; neither death nor life (Rom 8:38, 39).

When we consider this, we can only kneel before our God and worship Him. No one and nothing else is worthy of such reverence. We would want to do our best to love Him back and repay all that He has done for us. Let us meditate constantly on His love so we may not forget our Lord.



## Bible Story

### **Sunny Days and Rainy Days**

Good morning, class! How is everyone today? We thank God for giving us a beautiful sunny (or rainy or cloudy, depending on the weather) day. Do you like rainy days, or do you like sunny days? (Allow students to give their answers and ask them why.) Do you know what might happen if there are only sunny days? What would happen if it didn't rain for a long, long time? (Allow students to answer.) Without rain, the soft, green grass would become hard and brown. Flowers would wither and leaves would fall off trees. Then, if it still didn't rain, fruits like apples and oranges, and vegetables like beans, corn, and potatoes, would stop growing. The oceans and rivers would also begin to dry up. Then no food would grow, and all the people and animals would have no water to drink and no food to eat. That doesn't sound very nice, does it? Today we are going to hear a story about a place that had no rain for a long time. We are going to learn about a man called Elijah and how God took care of him when there was no rain.

### **No Rain**

Last week, we learned about King Solomon and how he built a beautiful temple for God. Solomon loved God very much and tried his best to be a good king. That is why when he first became the king, he asked God for wisdom. He wanted to know right from wrong and lead God's people according to His ways.

But after King Solomon died, not all the kings were good kings. Some of them did things that did not make God happy. One of those bad kings was called Ahab. He did not worship God. Instead, he worshiped idols. God was not happy. He wanted King Ahab to know that only God is the true God. So God told a man named Elijah to tell the king that there would be no rain for a long, long time. Elijah was a prophet of God. That means he was God's messenger. He told people what God wanted them to know. So when God told Elijah to go and find King Ahab, Elijah obeyed God. He went and told the king what God had said to him.

Elijah said, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will not be rain these years, except at my word."

That means that unless Elijah said so, there would be no more rain starting now. God did this because He wanted King Ahab to know that He was the true God who controlled everything. Unless God wanted it to rain, there would be no rain at all. When King Ahab heard this, he was not pleased. He did not like to hear that there would be no rain for a long, long time because that means that there would not be any food growing for a long time. What would he eat and drink?

### **Elijah Goes to a Brook**

Then God said to Elijah, "You must leave here. Go out into the country. I want you to stay there by a little brook called the Brook Cherith. There will be water in the brook for you to drink. I have already told some ravens to take food to you there."

God knew that if there was no rain, there would not be a lot of food for the people to eat. But Elijah did not need to worry. God had prepared everything for him. God wanted him to go to the brook so he would have water to drink. God also promised that ravens would bring him food. God loved Elijah, and He took good care of him. God loves us too, and He will always take care of us.

Elijah loved God, so he did just what God told him to do. He left and went to the country. Elijah knew that God was going to take care of him. He walked and walked until he arrived at the brook.

### **God Prepares Food for Elijah**

When Elijah arrived at the brook, there was still water in it. God had been right. Elijah would be able to drink water and not be thirsty. But what about the food? Elijah looked around and there was no food to be found. But Elijah knew that God loved him and would keep His promises. When he was waiting by the brook, he saw birds—big, black birds called ravens flying in the sky. As he looked on, he saw that the ravens were flying towards him. As they flew nearer and nearer, Elijah saw that each raven was carrying something. Elijah looked more closely. The ravens were carrying food; they were carrying bread and meat. The ravens flew in front of Elijah and put down the food, and then they flew away. Now Elijah not only had water to drink, he also had food to eat! God was very good to Elijah. He sent the ravens to bring



more bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening. Even though there was no rain for a long, long time in the land, God took care of Elijah. Elijah had everything he needed and he stayed by the brook for many, many days.

### God Controls and Provides Everything

Do you know who controls the weather? Who gives us the rain and the sunshine? It is God who gives us these things. God loves us and He gives us sunny days and rainy days, so that the grass, the flowers, and the trees have sunshine and water. Then they can grow, and we can have food to eat and water to drink. In today's story, there was no rain in the land. People did not have much food to eat. But God did not forget Elijah. He told him to go

to a brook where there was water to drink. He also sent ravens to bring him food, day and night. God can do anything because He is the almighty God. He can make it rain and make the rain stop. In today's lesson, God made it stop raining because He wanted to show King Ahab He was the true God. Only He, and not the idols King Ahab worshiped, could control all things in the world. We can trust that God will give us the things that we need every day. In fact, we know He takes care of us because every day we wake up after a good night's rest. We can breathe. We have wonderful food to eat and family members who love us. All these things tell us how much God cares about us and provides for us. We should thank God for everything.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What would happen if there was no rain for a long, long time?** (The grass would become brown, the flowers would wither, and there would be no food growing. The oceans and rivers would also dry up.)
2. **What did Elijah tell King Ahab?** (He told the king that there would be no rain again until he said so.)
3. **Why did God tell Elijah to talk to King Ahab?** (God wanted King Ahab to know that God is the true God. Only He could tell the rain to come or stop. He, not the idols that Ahab worshiped, controls everything in the world.)
4. **Where did God tell Elijah to go when there was no rain for a long time?** (God told

Elijah to go to the country by a brook and stay there.)

5. **How did God feed Elijah?** (God sent ravens to take bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening.)
6. **God loved Elijah and took good care of him. We know that God loves us too. How does God take care of us today?** (God gives us sunny days and rainy days, He gives us wonderful food to eat, He gives us parents who love us, etc.)
7. **God loves us and He will always take care of us. He gives us great families and He created so much wonderful food for us to eat. How should we thank Him?** (We can thank Him by praying to Him before our meals, by not wasting any food, by eating our vegetables, by obeying our parents, etc.)



### Life Application Story

#### Mom Is Sick

It was Monday morning and time for school. Susie was still sleeping when her oldest sister

Nicole came into her room.

"Wake up Susie. It's time for school!" Nicole gently nudged her sister.

"I'm still sleepy," Susie grumbled.

"You'll be late, come on! Get up!" Nicole said.

Susie finally opened her eyes and sat up on the

bed.

"Where is Mom?" Susie asked. "She's the one who wakes me up."

"Mom is not feeling well today. She is going to stay in bed and rest this morning."

Susie became fully awake now.

"What? Mom's not well? What happened?"

"I think she caught Ben's cold. Remember how he was coughing last week? Now Mom is coughing too."

Susie got out of bed and changed, but she kept thinking about her mother. Was she okay? "What if Mom got really sick?" Susie thought to herself. Susie brushed her teeth and washed her face. Then she went downstairs to have breakfast.

Dad was already in the kitchen. He was pouring milk and getting breakfast ready for everyone.

"Good morning, Susie! Hey, why the sad face?" Mr. Lim asked.

"Nicole said Mom is sick," Susie said as she sat down at the table.

"Mom's got a cold. She will be fine after getting some rest, though," Mr. Lim comforted Susie. "Eat your breakfast or you won't have energy for school."

"I don't want to eat, I want to see Mom!" Susie said. "I want to know that she is okay."

"Mom will be okay. She is sleeping now. She was coughing a lot last night and she did not get much sleep. She really needs her rest. How about you finish your breakfast, and we will all pray together before you go to school. We will pray to God to help Mom get better."

Susie nodded. When Susie finished her breakfast the whole family-Mr. Lim, Nicole, Lisa, Ben and Susie- all knelt down together to pray. Susie prayed to God to help her mom get better. Susie felt a bit better after the prayer because she knew that God loved her and her mother. He would listen to her prayer and He would take care of her mom.

As the children got ready to leave the house, Susie saw Mrs. Lim coming downstairs.

"Mom!" Susie cried out. She ran to give Mrs. Lim a big hug. "Are you okay? We were praying for you! Do you feel better now?"

Mrs. Lim smiled at Susie and the rest of the family.

"Sorry to make you all worried about me. I am

feeling better now so thank you all for praying for me. I am sure God has listened to your prayers, and He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said.

Then Mrs. Lim looked down at Susie. "I heard you yelling a bit from upstairs. What was that all about?" asked Mrs. Lim.

"I wanted to see you, but everyone told me not to bother you and just let you sleep," replied Susie.

"Well, I am glad you listened," Mrs. Lim.

"So that's why we prayed instead," added Susie.

"Thank you for praying for me. I love you very much. And more importantly, God loves us all very much. He always takes care of us, even when we are worried," said Mrs. Lim.

"Mom's right. It's so good that we have Jesus to take away our worries," Mr. Lim said.

"Okay now, off you go to school. I will see you in the afternoon," said Mrs. Lim as the children headed out the door.

Susie turned back as she stepped outside.

"I am going to pray for you again at recess and at lunch, okay Mom? Then God will definitely make you better," Susie said with a big smile.

"I am sure He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said as they waved good-bye.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Susie so worried?** (Susie was worried because her mom was sick)
2. **What did Mr. Lim suggest when they were worried?** (He suggested everyone pray to God together.)
3. **What can we do if we are worried?** (We can pray to God to help us, we can ask our parents and our brothers and sisters to pray with us, we can tell someone about our worries, etc.)



## Activity 1

### **Elijah Is Fed by God**

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

1. Elijah is fed by ravens. (Yes)
2. It rained. (No)
3. Elijah goes to the brook. (Yes)
4. Elijah goes to the supermarket to get food. (No)



## Activity 2

### **Creation Mural**

#### Materials:

1. butcher paper
2. tape
3. markers (or paint and paintbrushes)

#### Directions:

1. Roll out a long piece of butcher paper on the table. There should be enough room for all the students to stand around the table and have access to the paper.
2. Tape the ends of the paper to the table so the paper does not shift as the students are working.
3. Before the students draw, brainstorm the kinds of things God created and controls in this world. Write or draw them on the board.
4. Then have each student decide on several things they want to draw. Be sure certain items don't overlap (e.g. only one sun is needed).
5. Provide them with markers (or paint) and encourage the students to draw a mural of God's wonderful creations.
6. Hang the mural up in class for everyone to enjoy.

Activity 9:1

### Elijah Is Fed by God

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

 <p><b>YES</b>                  <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                  <b>NO</b></p>
 <p><b>YES</b>                  <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                  <b>NO</b></p>





# God Provides for Elijah and a Widow



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- clear, self-adhesive paper
- assorted tissue paper
- blank paper
- markers
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 17:8-16

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is faithful and keeps His promises

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify things we can do to demonstrate our faith towards God

### Memory Verse

"God is faithful." (1 Cor 10:13)



## Bible Knowledge

### King Ahab

Ahab was the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He reigned for about twenty-two years. Although he did have some military and political successes, he is remembered mostly for his spiritual failures. First, he married the Phoenician princess Jezebel, who brought to Israel the worship of the Phoenician god Baal. He also allowed a temple to be built where Jezebel could worship Baal. Then Ahab, too, began to worship this idol (1 Kgs 16:30-33). The Bible records that he did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings who were before him.

### Elijah

Elijah was a prophet from Tishbe of Gilead in the northern kingdom. His name means "The Lord is my God." He was a fearless prophet, for he stood up to Ahab and his son Ahaziah, who worshiped idols. One of the first things Elijah did was to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain for a long time. After Elijah's announcement, God led him to the Brook Cherith in Gilead, east of the Jordan

River. There Elijah was miraculously fed by ravens. When the drought continued and the brook dried up, he was led to Phoenicia, to the home of a widow.

### The Widow of Zarephath

Elijah went to Zarephath, a town on the Mediterranean Sea, north of Israel. There he found a widow and asked her for food and drink. Widows at the time were poor and could do little to sustain themselves. With the drought, this widow would have been exceptionally desperate. So she responded by saying that she only had enough oil and flour for one more meal, to feed herself and her son. Then they too would die. Elijah persisted in his request and promised that if she provided food for him, she would continue to have enough flour and oil. The woman trusted God to provide for her needs and shared what she had with Elijah. Interestingly, this widow was not an Israelite, yet she willingly took God at His word. She was rewarded with an unfailling jar of flour and an inexhaustible supply of oil. Later, when her son died, he was restored to life by the prophet (1 Kgs 17:17-22).



## Understanding Your Students

For young children, trust comes pretty easily. This is because they can do little for themselves and depend on others for their needs. And because their families have provided for them since they were babies, they have learned to trust them. However, trusting in God may be a bit more difficult for them. This is because they haven't been able to concretely witness many of the things He has done for them that would make them trust in Him. As each lesson allows, we need to point out how faithful, loving, and great our God is. Over time, the children will begin to see a God whom they can trust to provide all they need. It is our hope that they will learn to believe in His promises and act accordingly.

While trusting in God and the grown-ups in their

lives is a good thing, we may also want to introduce to our students the topic of strangers and how to act around them. This is because children are innocent and trusting in nature. Children are taught to never talk to strangers. But there is some confusion in that because adults often talk to strangers. We may help someone who needs directions; we may talk to the person who delivers the mail; we may stop and talk to someone who is walking their dog. In the eyes of the students, these people are strangers. It is hard to reconcile why they aren't allowed to speak to strangers while we are doing it regularly. That is why it is important to role-play specific scenarios and talk about what they can do in each situation. While we do not wish to dampen their trusting spirit, we also want to make sure they are protected.



## Vocabulary

### **Miracle**

an amazing thing that only God can do

### **Brook**

a small river

### **Widow**

a woman whose husband has died

### **Faith**

to believe in God and His promises



## Before You Teach

In the story of Elijah and how God provided food for him, we see two people who demonstrated trust in God. First was Elijah, who obeyed God and went to the Brook Cherith. There he found water to drink and ravens who brought him bread and meat. Then when the brook dried up, God told him to go to the widow at Zarephath. Once again, without any questions, Elijah followed the words of God and walked to the city. At the city's gate, he met the widow and asked her for some water. Then he asked her for some bread. Upon hearing this, the widow explained her situation and said that she only had enough to feed herself and her son one last meal. Elijah then challenged the widow by asking her to make some bread for him first. He promised there would be enough flour and oil to last her and her son until God sent rain again. To follow these directions would have been a leap of faith.

But this widow did exactly as Elijah told her and indeed, the flour and oil did not run out.

Why were Elijah and the widow able to obey so willingly? The only answer was that they had faith in God and His promises. In fact, what they were asked to do were difficult things. By our human reasoning, it makes no sense to wait for birds to bring food. It seems equally impossible to expect what little flour and oil were left to never run out. Yet sometimes, God calls for us to step out and examine our faith. It is easy to trust God when we don't have much to lose, or if the course of action seems reasonable. But God doesn't always work this way. He often challenges us because He wants us to rise up to the occasion and help our faith grow. Only when we depend on God completely can we give glory to His name. Then we will recognize that it is not through our own actions or effort that anything was accomplished. And even when things go smoothly, we should still remember God's constant presence so we will not forget God's providence.



## Bible Story

### Water in the Jar

Bring a jar with some water (less than a cup) and two empty cups. Pour water into the first cup until there is no more water left in the jar. Then try to pour water into the second cup. No water should be coming out of the jar.

Ask the students why they think no water is coming out of the jar. (Because there is no more water in the jar.) If we drank this cup of water, would there be any water left? (No, because we ran out of water; there is no water in the jar.) No matter how hard we try, we could not get any more water to come out of that jar. If more water suddenly came out, that would be a miracle. And we know that only God can perform miracles. Today we are going to learn about a wonderful miracle that God did to help Elijah and a woman.

### The Brook Dries Up

Last week, we learned that God told Elijah to talk to King Ahab. He told the king that there would be no more rain in the land until he said so. Everything happened just as God told Elijah it would happen. No rain fell from the sky for a very long time. God told Elijah to stay by a brook so he would have plenty of water to drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat. God took care of Elijah even when things in the land were drying up.

Do you know what can happen to rivers and brooks if it does not rain for a very long time? (Allow students to give their responses.) When there is no rain for a long time, all the rivers and brooks will have less and less water, and they will start to dry up. This also happened to the brook where Elijah was drinking from. Every day as Elijah drank from the brook, he watched the brook become smaller and smaller, until one day, the brook was totally dried up—there was no water at all. Now Elijah had no water to drink. What would Elijah do? Did God care about him?

### God Speaks to Elijah

God had not forgotten about Elijah. God loved Elijah; He promised to take care of him. After the brook dried up, God said to Elijah, "Get up and go to

the city of Zarephath. You can stay in that city. There is a woman living there who will give you food."

Elijah obeyed God. He listened to God and did what God told him to do. He left the brook and walked to the city of Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, he saw a woman picking up sticks. This woman was a widow. That means her husband had already died.

Elijah was thirsty because he had walked very far, so he asked the woman "Would you please bring me a little water so I may drink?"

### The Widow Shares

At that time everyone had very little water because it had not rained for so long. Do you think the woman wanted to give Elijah some water? (Allow students to answer.) This woman was very kind; she was willing to share her water with Elijah. When she heard Elijah asking her for water, she quickly went to get some for him. As she was going to get the water, Elijah called out to her and said, "Can you also please bring me a small piece of bread?"

When the woman heard this, she stopped and turned around.

She looked at Elijah sadly and said to him, "I don't have any bread. I have just enough flour and cooking oil to bake a small loaf of bread for my son and for me. You see, I was picking up the sticks so that I could build a fire to make our last meal. After we eat it, we will have no more food, and we will wait to die."

Elijah could see that this woman was sad and afraid.

He said, "Don't be afraid. Go home and use your flour and oil to bake a small loaf of bread for me first, and bring it to me. Then you can make some for yourself and your son. God told me to tell you that you will always have enough flour and oil for cooking until God sends rain on the ground again. You will not run out of food!"

Doesn't this sound amazing? Remember at the beginning of the class, we could not pour out any more water from the jar because we had run out? We could not make more water appear. But Elijah was telling the woman that no matter how little she had left in the jars, the flour and oil would never run out. That is amazing. And something so

amazing can only come from God.

When the woman heard this, she became happy. She believed that God would take care of Elijah, her son and herself. She listened to Elijah and hurried home. She built a fire, mixed the flour and oil, and baked a loaf of bread for Elijah and took it to him.

### God's Promise

After that, the woman went back home. She peeked into the jars where she had kept her flour and oil. What do you think she saw? (Allow students to use their imagination.) Amazingly, there was as much flour and oil as before! There was still enough flour and oil to cook for herself and for her son. Remember our jar (show students the water jar used at the start of the class)? We ran out of water after we used up all the water. But God made sure that the flour and oil in the woman's jars never ran out. There was always enough flour and oil to bake one more loaf of bread, just as God promised! So the three of them (Elijah, the woman, and her son) had enough food to eat for many days.

The woman didn't think she had enough flour



### Check For Understanding

1. **What happened to the brook after it had not rained for a long time?** (The brook dried up and there was no more water.)
2. **What did God tell Elijah to do after the water dried up in the brook?** (God told Elijah to go to a city. There would be a woman there who would give him food.)
3. **What did the widow share with Elijah?** (She shared water and her last bit of food.)
4. **What happened to the flour and oil when the woman shared with Elijah?** ( She never

and oil to make bread for Elijah and her family to eat. But after she heard Elijah's words, she believed God, went home, and did what Elijah told her to do. Although what Elijah asked her to do seemed hard because she might have nothing left to make more bread for herself and her son, she obeyed. This is called faith. She couldn't see it at first with her eyes, but she believed.

It is important for us to have faith and believe in God's promises. For example, when we see a caterpillar, we know that one day, it will turn into a butterfly. We can't see it right away, but we know it will happen because that is how God planned it. We also trust that the moon and stars will come out at night even though we can't see them during the day. We believe this because that is how God created the world. God also promised to give us the Holy Spirit and take us to heaven one day. Even though not all of us have the Holy Spirit, we can pray to God for the Holy Spirit. And even though we cannot see heaven, we trust what God tells us. We know there is a beautiful place waiting for us. Our God is a God who keeps His promises, and it is our job to trust Him.

ran out of flour and oil to make bread. There was always enough flour and oil each time she went to her jars.)

5. **The woman showed her love by sharing with Elijah. What can we share with our brothers and sisters or friends to show our love?** (Food, toys, coloring pens and pencils, books, etc.)
6. **Elijah and the woman in today's story both had faith in God. They believed God and His words. How do we show our faith today?** (We show our faith by praying to God, believing that He will give us His Holy Spirit, trusting in His promises, obeying His commands, etc.)



### Life Application Story

#### The Plane Ride

Ding Dong!

Tommy ran towards the front door. He opened it and saw that it was his grandmother.

"Oh, it's you, Grandma," Tommy said.

"Well, you don't look so happy to see me," Grandma said.

"I am happy to see you. It's just that I was hop-



ing to see Dad. He is supposed to be home today from his trip," Tommy answered.

"Yes, that's why I came over. Your mom wanted me to stay at the house until she got back from the airport."

"Why does Mom have to go to the airport?" asked Tommy.

Mrs. Lewis walked to the front door just as Tommy asked the question.

"Well, Tommy, I was just listening to the news. It said that there was a big storm where Dad is taking off from. I called the airline, but they couldn't give me a lot of information. Since the airport is not far from our house, I am going to the airport just to make sure Dad is safe," explained Mrs. Lewis.

"Will he be okay?" asked Tommy.

"I think so. But in the meantime, I need you to wait for me at home with Grandma. You need to listen to her while I am gone. Julie should be home soon from her piano lesson next door. Will you be a big boy and let her know what is going on?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"I sure will," replied Tommy.

"Oh, I left the keys in the bedroom," said Mrs. Lewis, and she ran to get them.

"Grandma, is Dad really going to be okay?" asked Tommy again.

"I am sure that God will take care of him," Grandma said as she tried to comfort Tommy. "You know, if you still feel worried, we can kneel down now and pray for him."

"Okay," Tommy said.

Mrs. Lewis came back to the front door with her keys.

"Did I hear someone say he wanted to pray?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"Yeah. Grandma said God would help us and Dad," said Tommy.

"Grandma's right. Even though we don't know what is happening to Dad right now, we can trust that God will take care of him," Mrs. Lewis said.

The three of them knelt down and prayed to God. After a few minutes, they ended the prayer. As Mrs. Lewis got ready to open the front door and leave for the airport, they heard keys rattling from the outside.

"Maybe Julie's back," suggested Tommy.

"She doesn't bring keys next door," Mrs. Lewis said.

Before anyone else could say anything, the

door swung open and Mr. Lewis came in.

"Dad! What are you doing home? I thought you were stuck in a storm," Tommy yelled as he hugged his dad.

"Well, it's good to see you too," Mr. Lewis said as he put his suitcase down. He gave both Grandma and Mrs. Lewis kisses.

"I was just going to the airport to find out what was going on," said Mrs. Lewis as she took Mr. Lewis' coat.

"Well, I heard about the storm this morning so I tried to catch an earlier flight. At first, I thought it would be impossible because many people were trying to do the same thing. Miraculously, I got the last seat for that flight. I was going to call you but when I got to the airport, I was able to get on the plane right away, and I didn't have time to call. It was very rushed. When I landed, I realized my phone had no more batteries so I decided to come home first. Thank God I missed the storm and was able to get home," Mr. Lewis explained.

"Yes, thank God. Tommy was getting very worried about you. We were just praying for you before you stepped in," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Thank you for praying for me. I am sure God heard your prayer," said Mr. Lewis as he gave Tommy another hug.

"Yes, we need to remember that God takes care of all of us if we trust Him and believe in Him, even if we can't see everything right away," Grandma added.

"Just like God took care of Dad," Tommy said.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What was the family praying about?** (They were praying to God to keep Mr. Lewis safe.)
2. **How did God keep Mr. Lewis safe?** (God helped him get home safely and miss the storm.)
3. **Sometimes, we worry when we don't know the answers or what will happen next. What can we do when we are worried about something?** (We can pray to God to help us feel better, talk to a grown-up who might have some answers, do something else to take our mind off the situation, etc.)
4. **What kinds of things around us tell us that God is faithful and always keeps His promises?** (Allow students to answer. Some possible



answers: seeds grow into flowers and plants, a rainbow comes out after the rain, a caterpillar

turns into a butterfly, our families take care of us, etc.)



### Activity 1

#### Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread. How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture? (There should be ten loaves.)



### Activity 2

#### How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God? Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. We can show our faith by praying to God and for the Holy Spirit.
2. We can show our faith by reading the Bible with our family.
3. We can show our faith by coming to church.
4. We can show our faith by obeying our parents.



### Activity 3

#### God is Faithful

##### Materials:

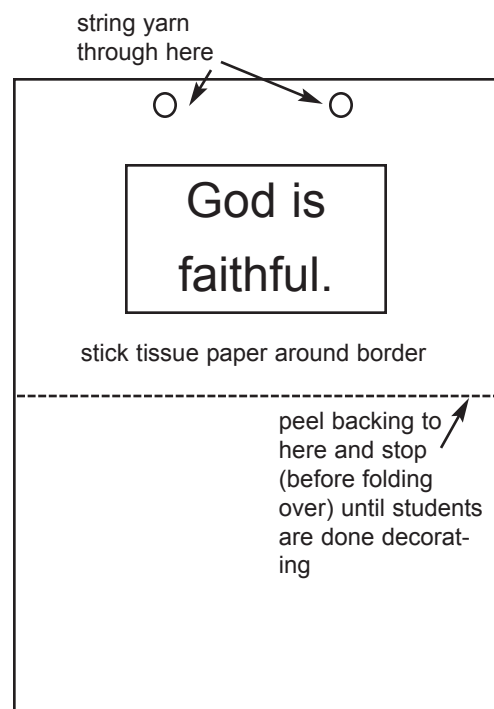
1. clear, self-adhesive paper (16x12 inch pieces)
2. assorted tissue paper
3. blank paper (4x6 inch pieces)
4. markers
5. hole punch
6. yarn
7. scissors

##### Directions:

1. Cut the clear, self-adhesive paper into 16x12 inch pieces. Provide one to each student.
2. Help the students tear the tissue paper into small and medium sized pieces.
3. Then help students write "God is faithful" on 4x6 inch pieces of blank white paper.
4. Starting at one corner, help the students peel off the backing to the self-adhesive paper

halfway so that only half of the sticky side is showing (8x12 inch).

5. Help the students position the 4x6 white paper (with the words "God is faithful" facing up) so that it will be in the center of the exposed sticky side. Stick the white paper onto the clear paper.
6. Encourage the students to stick various colors of the tissue paper on to the remaining exposed sticky side of their paper to create a border. They can be as creative as they can.
7. Help the students peel off the remaining backing and fold it over the tissue paper and white paper. It should become an 8x12 picture. Smooth out any air bubbles by sliding hand over the picture.
8. Punch two holes near the top of the picture and string a piece of yarn long enough to create a hanging. Tie the yarn off.
9. The students can hang this picture on a window since the tissue paper can create a sun-catcher effect. They can be reminded that God is always faithful, just as they heard in the story.



Activity 10:1

### Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread.  
How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture?



Activity 10:2

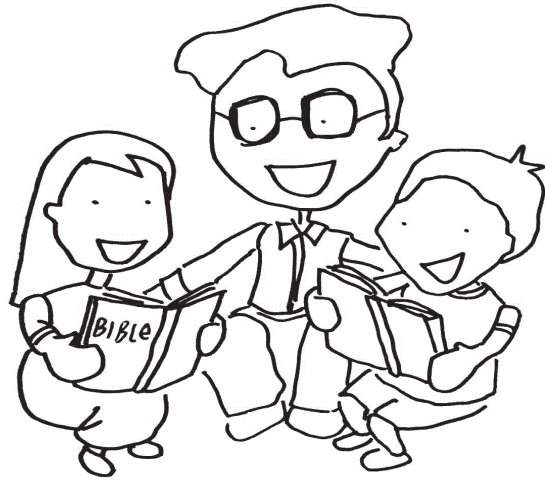
### How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God?  
Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

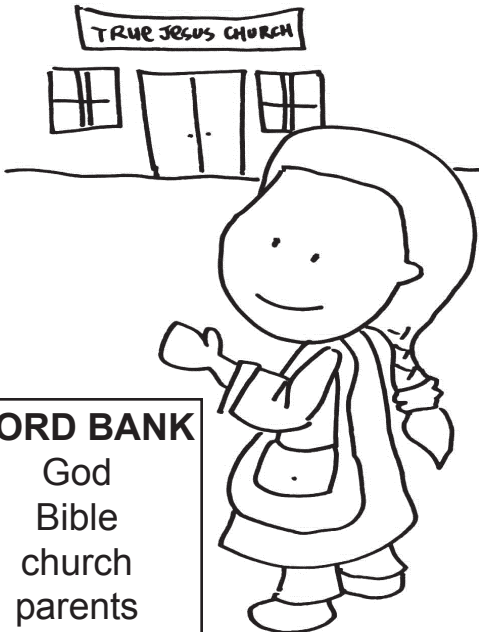
1. We can show our faith by praying to \_\_\_ and for the Holy Spirit.



2. We can show our faith by reading the \_\_\_\_\_ with our family.

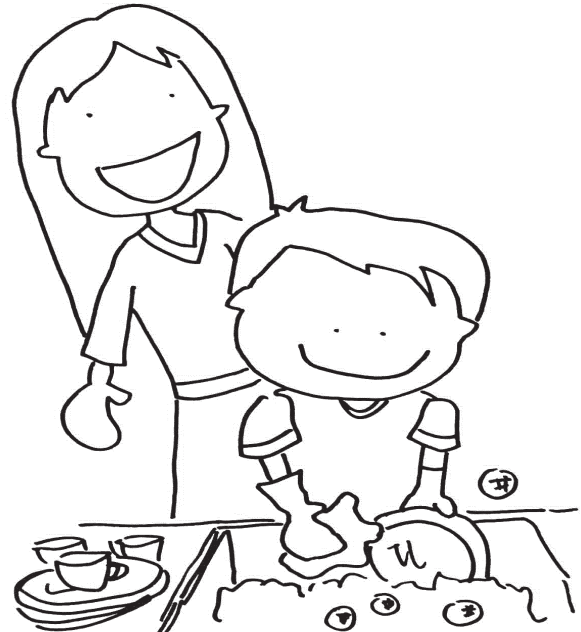


3. We can show our faith by coming to \_\_\_\_\_.



**WORD BANK**  
God  
Bible  
church  
parents

4. We can show our faith by obeying our \_\_\_\_\_.



# Elisha and the Shunammite Woman



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- blocks or Lego pieces
- doll furniture



### Scriptures

2 Kgs 4:8-37

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To show kindness to others

### Memory Verse

"And be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)



## Bible Knowledge

### Elisha

Elisha's name means "God is salvation." We are not told his age or his birthplace, but we may assume he was a native of Abel-meholah in the Jordan valley and was still young when Elijah sought him out. His father's name was Shaphat.

His ministry, if we date it from his call, extended through the reigns of Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, and Jehoahaz, a period of more than fifty years. The narratives of Elisha's ministry are recorded in 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2-9 and 2 Kings 13, and comprise a series of some eighteen episodes.

Elisha was plowing the fields one day when Elijah (see Lessons 9 and 10) passed by and threw his mantle on him (1 Kgs 19:19). It was a symbolic way to anoint Elisha and allow him to know that God had chosen him to continue the work of Elijah. Elisha obediently followed. His prophetic call was once again confirmed when he saw Elijah ascend to heaven and was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs 2:1-12). Although the Bible does record that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Elisha was not trying to outdo his predecessor.

By asking for a double portion of his spirit, Elisha was simply asking God to give him spiritual power to do His work.

Elisha began his ministry near the end of King Ahab's reign. Elisha performed many miracles during his work. Some of them included making the bad water good again (2 Kgs 2:19-22), providing the widow with oil so her children did not have to be sold (2 Kgs 4:1-7), raising a boy from the dead (2 Kgs 8-37), making a poisonous pot of food edible (2 Kgs 4:38-41), making an ax head float (2 Kgs 6:5-7), and healing Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5:1-27).

### The Shunammite Woman

The Shunammite woman knew that Elisha was a man of God. Because of her regard for him, she wanted to provide a room on the flat roof of her house. The room would include the four essential furnishings—a bed, a table, a stool, and an oil lamp.

When the woman's son died unexpectedly, Elisha left his work on Mt. Carmel and returned to Shunem with the woman. He went into the room where the boy lay and shut the door. There he prayed to God, following the example of Elijah. God's miraculous answer was in response to the faith and prayer of Elisha, and the Shunammite woman and her husband were given back their son.



## Understanding Your Students

Teachers who consistently and positively acknowledge a child's loving actions towards others are doing a very valuable service to the child by reinforcing his attempts at kindness. To help the students recognize what they have done, use specific words to describe their actions. Rather than saying, "Good job!" or "I'm so proud of you," try saying, "I like the way you are sharing the markers," or "I know Jesus loved it when you asked your friend if he was feeling better." This helps the children understand what they are doing that demonstrates kindness.

While your students do need to be praised for

their efforts, they also need to know that people will not always be around to say nice things each time they are kind to another person. Inform them that though others may not see their actions or say anything, God sees everything they do and is pleased, because they are showing others the love of God by helping them.

Whenever any lesson lends itself to this topic, open a discussion about ways your students can show God's love to others. By talking about specific situations or things they can do, the children can see more concretely the many ways they can show kindness. List these on a chart and post it in your room as a constant reminder.



## Vocabulary

### **Servant**

someone who works for another person; a servant listens to the master and does whatever the master asks him to do

### **Staff**

a long walking stick

### **Blessing**

to receive good things from God



## Before You Teach

When the Shunammite woman's son was raised from the dead, the woman could not be happier. It was a great miracle. Yet this miracle was in part due to her faith. When her son passed away on her lap, the Bible does not record how she felt at that time. But we can infer that she must have been distraught because when she finally reached Elisha, he could sense that she was in deep distress. Despite her heavy-heartedness, she had the courage to put her dead son on Elisha's bed and ride to find the prophet. Her actions spoke strongly of her faith. Perhaps she realized that it was God who had given her this son, and it would be up to God to return him to her. She must have believed that God could raise her son from the dead because she did not even tell her husband what had happened. She had hope that by the time she came back, her son would be alive and well. Not many of us could do what this woman did, displaying such faith in God. What can we learn from her example?

First, immediately after her son's death, she thought to turn to God. Many times, when we come upon trials and tribulations, we tend to try to work things out on our own. Only when we have exhausted all avenues do we remember God. Here, this woman only thought about how God could help her.

Then as she traveled, she refused to slow down. She did her best to get to Elisha as fast as she could. In our pursuit of God, we also need to be focused. We need to be full of zeal and seek after God with all our heart.

Third, upon seeing Elisha, she poured out her heart to him. When we have problems we cannot solve, it is okay to come before God and share our sorrows. He will take away our burdens and give us a heart of peace.

After Elisha sent his servant to the woman's house, this woman insisted on staying with Elisha. She would not let go of him until he went to see her son. Today, we also need to grab hold of those opportunities to be with God. When we desire to be with our Lord, He will draw near to us. Then our faith will be strengthened.





## Bible Story

### **Elisha Is God's Chosen Worker**

In the past few lessons, we heard stories about Elijah, a prophet of God. One time, he told King Ahab that no rain was going to come down for a long time. Elijah also went to a widow's house and performed a miracle. He told her that God would not let the flour and oil in her jars run out, so that she would have enough food to eat.

Elijah obeyed God and was a good worker for God. But God knew that Elijah could not do all the work by himself. So God told Elijah that He had picked out another person to help him. His name was Elisha. In the beginning, Elisha was Elijah's helper. Elisha stayed very close to Elijah because he wanted to learn everything that Elijah could teach him about serving God. Elisha wanted to learn as much as he could so he could tell people about God. After Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha became God's prophet and traveled to many cities and towns teaching and talking about God.

### **A Kind Woman**

One day, Elisha came to a town called Shunem. While he was there, a kind woman came to him and said, "Please come to my house and stay for a while. My husband and I would like you to have dinner with us." So Elisha went to the woman's house. He was probably very tired and hungry from traveling and teaching all day. The woman cooked a nice meal, and Elisha sat down to have dinner with the woman and her husband. Elisha liked his new friends a lot. Every time Elisha passed by this city, he always stopped at their house and ate with them.

Once, when Elisha was not in town, the woman thought about the next time Elisha would visit them again, and she came up with a wonderful idea.

She said to her husband, "Elisha is a man who loves God and teaches people about Him. He always comes to our house when he is in town. Why don't we build a room just for him? Let's build a special room upstairs on the roof of our house so he can always have a place to stay when he is in town. We can put a bed in there, a table, a chair, and a lamp for him to use. What do you think?"

The husband thought it was a great idea. So together, the woman and her husband built this spe-

cial room. Do you remember what the woman wanted to put in the room? (Let the students respond.) They put a bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp in the room for Elisha to use. (Explain to the students that an oil lamp was used for lighting.) The woman and her husband were excited about the room. They couldn't wait for Elisha to visit them again.

Soon, Elisha came to their city again. When he stopped at their house to eat, the woman and her husband took Elisha upstairs to show him the surprise. Up, up, they went until they got to the room. Elisha looked into the room. What a wonderful surprise! A room built just for Elisha. It would be a quiet place where Elisha could pray, rest, and sleep.

Elisha knew that his friends had worked hard on the room. He was very thankful that God had given him such kind and wonderful friends.

### **Elisha Promises the Woman a Son**

Elisha was really thankful that the woman and her husband had shown him such kindness. But what could he do to thank them? The woman and her husband did not have any children, so Elisha told the woman that she would have a son next year.

Elisha said, "This time next year, you will be holding your son in your arms."

How do you think the woman felt when she heard this? The woman was surprised. She had wanted children for as long as she could remember. So she could hardly believe what prophet Elisha was saying, but the news must have made her happy.

Sure enough, about a year later, the woman had a little baby boy. God knew what she wanted, and He gave her a son.

### **The Boy Dies**

The woman and her husband were very happy now because they had a happy family. Over the years, as their son grew, Elisha often stopped by to see the family, and stayed in the special room.

Then one summer day, the boy went out to the fields to help his father. It was a very hot day. All of a sudden, the boy put his head in his hands.

"Father! Help me!" he cried.

"What's the matter, son?" the father asked.

"My head, it hurts so much," he moaned.

Immediately, the father called a servant to carry the boy home to his mother. All morning, the boy lay in his mother's lap in a lot of pain. The moth-

er held him and wrapped her arms around him. She cradled him and rocked him to comfort him. However, the boy did not feel any better. By lunch time, the boy had died! The mother must have been very upset but she knew just what to do! She took her son's body upstairs into Elisha's room and laid him down on the bed. Then she left the room, closing the door behind her. She hurried outside and asked her husband to get her donkey ready. She was going to go and see prophet Elisha. She was going to ask for God's help.

### **Elisha Prays for the Boy**

As the woman rode to where Elisha lived, Elisha could see the woman coming from afar. So Elisha sent his servant to meet her.

When the servant reached her, he asked her if everything was okay. She told the servant that she was fine. She wanted to talk to Elisha herself as soon as she could.

When she finally reached Elisha, she was so upset she fell down at his feet.

Elisha asked her, "What is it?"

"It's my son," she said.

Then Elisha knew what had happened. He sent his servant back to the woman's house first.

Elisha gave his staff to his servant and said, "There's no time to lose. Go to the boy and don't stop to talk to anyone along the way. When you get to him, hold my staff over his face until I get there."

The servant left immediately.

The woman said to Elisha, "I won't leave. I will stay with you, Elisha."

So Elisha got up and followed the woman back to her home.

Elisha's servant got to the house first. He did as Elisha asked him to and lay the staff on the boy's face. But nothing happened. The boy just laid on the bed. So the servant ran back to tell Elisha that the boy did not wake up.

When the woman and Elisha finally reached the house, Elisha hurried up the stairs to his room. He found the dead boy lying on his bed. Elisha closed the door to the room, and he knelt down to pray to God. Elisha prayed hard that God would give the boy his life back. Elisha prayed and prayed. He even laid down over the boy's body and prayed. Then Elisha got up and walked around the room. After that, Elisha stretched himself over the boy's body again and prayed some more.

Suddenly, the boy sneezed, again and again. Do you know how many times he sneezed? He sneezed seven times and then he opened his eyes. Praise the Lord! God had given him his life back!

Elisha called his servant and asked him to bring the boy's mother into the room. When the woman came back upstairs, Elisha told her, "Here is your son."

The woman was very happy and thankful that her son was well again. God had given her what she wanted most of all. He had given back her son.

We learned from today's story that the woman was blessed with a son because she was kind to Elisha. She built a room for him so that he would have a place to stay whenever he passed through town. Elisha was also kind to the woman and her family. He told her she would have a son. When the boy died, Elisha came to pray for him so that he could come back to life again. God is pleased when we are kind to one another. He will bless us, just like He blessed the woman.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Elijah's helper?** (Elisha)
2. **Who invited Elisha to dinner?** (The woman from Shunem and her husband.)
3. **What did the woman want to prepare for Elisha on the roof of the house?** (A special room for Elisha.)

4. **What things were placed in the room?** (A bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp.)
5. **The woman and her husband showed great love by taking care of God's prophet, Elisha. This story reminds us that we show our love for God by caring for people around us. What can we do to show kindness?** (Allow students to answer.)
6. **What did Elisha promise the woman in**

return for her kindness? (She would have a baby boy next year.)

7. **When the boy grew older, what happened one day when he was in the field?** (He had a headache.)

8. **What happened to the boy when he went home?** (He died in his mother's lap.)

9. **Whom did the mother go to for help?** (Prophet Elisha, to ask God for help.)

10. **How did Elisha help?** (He prayed very hard to God so that the boy could live again.)

11. **Did the woman have faith in God to help her son come back to life?** (Yes, she had strong faith.)



## Life Application Story

### The Toothbrush

"I want to see them first," said Rachel as she grabbed one of the bags from her mother's hands.

Mrs. Hayes and Rachel had just come home. They had been at the pharmacy picking up some things they needed for the house. Two of those things were new toothbrushes for Cathy and Rachel.

Rachel sat at the kitchen table and began to look through the plastic bag.

"Found them!" she yelled, as Mrs. Hayes put the other bags on the counter.

"I think I want the red one," Rachel said as she looked at the toothbrushes. "The yellow one is nice too, but I like this red one better."

"They really are the same, just a different color," Mrs. Hayes replied.

Just then, Cathy opened the front door. Their neighbor, Mrs. Lee, had driven her home from school today. Before Cathy had even taken off her shoes, Rachel came running to the front door and showed her the new toothbrushes.

"Oh, new toothbrushes," Cathy said. "I want the red one."

"You can't have it. I already said I wanted it," Rachel replied.

"How come you always get to pick first?" Cathy asked.

"Because I saw it first," Rachel said.

Cathy walked to the kitchen. Mrs. Hayes had already poured out some milk for her.

"Well, you can't both have the red one. There is only one," Mrs. Hayes explained.

"I really, really, want the red one," Rachel begged.

"Okay, you can have the red one," Cathy

replied.

"Really?" asked Rachel, a little bit surprised.

"Yes," Cathy said as she drank her milk.

"Cathy, that was very nice of you to let your sister have the red one. It was a very grown-up thing to do," Mrs. Hayes commented.

"Last week, in RE class, we talked about being kind to others. The teacher asked us to try to do one nice thing for somebody this week. She also said that if we are nice to others, then nice things will happen to us too," Cathy explained.

"Jesus did teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. That means we should treat others the way we want to be treated. And sometimes, Jesus blesses us with nice things because He remembers the good things we are doing," Mrs. Hayes added.

As the three of them cleaned up the bags, the door bell rang. Mrs. Hayes went to open the door. It was the mail person with a special delivery. Mrs. Hayes signed for the package and shut the door.

"It's for you, Cathy," Mrs. Hayes said as she handed the brown package to her.

"For me?" Cathy asked excitedly as she ripped open the paper wrapping.

"Oh, it's the books we ordered from the Internet," Cathy said. "I have been waiting for them to get here. Now I can read them!"

"Wow," Rachel said as she looked at some of the books. "Something nice just happened to you, Cathy."

"Yes, I guess it did."

"Maybe I should be nice so that nice things can happen to me too!" Rachel said.

Mrs. Hayes let out a small laugh.

"Well, it's a good idea to be kind and nice to others. But we don't do it just so that we can have nice things happen to us. Jesus wants us to do good things because that is what makes Him happy. And He did promise to bless us if we obey His com-

mands.”

“So should I be nice or not?” asked Rachel.

“Of course, and if nice things happen to you, that is wonderful. But no matter what, we should always do our best to show kindness and love. Just like when your sister let you pick the red toothbrush, she was doing it because she wanted to be kind. She didn’t expect something in return,” explained Mrs. Hayes.

“Okay, I think I understand,” Rachel said.

“Mom, do you think we could read a bit of this one now?” asked Cathy.

“Yes. We have some time before I need to get dinner started,” Mrs. Hayes said as she cleaned up the rest of the bags. “Let’s go to the sofa where we can get comfy.”



### Activity 1

#### **Elisha’s Room**

The woman in the story prepared a room for Elisha. Do you remember what she put in the room? She put in a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. The bed is already in the picture. Draw in the rest of the things.



### Activity 2

#### **Elisha Prays for the Boy**

Cut out the story book and fold along the dotted lines. Review the story with the students. The students can color in the pictures.



### Activity 3

#### **Let’s Build A Room**

##### Materials:

1. blocks of Lego pieces of various sizes
2. doll furniture

##### Directions:

1. The class can work together or students may work in pairs.
2. To review the story of Elisha and the Shunammite woman, provide the students with

The three of them headed to the family room to enjoy Cathy’s new book.

#### **Questions to Think About:**

1. **What did Cathy do when both she and Rachel wanted the red toothbrush?** (She let Rachel have it.)
2. **Why is it important to show kindness and love to others?** (That is Jesus’ command for us.)
3. **What is something you have done recently to show your kindness and love?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **How do you feel when you have done something nice for someone?** (You feel good and warm inside.)

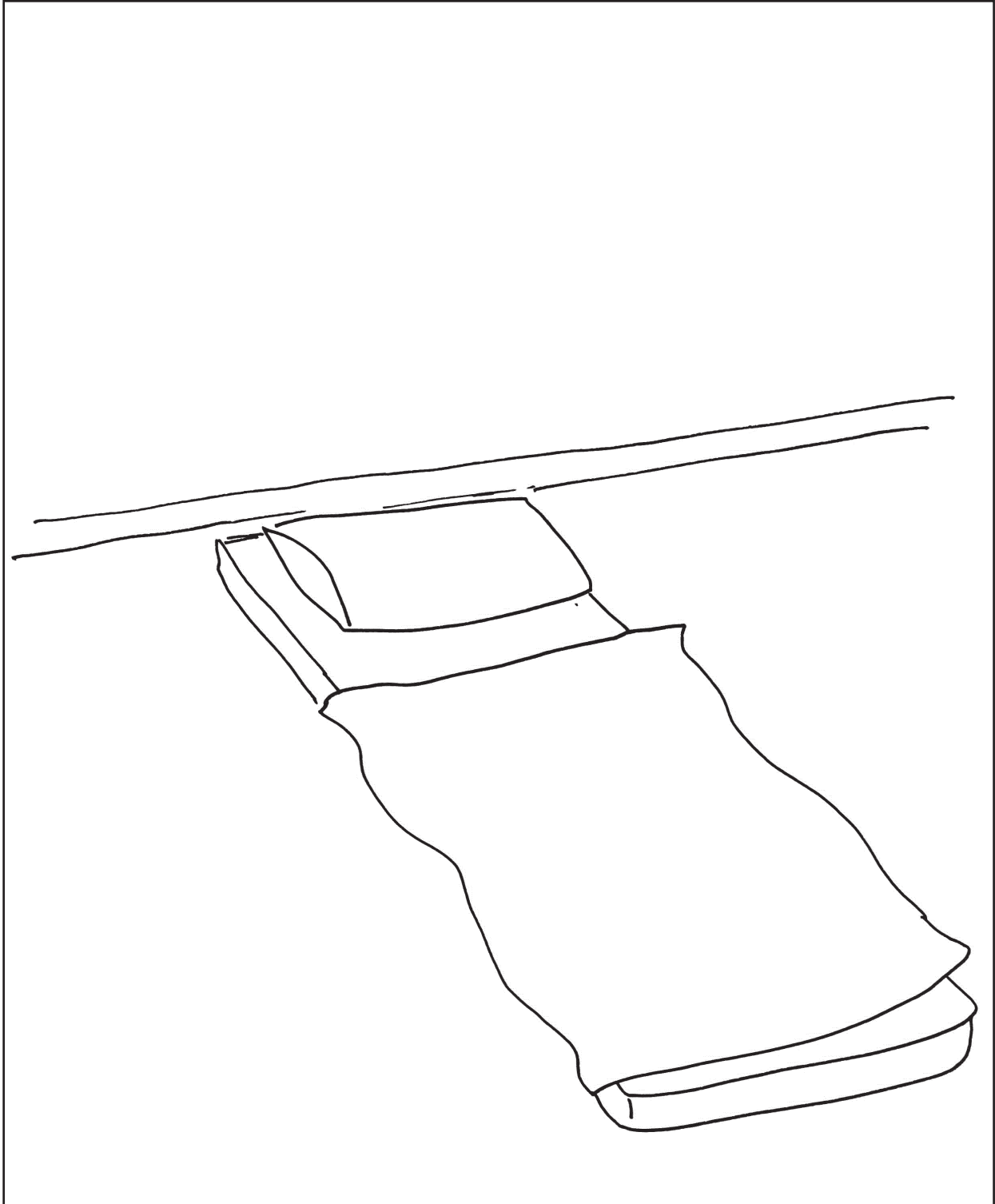
enough blocks so that they can build a room for Elisha.

3. Review the things that were found in the room. Encourage the students to use their imagination as they build.
4. Remember to talk about the important aspects of the story (i.e. Shunammite woman is kind and offers to build a room; Elisha promises her a son; her son dies; the woman runs to Elisha for help; Elisha raises the boy from the dead) as the students are working.

*Activity 11:1*

**Elisha's Room**

The woman in the story prepared a room for Elisha. Do you remember what she put in the room? She put in a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. The bed is already in the picture. Draw in the rest of the things.





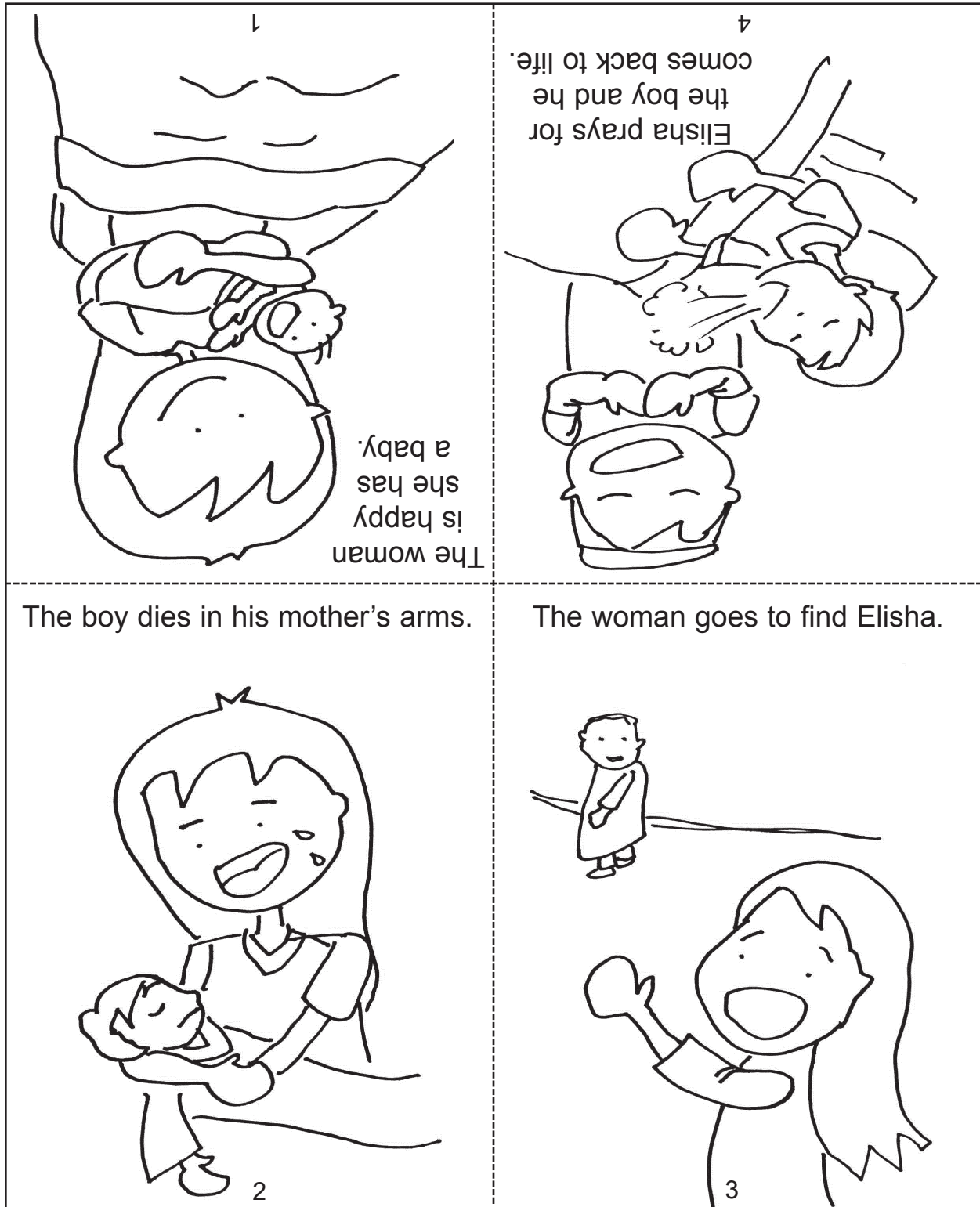
Activity 11:2

### Elisha Prays For the Boy

Cut out the story book and fold along the dotted lines.

Review the story with the teacher.

Color in the pictures.



The woman  
is happy  
she has  
a baby.

The boy dies in his mother's arms.

Elisha prays for  
the boy and he  
comes back to life.

The woman goes to find Elisha.

# God Heals Naaman

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

2 Kgs 5:1-19

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God helps all those who come to Him with faith

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To learn to follow instructions because God wants His people to follow His instructions

### Memory Verse

"Apply your heart to instruction." (Prov 23:12)



## Bible Knowledge

### Naaman

Naaman was a military commander of the Syrian army during the reign of Ben-Hadad I (2 Kgs 5). Although afflicted with leprosy, he still held his high position. This might suggest that his form of leprosy was not contagious. At the suggestion of a young female Israelite prisoner, he took a letter from his king, along with gifts, to the king of Israel (probably Jehoram), so that he might find a cure for his disease. He was referred to Elisha, who offered him a cure by instructing him to bathe in the River Jordan seven times. Naaman was healed after he humbled himself in front of God. Following his cleansing, he professed faith in the God of Israel.

### Elisha

Elisha was a prophet of Israel. Elisha was plowing the fields one day when Elijah (see Lessons 9 and 10) passed by and threw his mantle on him (1 Kgs 19:19). It was a symbolic way to anoint Elisha and allow him to know that God had chosen him

to continue the work of Elijah. Elisha obediently followed. His prophetic call was once again confirmed when he saw Elijah ascend to heaven and was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs 2:1-12). Although the Bible does record that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Elisha was not trying to outdo his predecessor. By asking for a double portion of his spirit, Elisha was simply asking God to give him spiritual power to do His work.

Elisha began his ministry near the end of King Ahab's reign. Elisha performed many miracles during his work. Some of them included making the bad water good again (2 Kgs 2:19-22), providing the widow with oil so her children did not have to be sold (2 Kgs 4:1-7), raising a boy from the dead (2 Kgs 8-37), making a poisonous pot of food edible (2 Kgs 4:38-41), making an ax head float (2 Kgs 6:5-7), and healing Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5:1-27).



## Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds seem to talk a lot. However, most of their language revolves around their needs and wants. A lot of times, we will see our students playing together, so it is assumed that social interaction is occurring. But much of the time what is occurring is simultaneous play. There isn't actually much involvement in conversation. True socialized and interactive speech does not become very apparent until a child reaches about six or seven years of age.

Because each child develops their language skills and abilities at different rates, it may be difficult for them to be very expressive when it comes to talking about Jesus. We may find that they will use short

responses such as "God is good," and "He loves me," to describe their relationship with our Lord. These are great beginnings. But in order to strengthen their expressiveness so that they become more open about their feelings for God, we will need to do much probing, and we will also need to engage them in small group discussions that have a specific topic in mind. For example, in today's lesson, we can talk about how a person might feel when he is healed by God. What kinds of things might he say about God? Also make it a point to ask "Why?" when the students say things like "God is good," or "He loves me." The students are just beginning what will be a huge mission for the rest of their spiritual lives. That is why it is crucial to allow them time to develop their skills now at telling others about Jesus, and provide them with plenty of teacher-guided opportunities.



## Vocabulary

### **Prisoner**

someone who does not have freedom; he could be in a prison; he could also be forced to do work

### **Sore**

an open wound on the skin; broken skin that did not heal



## Before You Teach

In today's lesson, God heals Naaman from leprosy. But before he recognized the power of the almighty God, he first had to submit to the words of Elisha the prophet. In fact, what Elisha told Naaman was simple enough. All the commander had to do was go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Yet, it was the very simplicity of these instructions that almost caused Naaman to miss the opportunity to come to know God. Perhaps he expected Elisha to tell him to climb three mountains first, or to kill many enemy soldiers so they could be sacrificed to God. Naaman thought he had to pay a heavy price to be healed. But Elisha discarded that notion and only told him to believe.

This is the greatest part of God's salvation. It is free to all who believe in Him. We don't need to do anything to earn it. God's grace is given to every one who confesses Lord Jesus as the Savior.

There are many examples in the New Testament of people being healed because they believed. In Matthew 9:27-29, Jesus healed two blind men. Jesus asked if they believed He was able to help them and the two men answered that they believed. Then Jesus touched their eyes and they were instantly made well. In Mark 9:21-29, a father came to Jesus to ask Him to help his son who was possessed by an evil spirit. Jesus told the father that if he believed, all things are possible. Immediately, the father answered, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Then Jesus drove out the evil spirit.

In both of these instances, the people involved were healed right away. It is because of their belief in God's power and authority. Sometimes, the most powerful faith is one that is simple and trusts in God completely. Today we may be praying for someone who has been ill for a long time. Although we may not always understand God's plan and timing, we are reminded in today's lesson to just believe. God will always provide for us.



## Bible Story

### **Elisha Does God's Work**

In the last lesson, we learned about a prophet called Elisha. He learned from Elijah, and after Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha continued to work for God. We learned that Elisha always passed by a certain town. So a family who loved God prepared a room for Elisha to stay in every time he came into this town. God saw how much this family loved Elisha, and so He blessed them with a baby boy. But after the baby grew into a boy, he suddenly died one day. The mother was very sad. She was so sad she ran to find Elisha. When Elisha heard that the boy had died, he went to see the boy. He prayed to God and stretched himself on top of the boy. Then the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha had raised the boy from the dead. He wasn't dead anymore. How was Elisha able to do that? God helped Elisha so that the boy could come back to life. Only God can perform miracles. And Elisha was a good worker for God. He always did things according to God's will.

Today we are going to hear about a man who needed God's help. This man came to Elisha to ask for help. Do you think Elisha was able to help him? Let's find out.

### **A Young Girl Is Taken Prisoner**

A long time ago, during the time when Elisha lived, Israel and Syria were enemy countries. That means the armies of Israel and Syria would fight with each other because they wanted each other's lands. Sometimes Israel would win, and sometimes Syria would win. When the army of Syria invaded Israel, the soldiers would burn down farm houses and steal crops. They also took some people of Israel back home to Syria and made them prisoners or slaves. That means they were not free to do anything. They could only work for the Syrians. In today's story, a girl who was only twelve years old was taken to Syria. She ended up in the house of a commander of the army. A commander of the army is someone who leads the soldiers. This commander's name was Naaman. This young girl worked for Naaman's wife. She had to do whatever Naaman's wife asked her to do. Every day, she worked in Naaman's home and took care of things.

### **Naaman Has Leprosy**

Naaman was a very important man because he had many soldiers who listened to him. He was probably very rich. He should have been happy because he could have whatever he wanted. But Naaman was not happy at all. He was sad. Do you know why he was so sad? He was sad because he was sick. He had a lot of sores on his skin. They came from a disease called leprosy. He was sad because no one or any medicine could make him well. Could the doctors make him well? No. Could his wife make him well? No. But someone knew how to help him. That person was the little servant girl. One day, the little girl told Naaman's wife that a man in Israel could make the commander well.

"If my master Naaman would go and see the prophet, then he would heal him of the leprosy," said the little girl to Naaman's wife. Who was this prophet this girl was talking about? This man was the prophet Elisha. When Naaman's wife heard this wonderful news, she told her husband. When Naaman heard the good news, he ran to tell the king. He wanted the king to give him permission to go to the enemy country and find Elisha.

"Well," said the king, "I will send you to see the king of Israel, and you can bring him a letter to tell him why you are going there."

The king of Syria wanted Naaman to be well too since he was such a good leader of the army.

### **Naaman Goes to See the King of Israel**

So Naaman traveled all the way to Israel. When the king of Israel got the letter from the king of Syria, he didn't know what to do.

"How can I make Naaman better?" asked the king of Israel.

But luckily, Elisha the prophet heard about the letter and Naaman.

He sent his servant to the king and told him, "Send Naaman to me. Then he will know that God is real."

So the king of Israel told Naaman to go see Elisha. Naaman got on his chariot and rode all the way to Elisha's house. When he stood at the door, Elisha sent his servant outside to see Naaman.

The servant told Naaman, "Go to the Jordan River. Wash in the water seven times and you'll be well again."

When Naaman heard this, he was really mad.

Naaman said, "I am not going into that muddy, dirty old river. I want Elisha to come out and call on God to make me better."

But Naaman's servants begged him to try it.

"What Elisha is asking you to do is so simple. You just need to go and wash yourself. Why don't you try it?" they asked.

Naaman thought for a while. At first he was really angry because he expected Elisha to come out and do something amazing to make him better.

But then he thought, "Maybe I should do what the prophet tells me to do."

So he quickly rode to the river.

### Naaman Obeys and Is Healed

When Naaman came to the river, he did just as Elisha told him to. He dipped into the water one time, two times, three times, four times, five times, six times. Each time he probably wondered, "Will this really make me well?" Then on the seventh time, after he came out of the water, he looked at his skin. It was completely clean. There were no more sores.

Naaman probably said to his servants, "Look at me! I'm well! I'm finally well!"

Right after he was healed, Naaman went back to see Elisha.

"Now I know that the Lord is the one true God,

and from now on, I'm going to worship the Lord only," said Naaman to Elisha.

Elisha was pleased that Naaman had listened to him, and God healed him of his skin disease. Elisha told Naaman to go home in peace.

### We Can Preach and Obey

In today's story, we learned two important things. The first was how the little servant girl told Naaman about God. She was brave and shared what she knew about God with Naaman. If she hadn't said anything, maybe Naaman would never have heard about God and would have stayed sick forever. We can also be brave like the girl and tell others about God and His love. That is called preaching.

The second thing we learned is that Naaman obeyed God, and God healed him. Actually, in the beginning, Naaman didn't want to listen and do what Elisha told him to. He thought what Elisha was asking him to do was silly. He wanted something amazing to happen instead. But we learned that it's always wise to obey the Lord. Even though we may not always understand everything, we know that God only does what is best for us. Our job is to obey and do what pleases God. Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him all the time.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Naaman?** (He was the commander of the Syrian army.)
2. **What kind of sickness did Naaman have?** (He had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. He had sores all over his skin.)
3. **Who told Naaman about Elisha?** (The little girl from Israel.)
4. **What did Naaman do once he heard about Elisha?** (He went to see the king of Syria, who told him to see the king of Israel.)
5. **Could the king of Israel heal Naaman?** (No, only God can heal people.)
6. **What did Elisha's servant tell Naaman to**

**do?** (He told him to wash himself in the Jordan River seven times.)

7. **Naaman was mad at first, but what did he do after his servants talked to him?** (He obeyed.)
8. **What did Naaman say when he was healed?** (He said he knew there was a God in Israel, and he would worship Him.)
9. **How can we be like the little girl and tell others about God? Who do we know that we can tell them about God?** (Let students respond. Some possible answers: grandparents, siblings, a neighbor, a good friend, etc.)
10. **What can you do to obey God?** (Let students respond.)





## Life Application Story

### Going to Africa

Cathy stopped by the store with her mom on the way home from school. She wanted to buy a special gift for her father. This was because her father was a pastor, and he was going to Africa the next day. He was going there to tell people about Jesus. He would be there for one whole month.

Cathy decided to buy her father a pen. It would remind him to write letters to her. When Cathy got home, her father was already packing.

"Daddy, I'm home," Cathy called out.

"Hello, Cathy," Pastor Hayes replied from his room. "How was your day?"

"Good," Cathy said as she walked to the bedroom. "Can I help you?"

"You sure can. How about you get my toothbrush?"

Cathy went to the bathroom and got her dad's toothbrush.

"Daddy, why do you have to go away for so long?" Cathy asked.

"Africa is a big place and it is far away. We need time to go and tell people about Jesus," Cathy's father explained. "Not everyone knows about Jesus there."

"Can I go with you one day, when I am bigger?" Cathy asked.

"I am sure that someday you'll be able to go to far-off places to tell people about Jesus too," Cathy's father said. "But you don't have to go to far away places. There are people right here you can talk to about Jesus."

"Who?" asked Cathy.

"There are a lot of our neighbors who don't know about Jesus," Pastor Hayes said. "And some of your friends don't know Jesus either."

"I guess. But how can I tell them about Jesus?" asked Cathy.

"Well, you don't have to give a long talk the way I do in the church. You can just remember to pray before you eat at school, or when a friend invites you to a birthday party on a Saturday, make sure you tell them why you can't go. When you do these things, you are telling others that God is important to you and that is the same as preaching-what I do," explained Pastor Hayes.

"Oh," said Cathy. "I guess I can do that. But sometimes I forget to pray before I eat at school."

"Well, you can start tomorrow and try hard to remember," suggested Pastor Hayes.

He zipped up his bag. "It looks like I'm all done packing."

"No!" Cathy said. "You forgot one thing."

She reached into her pocket and took out the pen. "This is for you so you'll remember to write to me," Cathy said.

Cathy's father gave her a big hug. "I would never forget."

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Cathy's father going to Africa?** (He was going there to preach the good news.)
2. **What does it mean to preach the good news?** (It means telling others about Jesus and how they can be saved.)
3. **Who are some people you can talk to about Jesus?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What else can we do to share Jesus with others?** (Allow students to share. Remind them that their actions and words can also tell others they believe in Jesus. If they are nice, share and speak kind words, that shows others Jesus is living inside of them. They can also use opportunities (e.g. saying grace, not celebrating Halloween or Christmas) to talk about their beliefs.



## Activity 1

### Naaman Is Healed

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in

the third one and a 4 in the last picture.

1. The young girl tells Naaman's wife about Elisha.
2. Elisha tells Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan.
3. Naaman goes to wash in the Jordan.
4. Naaman returns to thank God and Elisha.



## Activity 2

### **Who Is Following the Instructions?**

Look at each set of pictures. Talk about who is following the instructions.



## Activity 3

### **Thanks to God**

In today's lesson, we learned that a man called Naaman was healed because he listened to God. After he became well, he thanked Elisha and God. Sing the following song to help the students remember the story and learn to praise God.

*(Sung to the tune of Mulberry Bush)*

**Seven baths did Naaman take, Naaman take,  
Naaman take.**

**Seven baths did Naaman take, count them all right  
now (count to seven).**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, Naaman's well,  
Naaman well.**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, count them all  
right now (count to seven).**

**Thanks to God who made him well, made him well,  
made him well.**

**Thanks to God who made him well, Alleluia!**

Activity 12:1

### Naaman is Healed

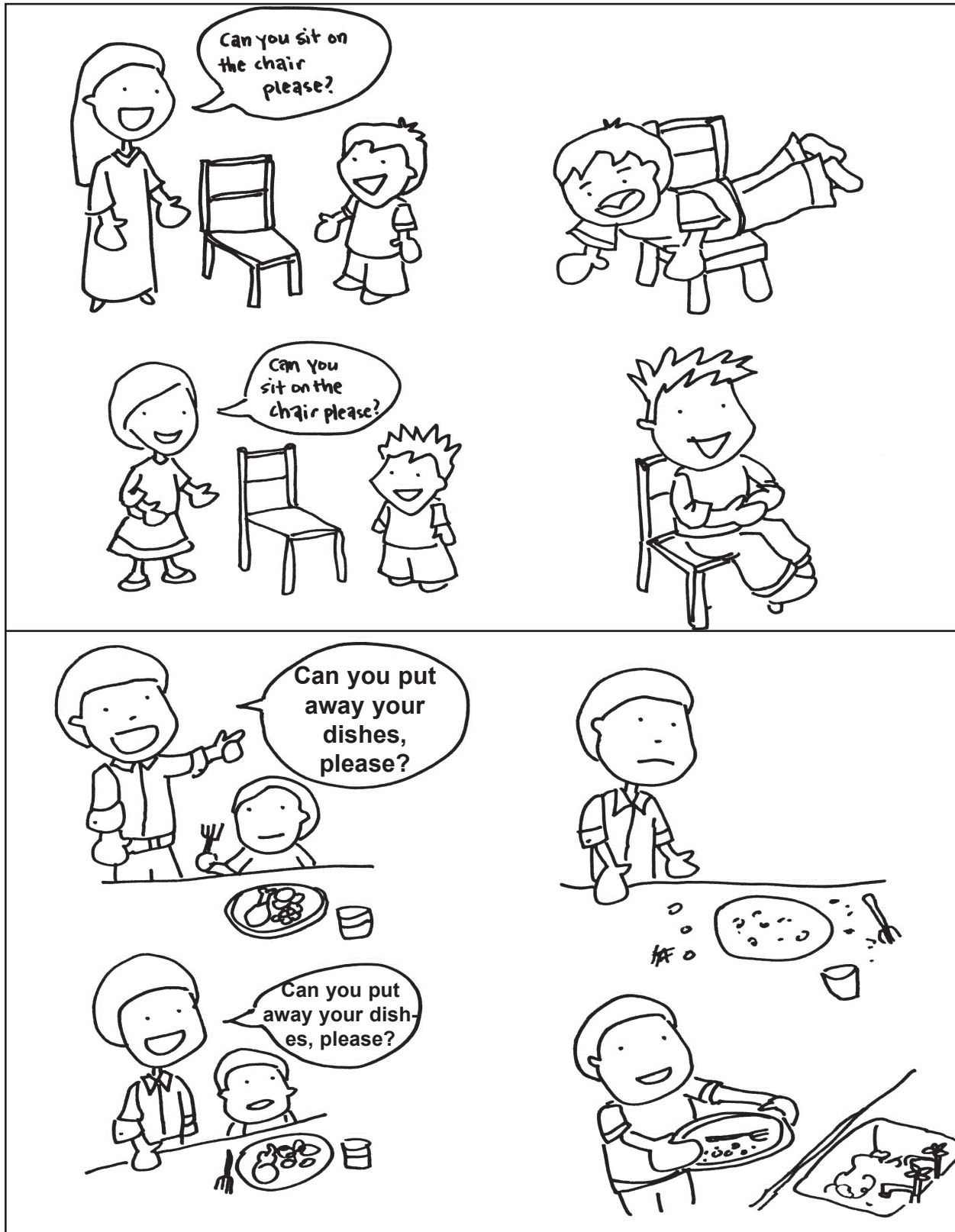
Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in the third one and a 4 in the last picture.



Activity 12:2

### Who Is Following the Instructions?

Look at each set of pictures. Who is following instructions?





### Who Am I?

1. My mother brought me to the tabernacle to learn from Eli when I was just a young boy. (Samuel.)
2. I was the first king of Israel. (King Saul.)
3. I was a shepherd and played the harp for King Saul. (David.)
4. I was the giant who challenged the Israelite army. (Goliath.)
5. My father was King Saul. I was also David's best friend. (Jonathan.)
6. I was the son of David and I asked God for wisdom. (Solomon.)
7. I was a prophet of God and God sent ravens to feed me. (Elijah.)
8. At first, I was Elijah's helper. Then I became a prophet and even raised a boy from the dead. (Elisha.)
9. I was a great commander of the Syrian army. God healed me of my leprosy. (Naaman.)
10. I told my master's wife about Elisha so that he could get some help for his leprosy. (The young girl from Israel.)

### Short Answers

1. What did Samuel do to anoint Saul and David as kings? (He poured oil on their heads as a way to tell them God had special jobs for them.)
2. What were some things David did while he was waiting to be the king? (He was a shepherd, he played the harp for Saul, he killed Goliath, he was best friends with Jonathan.)
3. Who did David say gave him the power to kill Goliath? (David knew that God was the one who gave him power and helped him kill Goliath.)
4. What did Jonathan do to show David that they were best friends? (He gave him many

gifts and helped David escape from his father.)

5. Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom? (He wanted God to help him be a good king.)
6. What did Solomon say to God after he built the temple? (He praised God and gave thanks to Him. He also asked God to help the people follow His teachings.)
7. Why did God tell Elijah to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain for a long time? (He wanted King Ahab to know that only the true God could control the weather and all creation.)
8. Both Elijah and Elisha were God's prophets. They performed many miracles. Where did they get their power from? (They got their power from God. They trusted God and God helped them.)
9. Why did Naaman get angry when Elisha's servant told him to go wash in the River Jordan? (He wanted Elisha to do something amazing. He did not expect Elisha to ask him to go wash in a river.)
10. Why did Naaman get completely better at the end? (He obeyed God and did as Elisha asked.)

### Act It Out

To review some of the stories, plan some simple dramas/plays the students could role-play. There are a number of stories in this quarter's lessons that lend themselves to role-playing (e.g. David and Goliath, Naaman's leprosy). Make sure the dialogue is simple. The teacher may wish to bring in some props to make the plays more engaging. Do take time to review the important aspects of the stories and most importantly, have a good time.





# Train up a child!

“Train up a child in the way he  
should go. And when he is old he  
will not depart from it.”

(Prov 23:6)



# God Gives Elijah Water and Food

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- butcher paper
- tape
- markers (or paint and paintbrushes)



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 17:1-7

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is the Creator

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize that God is the provider of all things; to identify things that God provides for us

### Memory Verse

"Remember now your Creator." (Eccl 12:1a)



## Bible Knowledge

### Elijah

Elijah was a prophet from Tishbe of Gilead in the northern kingdom. His name means "The Lord is my God." He was a fearless prophet, for he stood up to Ahab and his son Ahaziah, who worshiped idols. Elijah performed a number of miracles during his ministry.

The first was his prophecy that there would be no rain until he said it would rain again (1 Kgs 17:1). The second was when he raised the widow's dead son in Zarephath (1 Kgs 17:17-24).

Next, Elijah performed one of the greatest miracles on Mount Carmel. He gathered four hundred and fifty of Baal's prophets as well as four hundred prophets of Asherah. Then he told them to call on their gods, and he would call on His God to see which would send fire from heaven. The false prophets were unable to light their offering after many hours of dancing around their altar. When it was Elijah's turn, he first poured water over the altar and then prayed to God to show everyone present who the real God was. God sent down a fire that consumed the wet wood with the offer-

ing, and the false prophets were then ordered to be killed.

After this miracle, Elijah prophesied that the drought would end. After he prayed once again to God, a small cloud appeared on the horizon, ending three rainless years.

Elijah also appeared with Moses during the transfiguration on the mount (Mt 7:4; Mk 9:5; Lk 9:33).

### The Northern and Southern Kingdoms

During the reign of David, he successfully united the north and south, and he established Jerusalem as the capital of the kingdom. However, after Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Israel first emerged as a separate power under the leadership of Jeroboam. There were nineteen kings who ruled during the country's two centuries of existence. One notable king was King Ahab whom Elijah constantly confronted.

The southern kingdom of Judah was led by Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. Judah was the more stable of the two countries, and was ruled by descendants of David (with the exception of Queen Athaliah). Eventually, both kingdoms fell to other stronger nations, as God had foretold.



## Understanding Your Students

In today's lesson, God provided everything that Elijah needed during the drought and resulting famine. There was no doubt in Elijah's mind who gave him the food and water. If it was not God, then who else could it be? For young children, they often don't see God as their provider. Rather, it is their parents who buy things for them, who go to work to earn money, and who take them out to have a good time. And they know their parents are willing to do all this for them because their parents love them. While this is true, we must also take opportunities to point out the amazing grace of God. He is the Creator of all things. If God did not plant the first seeds, we would not know what vegetables and fruits are. If there were no sunshine and rain, then crops would not grow. If He did not give us families, we would not have parents to look after us.

To help your students recognize God's love in everyday experiences, introduce conversations about

God while the students are involved in an activity. For example, we could say during snack time, "Jennifer, that orange smells good. God has made so much good food for us to eat. God loves us very much." If it happens to be a rainy or sunny day, we could talk about the weather and how God gives us what we need in order for plants, trees and even human beings to grow. We can also talk about the love and care our families demonstrate. But all these are only possible because of God's love for His people.

It is easier for a child to learn about God's love when it is a part of their everyday lives. They are living in a world that is created and planned out by God. They should not think that things around them are the way they are because they exist. God has provided everything for us to enjoy because He loves us. During the famine, things looked bleak. Where would Elijah or the widow get food from? But God said that as long as we trust in Him, He will give us all we need. We know that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust that He will do the same for us.



## Vocabulary

### **Prophet**

a messenger of God

### **Brook**

a small river

### **Raven**

a big, black, flying bird



## Before You Teach

The God who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in it, is a God of power, and a God of wisdom. And yet, our mighty God took the time to create each and every one of us. We have different fingerprints, and no two people really look exactly alike among the billions of people who are living in this world. That is amazing.

Yet, have you ever wondered how the all-powerful and all-knowing God could care about you-one person out of billions? Have you ever felt that God could not possibly be concerned about the trivial, seemingly inconsequential details of your daily life? If you have, you're not alone. David, meditating on God's majesty and glory, says in Psalms 8:3, "When I

consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?" David also wondered how God could care so much about him, when really he was nothing more than a speck of dust.

Yes, God is a God of power. And He is a God of wisdom. But He is also a God of love. His love is eternal. He loves us with an everlasting love because God is love (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:8), and nothing can separate us from this love; neither death nor life (Rom 8:38, 39).

When we consider this, we can only kneel before our God and worship Him. No one and nothing else is worthy of such reverence. We would want to do our best to love Him back and repay all that He has done for us. Let us meditate constantly on His love so we may not forget our Lord.



## Bible Story

### Sunny Days and Rainy Days

Good morning, class! How is everyone today? We thank God for giving us a beautiful sunny (or rainy or cloudy, depending on the weather) day. Do you like rainy days, or do you like sunny days? (Allow students to give their answers and ask them why.) Do you know what might happen if there are only sunny days? What would happen if it didn't rain for a long, long time? (Allow students to answer.) Without rain, the soft, green grass would become hard and brown. Flowers would wither and leaves would fall off trees. Then, if it still didn't rain, fruits like apples and oranges, and vegetables like beans, corn, and potatoes, would stop growing. The oceans and rivers would also begin to dry up. Then no food would grow, and all the people and animals would have no water to drink and no food to eat. That doesn't sound very nice, does it? Today we are going to hear a story about a place that had no rain for a long time. We are going to learn about a man called Elijah and how God took care of him when there was no rain.

### No Rain

Last week, we learned about King Solomon and how he built a beautiful temple for God. Solomon loved God very much and tried his best to be a good king. That is why when he first became the king, he asked God for wisdom. He wanted to know right from wrong and lead God's people according to His ways.

But after King Solomon died, not all the kings were good kings. Some of them did things that did not make God happy. One of those bad kings was called Ahab. He did not worship God. Instead, he worshiped idols. God was not happy. He wanted King Ahab to know that only God is the true God. So God told a man named Elijah to tell the king that there would be no rain for a long, long time. Elijah was a prophet of God. That means he was God's messenger. He told people what God wanted them to know. So when God told Elijah to go and find King Ahab, Elijah obeyed God. He went and told the king what God had said to him.

Elijah said, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will not be rain these years, except at my word."

That means that unless Elijah said so, there would be no more rain starting now. God did this because He wanted King Ahab to know that He was the true God who controlled everything. Unless God wanted it to rain, there would be no rain at all. When King Ahab heard this, he was not pleased. He did not like to hear that there would be no rain for a long, long time because that means that there would not be any food growing for a long time. What would he eat and drink?

### Elijah Goes to a Brook

Then God said to Elijah, "You must leave here. Go out into the country. I want you to stay there by a little brook called the Brook Cherith. There will be water in the brook for you to drink. I have already told some ravens to take food to you there."

God knew that if there was no rain, there would not be a lot of food for the people to eat. But Elijah did not need to worry. God had prepared everything for him. God wanted him to go to the brook so he would have water to drink. God also promised that ravens would bring him food. God loved Elijah, and He took good care of him. God loves us too, and He will always take care of us.

Elijah loved God, so he did just what God told him to do. He left and went to the country. Elijah knew that God was going to take care of him. He walked and walked until he arrived at the brook.

### God Prepares Food for Elijah

When Elijah arrived at the brook, there was still water in it. God had been right. Elijah would be able to drink water and not be thirsty. But what about the food? Elijah looked around and there was no food to be found. But Elijah knew that God loved him and would keep His promises. When he was waiting by the brook, he saw birds—big, black birds called ravens flying in the sky. As he looked on, he saw that the ravens were flying towards him. As they flew nearer and nearer, Elijah saw that each raven was carrying something. Elijah looked more closely. The ravens were carrying food; they were carrying bread and meat. The ravens flew in front of Elijah and put down the food, and then they flew away. Now Elijah not only had water to drink, he also had food to eat! God was very good to Elijah. He sent the ravens to bring

more bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening. Even though there was no rain for a long, long time in the land, God took care of Elijah. Elijah had everything he needed and he stayed by the brook for many, many days.

### God Controls and Provides Everything

Do you know who controls the weather? Who gives us the rain and the sunshine? It is God who gives us these things. God loves us and He gives us sunny days and rainy days, so that the grass, the flowers, and the trees have sunshine and water. Then they can grow, and we can have food to eat and water to drink. In today's story, there was no rain in the land. People did not have much food to eat. But God did not forget Elijah. He told him to go

to a brook where there was water to drink. He also sent ravens to bring him food, day and night. God can do anything because He is the almighty God. He can make it rain and make the rain stop. In today's lesson, God made it stop raining because He wanted to show King Ahab He was the true God. Only He, and not the idols King Ahab worshiped, could control all things in the world. We can trust that God will give us the things that we need every day. In fact, we know He takes care of us because every day we wake up after a good night's rest. We can breathe. We have wonderful food to eat and family members who love us. All these things tell us how much God cares about us and provides for us. We should thank God for everything.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What would happen if there was no rain for a long, long time?** (The grass would become brown, the flowers would wither, and there would be no food growing. The oceans and rivers would also dry up.)
2. **What did Elijah tell King Ahab?** (He told the king that there would be no rain again until he said so.)
3. **Why did God tell Elijah to talk to King Ahab?** (God wanted King Ahab to know that God is the true God. Only He could tell the rain to come or stop. He, not the idols that Ahab worshiped, controls everything in the world.)
4. **Where did God tell Elijah to go when there was no rain for a long time?** (God told

Elijah to go to the country by a brook and stay there.)

5. **How did God feed Elijah?** (God sent ravens to take bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening.)
6. **God loved Elijah and took good care of him. We know that God loves us too. How does God take care of us today?** (God gives us sunny days and rainy days, He gives us wonderful food to eat, He gives us parents who love us, etc.)
7. **God loves us and He will always take care of us. He gives us great families and He created so much wonderful food for us to eat. How should we thank Him?** (We can thank Him by praying to Him before our meals, by not wasting any food, by eating our vegetables, by obeying our parents, etc.)



### Life Application Story

#### Mom Is Sick

It was Monday morning and time for school. Susie was still sleeping when her oldest sister

Nicole came into her room.

"Wake up Susie. It's time for school!" Nicole gently nudged her sister.

"I'm still sleepy," Susie grumbled.

"You'll be late, come on! Get up!" Nicole said.

Susie finally opened her eyes and sat up on the



bed.

"Where is Mom?" Susie asked. "She's the one who wakes me up."

"Mom is not feeling well today. She is going to stay in bed and rest this morning."

Susie became fully awake now.

"What? Mom's not well? What happened?"

"I think she caught Ben's cold. Remember how he was coughing last week? Now Mom is coughing too."

Susie got out of bed and changed, but she kept thinking about her mother. Was she okay? "What if Mom got really sick?" Susie thought to herself. Susie brushed her teeth and washed her face. Then she went downstairs to have breakfast.

Dad was already in the kitchen. He was pouring milk and getting breakfast ready for everyone.

"Good morning, Susie! Hey, why the sad face?" Mr. Lim asked.

"Nicole said Mom is sick," Susie said as she sat down at the table.

"Mom's got a cold. She will be fine after getting some rest, though," Mr. Lim comforted Susie. "Eat your breakfast or you won't have energy for school."

"I don't want to eat, I want to see Mom!" Susie said. "I want to know that she is okay."

"Mom will be okay. She is sleeping now. She was coughing a lot last night and she did not get much sleep. She really needs her rest. How about you finish your breakfast, and we will all pray together before you go to school. We will pray to God to help Mom get better."

Susie nodded. When Susie finished her breakfast the whole family-Mr. Lim, Nicole, Lisa, Ben and Susie- all knelt down together to pray. Susie prayed to God to help her mom get better. Susie felt a bit better after the prayer because she knew that God loved her and her mother. He would listen to her prayer and He would take care of her mom.

As the children got ready to leave the house, Susie saw Mrs. Lim coming downstairs.

"Mom!" Susie cried out. She ran to give Mrs. Lim a big hug. "Are you okay? We were praying for you! Do you feel better now?"

Mrs. Lim smiled at Susie and the rest of the family.

"Sorry to make you all worried about me. I am

feeling better now so thank you all for praying for me. I am sure God has listened to your prayers, and He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said.

Then Mrs. Lim looked down at Susie. "I heard you yelling a bit from upstairs. What was that all about?" asked Mrs. Lim.

"I wanted to see you, but everyone told me not to bother you and just let you sleep," replied Susie.

"Well, I am glad you listened," Mrs. Lim.

"So that's why we prayed instead," added Susie.

"Thank you for praying for me. I love you very much. And more importantly, God loves us all very much. He always takes care of us, even when we are worried," said Mrs. Lim.

"Mom's right. It's so good that we have Jesus to take away our worries," Mr. Lim said.

"Okay now, off you go to school. I will see you in the afternoon," said Mrs. Lim as the children headed out the door.

Susie turned back as she stepped outside.

"I am going to pray for you again at recess and at lunch, okay Mom? Then God will definitely make you better," Susie said with a big smile.

"I am sure He will take care of me," Mrs. Lim said as they waved good-bye.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Susie so worried?** (Susie was worried because her mom was sick)
2. **What did Mr. Lim suggest when they were worried?** (He suggested everyone pray to God together.)
3. **What can we do if we are worried?** (We can pray to God to help us, we can ask our parents and our brothers and sisters to pray with us, we can tell someone about our worries, etc.)



## Activity 1

### **Elijah Is Fed by God**

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

1. Elijah is fed by ravens. (Yes)
2. It rained. (No)
3. Elijah goes to the brook. (Yes)
4. Elijah goes to the supermarket to get food. (No)



## Activity 2

### **Creation Mural**

#### Materials:

1. butcher paper
2. tape
3. markers (or paint and paintbrushes)

#### Directions:

1. Roll out a long piece of butcher paper on the table. There should be enough room for all the students to stand around the table and have access to the paper.
2. Tape the ends of the paper to the table so the paper does not shift as the students are working.
3. Before the students draw, brainstorm the kinds of things God created and controls in this world. Write or draw them on the board.
4. Then have each student decide on several things they want to draw. Be sure certain items don't overlap (e.g. only one sun is needed).
5. Provide them with markers (or paint) and encourage the students to draw a mural of God's wonderful creations.
6. Hang the mural up in class for everyone to enjoy.

Activity 9:1

### Elijah Is Fed by God

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Circle "Yes" if it happened and circle "No" if it did not.

 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>
 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>	 <p><b>YES</b>                      <b>NO</b></p>

# God Provides for Elijah and a Widow



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- clear, self-adhesive paper
- assorted tissue paper
- blank paper
- markers
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors



### Scriptures

1 Kgs 17:8-16

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is faithful and keeps His promises

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify things we can do to demonstrate our faith towards God

### Memory Verse

"God is faithful." (1 Cor 10:13)



## Bible Knowledge

### King Ahab

Ahab was the seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He reigned for about twenty-two years. Although he did have some military and political successes, he is remembered mostly for his spiritual failures. First, he married the Phoenician princess Jezebel, who brought to Israel the worship of the Phoenician god Baal. He also allowed a temple to be built where Jezebel could worship Baal. Then Ahab, too, began to worship this idol (1 Kgs 16:30-33). The Bible records that he did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings who were before him.

### Elijah

Elijah was a prophet from Tishbe of Gilead in the northern kingdom. His name means "The Lord is my God." He was a fearless prophet, for he stood up to Ahab and his son Ahaziah, who worshiped idols. One of the first things Elijah did was to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain for a long time. After Elijah's announcement, God led him to the Brook Cherith in Gilead, east of the Jordan

River. There Elijah was miraculously fed by ravens. When the drought continued and the brook dried up, he was led to Phoenicia, to the home of a widow.

### The Widow of Zarephath

Elijah went to Zarephath, a town on the Mediterranean Sea, north of Israel. There he found a widow and asked her for food and drink. Widows at the time were poor and could do little to sustain themselves. With the drought, this widow would have been exceptionally desperate. So she responded by saying that she only had enough oil and flour for one more meal, to feed herself and her son. Then they too would die. Elijah persisted in his request and promised that if she provided food for him, she would continue to have enough flour and oil. The woman trusted God to provide for her needs and shared what she had with Elijah. Interestingly, this widow was not an Israelite, yet she willingly took God at His word. She was rewarded with an unfailling jar of flour and an inexhaustible supply of oil. Later, when her son died, he was restored to life by the prophet (1 Kgs 17:17-22).



## Understanding Your Students

For young children, trust comes pretty easily. This is because they can do little for themselves and depend on others for their needs. And because their families have provided for them since they were babies, they have learned to trust them. However, trusting in God may be a bit more difficult for them. This is because they haven't been able to concretely witness many of the things He has done for them that would make them trust in Him. As each lesson allows, we need to point out how faithful, loving, and great our God is. Over time, the children will begin to see a God whom they can trust to provide all they need. It is our hope that they will learn to believe in His promises and act accordingly.

While trusting in God and the grown-ups in their

lives is a good thing, we may also want to introduce to our students the topic of strangers and how to act around them. This is because children are innocent and trusting in nature. Children are taught to never talk to strangers. But there is some confusion in that because adults often talk to strangers. We may help someone who needs directions; we may talk to the person who delivers the mail; we may stop and talk to someone who is walking their dog. In the eyes of the students, these people are strangers. It is hard to reconcile why they aren't allowed to speak to strangers while we are doing it regularly. That is why it is important to role-play specific scenarios and talk about what they can do in each situation. While we do not wish to dampen their trusting spirit, we also want to make sure they are protected.



## Vocabulary

### **Miracle**

an amazing thing that only God can do

### **Brook**

a small river

### **Widow**

a woman whose husband has died

### **Faith**

to believe in God and His promises



## Before You Teach

In the story of Elijah and how God provided food for him, we see two people who demonstrated trust in God. First was Elijah, who obeyed God and went to the Brook Cherith. There he found water to drink and ravens who brought him bread and meat. Then when the brook dried up, God told him to go to the widow at Zarephath. Once again, without any questions, Elijah followed the words of God and walked to the city. At the city's gate, he met the widow and asked her for some water. Then he asked her for some bread. Upon hearing this, the widow explained her situation and said that she only had enough to feed herself and her son one last meal. Elijah then challenged the widow by asking her to make some bread for him first. He promised there would be enough flour and oil to last her and her son until God sent rain again. To follow these directions would have been a leap of faith.

But this widow did exactly as Elijah told her and indeed, the flour and oil did not run out.

Why were Elijah and the widow able to obey so willingly? The only answer was that they had faith in God and His promises. In fact, what they were asked to do were difficult things. By our human reasoning, it makes no sense to wait for birds to bring food. It seems equally impossible to expect what little flour and oil were left to never run out. Yet sometimes, God calls for us to step out and examine our faith. It is easy to trust God when we don't have much to lose, or if the course of action seems reasonable. But God doesn't always work this way. He often challenges us because He wants us to rise up to the occasion and help our faith grow. Only when we depend on God completely can we give glory to His name. Then we will recognize that it is not through our own actions or effort that anything was accomplished. And even when things go smoothly, we should still remember God's constant presence so we will not forget God's providence.





## Bible Story

### Water in the Jar

Bring a jar with some water (less than a cup) and two empty cups. Pour water into the first cup until there is no more water left in the jar. Then try to pour water into the second cup. No water should be coming out of the jar.

Ask the students why they think no water is coming out of the jar. (Because there is no more water in the jar.) If we drank this cup of water, would there be any water left? (No, because we ran out of water; there is no water in the jar.) No matter how hard we try, we could not get any more water to come out of that jar. If more water suddenly came out, that would be a miracle. And we know that only God can perform miracles. Today we are going to learn about a wonderful miracle that God did to help Elijah and a woman.

### The Brook Dries Up

Last week, we learned that God told Elijah to talk to King Ahab. He told the king that there would be no more rain in the land until he said so. Everything happened just as God told Elijah it would happen. No rain fell from the sky for a very long time. God told Elijah to stay by a brook so he would have plenty of water to drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat. God took care of Elijah even when things in the land were drying up.

Do you know what can happen to rivers and brooks if it does not rain for a very long time? (Allow students to give their responses.) When there is no rain for a long time, all the rivers and brooks will have less and less water, and they will start to dry up. This also happened to the brook where Elijah was drinking from. Every day as Elijah drank from the brook, he watched the brook become smaller and smaller, until one day, the brook was totally dried up—there was no water at all. Now Elijah had no water to drink. What would Elijah do? Did God care about him?

### God Speaks to Elijah

God had not forgotten about Elijah. God loved Elijah; He promised to take care of him. After the brook dried up, God said to Elijah, "Get up and go to

the city of Zarephath. You can stay in that city. There is a woman living there who will give you food."

Elijah obeyed God. He listened to God and did what God told him to do. He left the brook and walked to the city of Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, he saw a woman picking up sticks. This woman was a widow. That means her husband had already died.

Elijah was thirsty because he had walked very far, so he asked the woman "Would you please bring me a little water so I may drink?"

### The Widow Shares

At that time everyone had very little water because it had not rained for so long. Do you think the woman wanted to give Elijah some water? (Allow students to answer.) This woman was very kind; she was willing to share her water with Elijah. When she heard Elijah asking her for water, she quickly went to get some for him. As she was going to get the water, Elijah called out to her and said, "Can you also please bring me a small piece of bread?"

When the woman heard this, she stopped and turned around.

She looked at Elijah sadly and said to him, "I don't have any bread. I have just enough flour and cooking oil to bake a small loaf of bread for my son and for me. You see, I was picking up the sticks so that I could build a fire to make our last meal. After we eat it, we will have no more food, and we will wait to die."

Elijah could see that this woman was sad and afraid.

He said, "Don't be afraid. Go home and use your flour and oil to bake a small loaf of bread for me first, and bring it to me. Then you can make some for yourself and your son. God told me to tell you that you will always have enough flour and oil for cooking until God sends rain on the ground again. You will not run out of food!"

Doesn't this sound amazing? Remember at the beginning of the class, we could not pour out any more water from the jar because we had run out? We could not make more water appear. But Elijah was telling the woman that no matter how little she had left in the jars, the flour and oil would never run out. That is amazing. And something so

amazing can only come from God.

When the woman heard this, she became happy. She believed that God would take care of Elijah, her son and herself. She listened to Elijah and hurried home. She built a fire, mixed the flour and oil, and baked a loaf of bread for Elijah and took it to him.

### God's Promise

After that, the woman went back home. She peeked into the jars where she had kept her flour and oil. What do you think she saw? (Allow students to use their imagination.) Amazingly, there was as much flour and oil as before! There was still enough flour and oil to cook for herself and for her son. Remember our jar (show students the water jar used at the start of the class)? We ran out of water after we used up all the water. But God made sure that the flour and oil in the woman's jars never ran out. There was always enough flour and oil to bake one more loaf of bread, just as God promised! So the three of them (Elijah, the woman, and her son) had enough food to eat for many days.

The woman didn't think she had enough flour



### Check For Understanding

1. **What happened to the brook after it had not rained for a long time?** (The brook dried up and there was no more water.)
2. **What did God tell Elijah to do after the water dried up in the brook?** (God told Elijah to go to a city. There would be a woman there who would give him food.)
3. **What did the widow share with Elijah?** (She shared water and her last bit of food.)
4. **What happened to the flour and oil when the woman shared with Elijah?** ( She never

and oil to make bread for Elijah and her family to eat. But after she heard Elijah's words, she believed God, went home, and did what Elijah told her to do. Although what Elijah asked her to do seemed hard because she might have nothing left to make more bread for herself and her son, she obeyed. This is called faith. She couldn't see it at first with her eyes, but she believed.

It is important for us to have faith and believe in God's promises. For example, when we see a caterpillar, we know that one day, it will turn into a butterfly. We can't see it right away, but we know it will happen because that is how God planned it. We also trust that the moon and stars will come out at night even though we can't see them during the day. We believe this because that is how God created the world. God also promised to give us the Holy Spirit and take us to heaven one day. Even though not all of us have the Holy Spirit, we can pray to God for the Holy Spirit. And even though we cannot see heaven, we trust what God tells us. We know there is a beautiful place waiting for us. Our God is a God who keeps His promises, and it is our job to trust Him.

ran out of flour and oil to make bread. There was always enough flour and oil each time she went to her jars.)

5. **The woman showed her love by sharing with Elijah. What can we share with our brothers and sisters or friends to show our love?** (Food, toys, coloring pens and pencils, books, etc.)
6. **Elijah and the woman in today's story both had faith in God. They believed God and His words. How do we show our faith today?** (We show our faith by praying to God, believing that He will give us His Holy Spirit, trusting in His promises, obeying His commands, etc.)



### Life Application Story

#### The Plane Ride

Ding Dong!

Tommy ran towards the front door. He opened it and saw that it was his grandmother.

"Oh, it's you, Grandma," Tommy said.

"Well, you don't look so happy to see me," Grandma said.

"I am happy to see you. It's just that I was hop-

ing to see Dad. He is supposed to be home today from his trip," Tommy answered.

"Yes, that's why I came over. Your mom wanted me to stay at the house until she got back from the airport."

"Why does Mom have to go to the airport?" asked Tommy.

Mrs. Lewis walked to the front door just as Tommy asked the question.

"Well, Tommy, I was just listening to the news. It said that there was a big storm where Dad is taking off from. I called the airline, but they couldn't give me a lot of information. Since the airport is not far from our house, I am going to the airport just to make sure Dad is safe," explained Mrs. Lewis.

"Will he be okay?" asked Tommy.

"I think so. But in the meantime, I need you to wait for me at home with Grandma. You need to listen to her while I am gone. Julie should be home soon from her piano lesson next door. Will you be a big boy and let her know what is going on?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"I sure will," replied Tommy.

"Oh, I left the keys in the bedroom," said Mrs. Lewis, and she ran to get them.

"Grandma, is Dad really going to be okay?" asked Tommy again.

"I am sure that God will take care of him," Grandma said as she tried to comfort Tommy. "You know, if you still feel worried, we can kneel down now and pray for him."

"Okay," Tommy said.

Mrs. Lewis came back to the front door with her keys.

"Did I hear someone say he wanted to pray?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"Yeah. Grandma said God would help us and Dad," said Tommy.

"Grandma's right. Even though we don't know what is happening to Dad right now, we can trust that God will take care of him," Mrs. Lewis said.

The three of them knelt down and prayed to God. After a few minutes, they ended the prayer. As Mrs. Lewis got ready to open the front door and leave for the airport, they heard keys rattling from the outside.

"Maybe Julie's back," suggested Tommy.

"She doesn't bring keys next door," Mrs. Lewis said.

Before anyone else could say anything, the

door swung open and Mr. Lewis came in.

"Dad! What are you doing home? I thought you were stuck in a storm," Tommy yelled as he hugged his dad.

"Well, it's good to see you too," Mr. Lewis said as he put his suitcase down. He gave both Grandma and Mrs. Lewis kisses.

"I was just going to the airport to find out what was going on," said Mrs. Lewis as she took Mr. Lewis' coat.

"Well, I heard about the storm this morning so I tried to catch an earlier flight. At first, I thought it would be impossible because many people were trying to do the same thing. Miraculously, I got the last seat for that flight. I was going to call you but when I got to the airport, I was able to get on the plane right away, and I didn't have time to call. It was very rushed. When I landed, I realized my phone had no more batteries so I decided to come home first. Thank God I missed the storm and was able to get home," Mr. Lewis explained.

"Yes, thank God. Tommy was getting very worried about you. We were just praying for you before you stepped in," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Thank you for praying for me. I am sure God heard your prayer," said Mr. Lewis as he gave Tommy another hug.

"Yes, we need to remember that God takes care of all of us if we trust Him and believe in Him, even if we can't see everything right away," Grandma added.

"Just like God took care of Dad," Tommy said.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What was the family praying about?** (They were praying to God to keep Mr. Lewis safe.)
2. **How did God keep Mr. Lewis safe?** (God helped him get home safely and miss the storm.)
3. **Sometimes, we worry when we don't know the answers or what will happen next. What can we do when we are worried about something?** (We can pray to God to help us feel better, talk to a grown-up who might have some answers, do something else to take our mind off the situation, etc.)
4. **What kinds of things around us tell us that God is faithful and always keeps His promises?** (Allow students to answer. Some possible

answers: seeds grow into flowers and plants, a rainbow comes out after the rain, a caterpillar

turns into a butterfly, our families take care of us, etc.)



### Activity 1

#### Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread. How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture? (There should be ten loaves.)



### Activity 2

#### How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God? Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. We can show our faith by praying to God and for the Holy Spirit.
2. We can show our faith by reading the Bible with our family.
3. We can show our faith by coming to church.
4. We can show our faith by obeying our parents.



### Activity 3

#### God is Faithful

##### Materials:

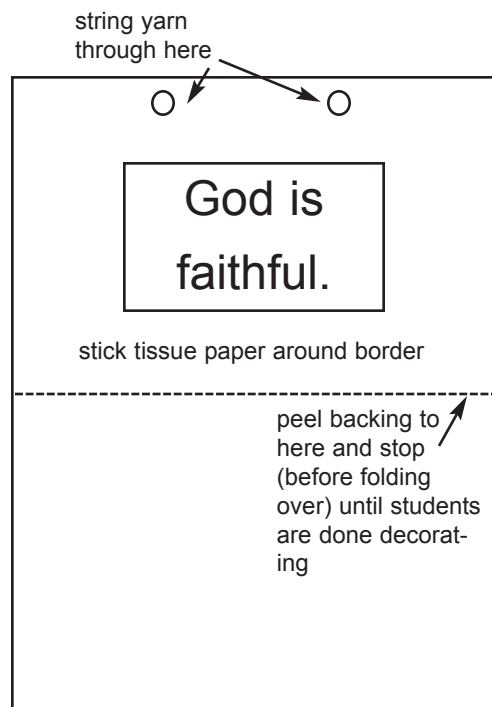
1. clear, self-adhesive paper (16x12 inch pieces)
2. assorted tissue paper
3. blank paper (4x6 inch pieces)
4. markers
5. hole punch
6. yarn
7. scissors

##### Directions:

1. Cut the clear, self-adhesive paper into 16x12 inch pieces. Provide one to each student.
2. Help the students tear the tissue paper into small and medium sized pieces.
3. Then help students write "God is faithful" on 4x6 inch pieces of blank white paper.
4. Starting at one corner, help the students peel off the backing to the self-adhesive paper

halfway so that only half of the sticky side is showing (8x12 inch).

5. Help the students position the 4x6 white paper (with the words "God is faithful" facing up) so that it will be in the center of the exposed sticky side. Stick the white paper onto the clear paper.
6. Encourage the students to stick various colors of the tissue paper on to the remaining exposed sticky side of their paper to create a border. They can be as creative as they can.
7. Help the students peel off the remaining backing and fold it over the tissue paper and white paper. It should become an 8x12 picture. Smooth out any air bubbles by sliding hand over the picture.
8. Punch two holes near the top of the picture and string a piece of yarn long enough to create a hanging. Tie the yarn off.
9. The students can hang this picture on a window since the tissue paper can create a sun-catcher effect. They can be reminded that God is always faithful, just as they heard in the story.



Activity 10:1

### Elijah and the Widow

Look at the picture of the widow baking bread.  
How many loaves of bread can you find hiding in the picture?





Activity 10:2

### How Can We Show Our Faith?

Look at the pictures. How is each person showing faith in God?  
Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

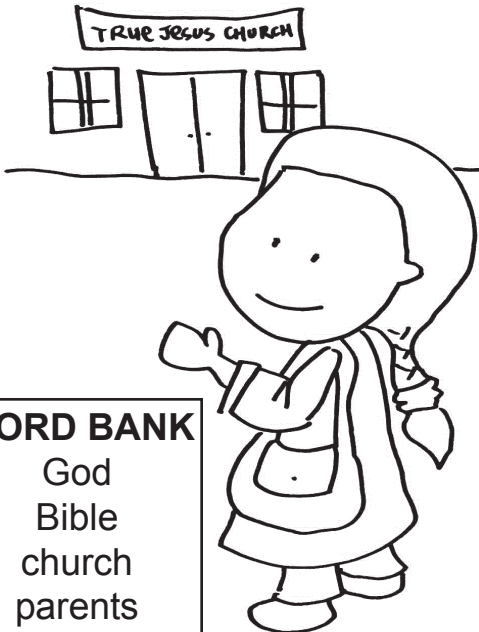
1. We can show our faith by praying to \_\_\_ and for the Holy Spirit.



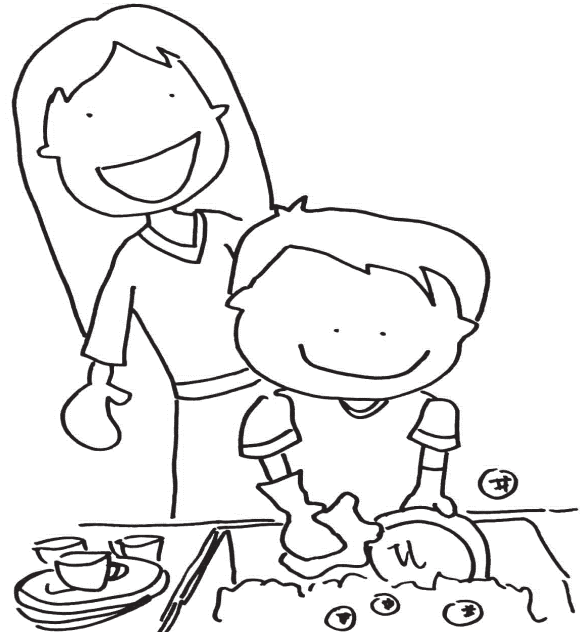
2. We can show our faith by reading the \_\_\_\_\_ with our family.



3. We can show our faith by coming to \_\_\_\_\_.



4. We can show our faith by obeying our \_\_\_\_\_.



**WORD BANK**  
God  
Bible  
church  
parents

# Elisha and the Shunammite Woman



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- blocks or Lego pieces
- doll furniture



### Scriptures

2 Kgs 4:8-37

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To show kindness to others

### Memory Verse

"And be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)



## Bible Knowledge

### Elisha

Elisha's name means "God is salvation." We are not told his age or his birthplace, but we may assume he was a native of Abel-meholah in the Jordan valley and was still young when Elijah sought him out. His father's name was Shaphat.

His ministry, if we date it from his call, extended through the reigns of Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, and Jehoahaz, a period of more than fifty years. The narratives of Elisha's ministry are recorded in 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2-9 and 2 Kings 13, and comprise a series of some eighteen episodes.

Elisha was plowing the fields one day when Elijah (see Lessons 9 and 10) passed by and threw his mantle on him (1 Kgs 19:19). It was a symbolic way to anoint Elisha and allow him to know that God had chosen him to continue the work of Elijah. Elisha obediently followed. His prophetic call was once again confirmed when he saw Elijah ascend to heaven and was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs 2:1-12). Although the Bible does record that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Elisha was not trying to outdo his predecessor.

By asking for a double portion of his spirit, Elisha was simply asking God to give him spiritual power to do His work.

Elisha began his ministry near the end of King Ahab's reign. Elisha performed many miracles during his work. Some of them included making the bad water good again (2 Kgs 2:19-22), providing the widow with oil so her children did not have to be sold (2 Kgs 4:1-7), raising a boy from the dead (2 Kgs 8-37), making a poisonous pot of food edible (2 Kgs 4:38-41), making an ax head float (2 Kgs 6:5-7), and healing Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5:1-27).

### The Shunammite Woman

The Shunammite woman knew that Elisha was a man of God. Because of her regard for him, she wanted to provide a room on the flat roof of her house. The room would include the four essential furnishings—a bed, a table, a stool, and an oil lamp.

When the woman's son died unexpectedly, Elisha left his work on Mt. Carmel and returned to Shunem with the woman. He went into the room where the boy lay and shut the door. There he prayed to God, following the example of Elijah. God's miraculous answer was in response to the faith and prayer of Elisha, and the Shunammite woman and her husband were given back their son.



## Understanding Your Students

Teachers who consistently and positively acknowledge a child's loving actions towards others are doing a very valuable service to the child by reinforcing his attempts at kindness. To help the students recognize what they have done, use specific words to describe their actions. Rather than saying, "Good job!" or "I'm so proud of you," try saying, "I like the way you are sharing the markers," or "I know Jesus loved it when you asked your friend if he was feeling better." This helps the children understand what they are doing that demonstrates kindness.

While your students do need to be praised for

their efforts, they also need to know that people will not always be around to say nice things each time they are kind to another person. Inform them that though others may not see their actions or say anything, God sees everything they do and is pleased, because they are showing others the love of God by helping them.

Whenever any lesson lends itself to this topic, open a discussion about ways your students can show God's love to others. By talking about specific situations or things they can do, the children can see more concretely the many ways they can show kindness. List these on a chart and post it in your room as a constant reminder.



## Vocabulary

### **Servant**

someone who works for another person; a servant listens to the master and does whatever the master asks him to do

### **Staff**

a long walking stick

### **Blessing**

to receive good things from God



## Before You Teach

When the Shunammite woman's son was raised from the dead, the woman could not be happier. It was a great miracle. Yet this miracle was in part due to her faith. When her son passed away on her lap, the Bible does not record how she felt at that time. But we can infer that she must have been distraught because when she finally reached Elisha, he could sense that she was in deep distress. Despite her heavy-heartedness, she had the courage to put her dead son on Elisha's bed and ride to find the prophet. Her actions spoke strongly of her faith. Perhaps she realized that it was God who had given her this son, and it would be up to God to return him to her. She must have believed that God could raise her son from the dead because she did not even tell her husband what had happened. She had hope that by the time she came back, her son would be alive and well. Not many of us could do what this woman did, displaying such faith in God. What can we learn from her example?

First, immediately after her son's death, she thought to turn to God. Many times, when we come upon trials and tribulations, we tend to try to work things out on our own. Only when we have exhausted all avenues do we remember God. Here, this woman only thought about how God could help her.

Then as she traveled, she refused to slow down. She did her best to get to Elisha as fast as she could. In our pursuit of God, we also need to be focused. We need to be full of zeal and seek after God with all our heart.

Third, upon seeing Elisha, she poured out her heart to him. When we have problems we cannot solve, it is okay to come before God and share our sorrows. He will take away our burdens and give us a heart of peace.

After Elisha sent his servant to the woman's house, this woman insisted on staying with Elisha. She would not let go of him until he went to see her son. Today, we also need to grab hold of those opportunities to be with God. When we desire to be with our Lord, He will draw near to us. Then our faith will be strengthened.



## Bible Story

### **Elisha Is God's Chosen Worker**

In the past few lessons, we heard stories about Elijah, a prophet of God. One time, he told King Ahab that no rain was going to come down for a long time. Elijah also went to a widow's house and performed a miracle. He told her that God would not let the flour and oil in her jars run out, so that she would have enough food to eat.

Elijah obeyed God and was a good worker for God. But God knew that Elijah could not do all the work by himself. So God told Elijah that He had picked out another person to help him. His name was Elisha. In the beginning, Elisha was Elijah's helper. Elisha stayed very close to Elijah because he wanted to learn everything that Elijah could teach him about serving God. Elisha wanted to learn as much as he could so he could tell people about God. After Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha became God's prophet and traveled to many cities and towns teaching and talking about God.

### **A Kind Woman**

One day, Elisha came to a town called Shunem. While he was there, a kind woman came to him and said, "Please come to my house and stay for a while. My husband and I would like you to have dinner with us." So Elisha went to the woman's house. He was probably very tired and hungry from traveling and teaching all day. The woman cooked a nice meal, and Elisha sat down to have dinner with the woman and her husband. Elisha liked his new friends a lot. Every time Elisha passed by this city, he always stopped at their house and ate with them.

Once, when Elisha was not in town, the woman thought about the next time Elisha would visit them again, and she came up with a wonderful idea.

She said to her husband, "Elisha is a man who loves God and teaches people about Him. He always comes to our house when he is in town. Why don't we build a room just for him? Let's build a special room upstairs on the roof of our house so he can always have a place to stay when he is in town. We can put a bed in there, a table, a chair, and a lamp for him to use. What do you think?"

The husband thought it was a great idea. So together, the woman and her husband built this spe-

cial room. Do you remember what the woman wanted to put in the room? (Let the students respond.) They put a bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp in the room for Elisha to use. (Explain to the students that an oil lamp was used for lighting.) The woman and her husband were excited about the room. They couldn't wait for Elisha to visit them again.

Soon, Elisha came to their city again. When he stopped at their house to eat, the woman and her husband took Elisha upstairs to show him the surprise. Up, up, they went until they got to the room. Elisha looked into the room. What a wonderful surprise! A room built just for Elisha. It would be a quiet place where Elisha could pray, rest, and sleep.

Elisha knew that his friends had worked hard on the room. He was very thankful that God had given him such kind and wonderful friends.

### **Elisha Promises the Woman a Son**

Elisha was really thankful that the woman and her husband had shown him such kindness. But what could he do to thank them? The woman and her husband did not have any children, so Elisha told the woman that she would have a son next year.

Elisha said, "This time next year, you will be holding your son in your arms."

How do you think the woman felt when she heard this? The woman was surprised. She had wanted children for as long as she could remember. So she could hardly believe what prophet Elisha was saying, but the news must have made her happy.

Sure enough, about a year later, the woman had a little baby boy. God knew what she wanted, and He gave her a son.

### **The Boy Dies**

The woman and her husband were very happy now because they had a happy family. Over the years, as their son grew, Elisha often stopped by to see the family, and stayed in the special room.

Then one summer day, the boy went out to the fields to help his father. It was a very hot day. All of a sudden, the boy put his head in his hands.

"Father! Help me!" he cried.

"What's the matter, son?" the father asked.

"My head, it hurts so much," he moaned.

Immediately, the father called a servant to carry the boy home to his mother. All morning, the boy lay in his mother's lap in a lot of pain. The moth-



er held him and wrapped her arms around him. She cradled him and rocked him to comfort him. However, the boy did not feel any better. By lunch time, the boy had died! The mother must have been very upset but she knew just what to do! She took her son's body upstairs into Elisha's room and laid him down on the bed. Then she left the room, closing the door behind her. She hurried outside and asked her husband to get her donkey ready. She was going to go and see prophet Elisha. She was going to ask for God's help.

### **Elisha Prays for the Boy**

As the woman rode to where Elisha lived, Elisha could see the woman coming from afar. So Elisha sent his servant to meet her.

When the servant reached her, he asked her if everything was okay. She told the servant that she was fine. She wanted to talk to Elisha herself as soon as she could.

When she finally reached Elisha, she was so upset she fell down at his feet.

Elisha asked her, "What is it?"

"It's my son," she said.

Then Elisha knew what had happened. He sent his servant back to the woman's house first.

Elisha gave his staff to his servant and said, "There's no time to lose. Go to the boy and don't stop to talk to anyone along the way. When you get to him, hold my staff over his face until I get there."

The servant left immediately.

The woman said to Elisha, "I won't leave. I will stay with you, Elisha."

So Elisha got up and followed the woman back to her home.

Elisha's servant got to the house first. He did as Elisha asked him to and lay the staff on the boy's face. But nothing happened. The boy just laid on the bed. So the servant ran back to tell Elisha that the boy did not wake up.

When the woman and Elisha finally reached the house, Elisha hurried up the stairs to his room. He found the dead boy lying on his bed. Elisha closed the door to the room, and he knelt down to pray to God. Elisha prayed hard that God would give the boy his life back. Elisha prayed and prayed. He even laid down over the boy's body and prayed. Then Elisha got up and walked around the room. After that, Elisha stretched himself over the boy's body again and prayed some more.

Suddenly, the boy sneezed, again and again. Do you know how many times he sneezed? He sneezed seven times and then he opened his eyes. Praise the Lord! God had given him his life back!

Elisha called his servant and asked him to bring the boy's mother into the room. When the woman came back upstairs, Elisha told her, "Here is your son."

The woman was very happy and thankful that her son was well again. God had given her what she wanted most of all. He had given back her son.

We learned from today's story that the woman was blessed with a son because she was kind to Elisha. She built a room for him so that he would have a place to stay whenever he passed through town. Elisha was also kind to the woman and her family. He told her she would have a son. When the boy died, Elisha came to pray for him so that he could come back to life again. God is pleased when we are kind to one another. He will bless us, just like He blessed the woman.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Elijah's helper?** (Elisha)
2. **Who invited Elisha to dinner?** (The woman from Shunem and her husband.)
3. **What did the woman want to prepare for Elisha on the roof of the house?** (A special room for Elisha.)

4. **What things were placed in the room?** (A bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp.)
5. **The woman and her husband showed great love by taking care of God's prophet, Elisha. This story reminds us that we show our love for God by caring for people around us. What can we do to show kindness?** (Allow students to answer.)
6. **What did Elisha promise the woman in**



return for her kindness? (She would have a baby boy next year.)

7. **When the boy grew older, what happened one day when he was in the field?** (He had a headache.)

8. **What happened to the boy when he went home?** (He died in his mother's lap.)

9. **Whom did the mother go to for help?** (Prophet Elisha, to ask God for help.)

10. **How did Elisha help?** (He prayed very hard to God so that the boy could live again.)

11. **Did the woman have faith in God to help her son come back to life?** (Yes, she had strong faith.)



## Life Application Story

### The Toothbrush

"I want to see them first," said Rachel as she grabbed one of the bags from her mother's hands.

Mrs. Hayes and Rachel had just come home. They had been at the pharmacy picking up some things they needed for the house. Two of those things were new toothbrushes for Cathy and Rachel.

Rachel sat at the kitchen table and began to look through the plastic bag.

"Found them!" she yelled, as Mrs. Hayes put the other bags on the counter.

"I think I want the red one," Rachel said as she looked at the toothbrushes. "The yellow one is nice too, but I like this red one better."

"They really are the same, just a different color," Mrs. Hayes replied.

Just then, Cathy opened the front door. Their neighbor, Mrs. Lee, had driven her home from school today. Before Cathy had even taken off her shoes, Rachel came running to the front door and showed her the new toothbrushes.

"Oh, new toothbrushes," Cathy said. "I want the red one."

"You can't have it. I already said I wanted it," Rachel replied.

"How come you always get to pick first?" Cathy asked.

"Because I saw it first," Rachel said.

Cathy walked to the kitchen. Mrs. Hayes had already poured out some milk for her.

"Well, you can't both have the red one. There is only one," Mrs. Hayes explained.

"I really, really, want the red one," Rachel begged.

"Okay, you can have the red one," Cathy

replied.

"Really?" asked Rachel, a little bit surprised.

"Yes," Cathy said as she drank her milk.

"Cathy, that was very nice of you to let your sister have the red one. It was a very grown-up thing to do," Mrs. Hayes commented.

"Last week, in RE class, we talked about being kind to others. The teacher asked us to try to do one nice thing for somebody this week. She also said that if we are nice to others, then nice things will happen to us too," Cathy explained.

"Jesus did teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. That means we should treat others the way we want to be treated. And sometimes, Jesus blesses us with nice things because He remembers the good things we are doing," Mrs. Hayes added.

As the three of them cleaned up the bags, the door bell rang. Mrs. Hayes went to open the door. It was the mail person with a special delivery. Mrs. Hayes signed for the package and shut the door.

"It's for you, Cathy," Mrs. Hayes said as she handed the brown package to her.

"For me?" Cathy asked excitedly as she ripped open the paper wrapping.

"Oh, it's the books we ordered from the Internet," Cathy said. "I have been waiting for them to get here. Now I can read them!"

"Wow," Rachel said as she looked at some of the books. "Something nice just happened to you, Cathy."

"Yes, I guess it did."

"Maybe I should be nice so that nice things can happen to me too!" Rachel said.

Mrs. Hayes let out a small laugh.

"Well, it's a good idea to be kind and nice to others. But we don't do it just so that we can have nice things happen to us. Jesus wants us to do good things because that is what makes Him happy. And He did promise to bless us if we obey His com-

mands.”

“So should I be nice or not?” asked Rachel.

“Of course, and if nice things happen to you, that is wonderful. But no matter what, we should always do our best to show kindness and love. Just like when your sister let you pick the red toothbrush, she was doing it because she wanted to be kind. She didn’t expect something in return,” explained Mrs. Hayes.

“Okay, I think I understand,” Rachel said.

“Mom, do you think we could read a bit of this one now?” asked Cathy.

“Yes. We have some time before I need to get dinner started,” Mrs. Hayes said as she cleaned up the rest of the bags. “Let’s go to the sofa where we can get comfy.”

The three of them headed to the family room to enjoy Cathy’s new book.

#### Questions to Think About:

1. **What did Cathy do when both she and Rachel wanted the red toothbrush?** (She let Rachel have it.)
2. **Why is it important to show kindness and love to others?** (That is Jesus’ command for us.)
3. **What is something you have done recently to show your kindness and love?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **How do you feel when you have done something nice for someone?** (You feel good and warm inside.)



### Activity 1

#### Elisha’s Room

The woman in the story prepared a room for Elisha. Do you remember what she put in the room? She put in a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. The bed is already in the picture. Draw in the rest of the things.



### Activity 2

#### Elisha Prays for the Boy

Cut out the story book and fold along the dotted lines. Review the story with the students. The students can color in the pictures.



### Activity 3

#### Let’s Build A Room

##### Materials:

1. blocks of Lego pieces of various sizes
2. doll furniture

##### Directions:

1. The class can work together or students may work in pairs.
2. To review the story of Elisha and the Shunammite woman, provide the students with

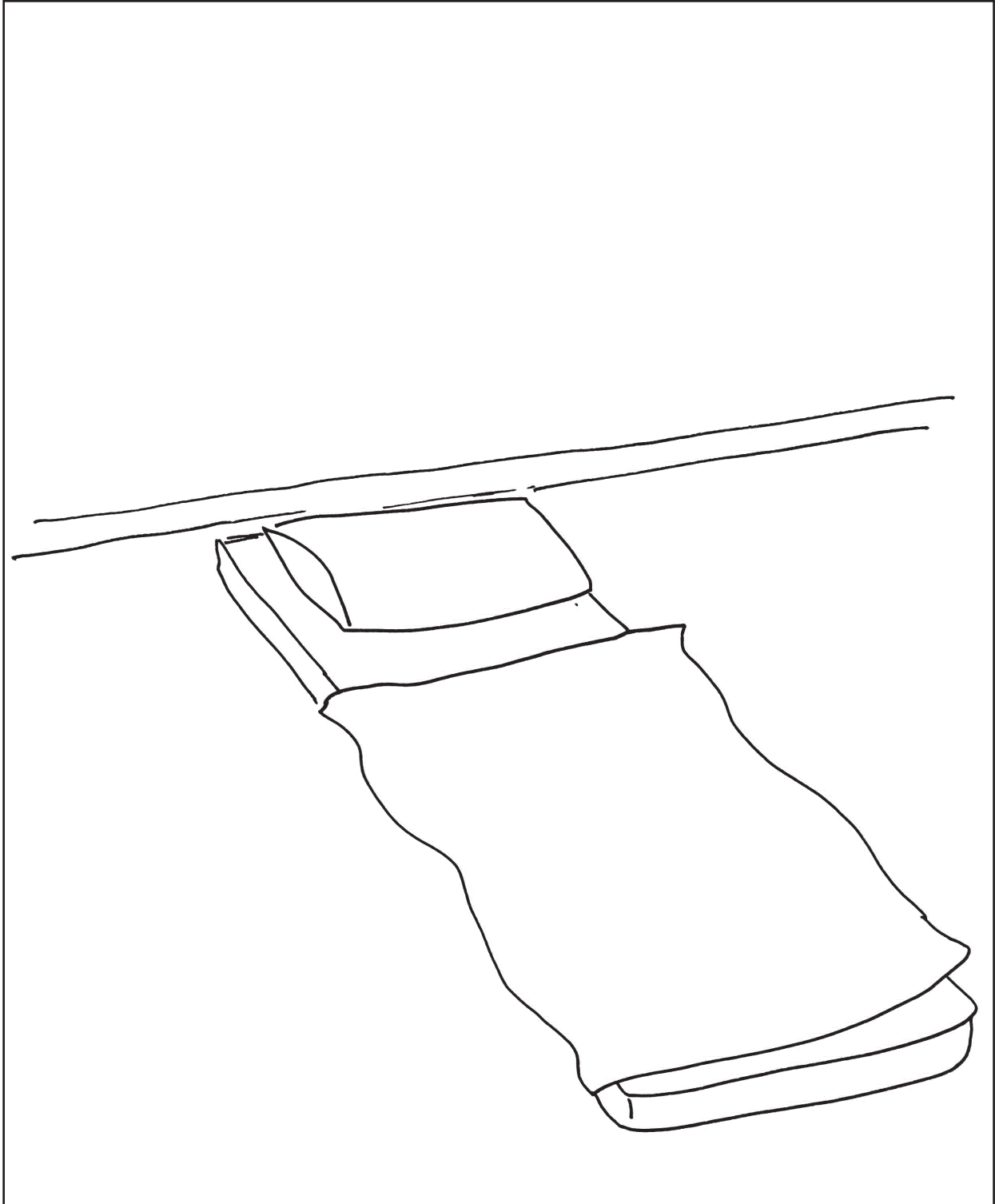
enough blocks so that they can build a room for Elisha.

3. Review the things that were found in the room. Encourage the students to use their imagination as they build.
4. Remember to talk about the important aspects of the story (i.e. Shunammite woman is kind and offers to build a room; Elisha promises her a son; her son dies; the woman runs to Elisha for help; Elisha raises the boy from the dead) as the students are working.

*Activity 11:1*

**Elisha's Room**

The woman in the story prepared a room for Elisha. Do you remember what she put in the room? She put in a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. The bed is already in the picture. Draw in the rest of the things.



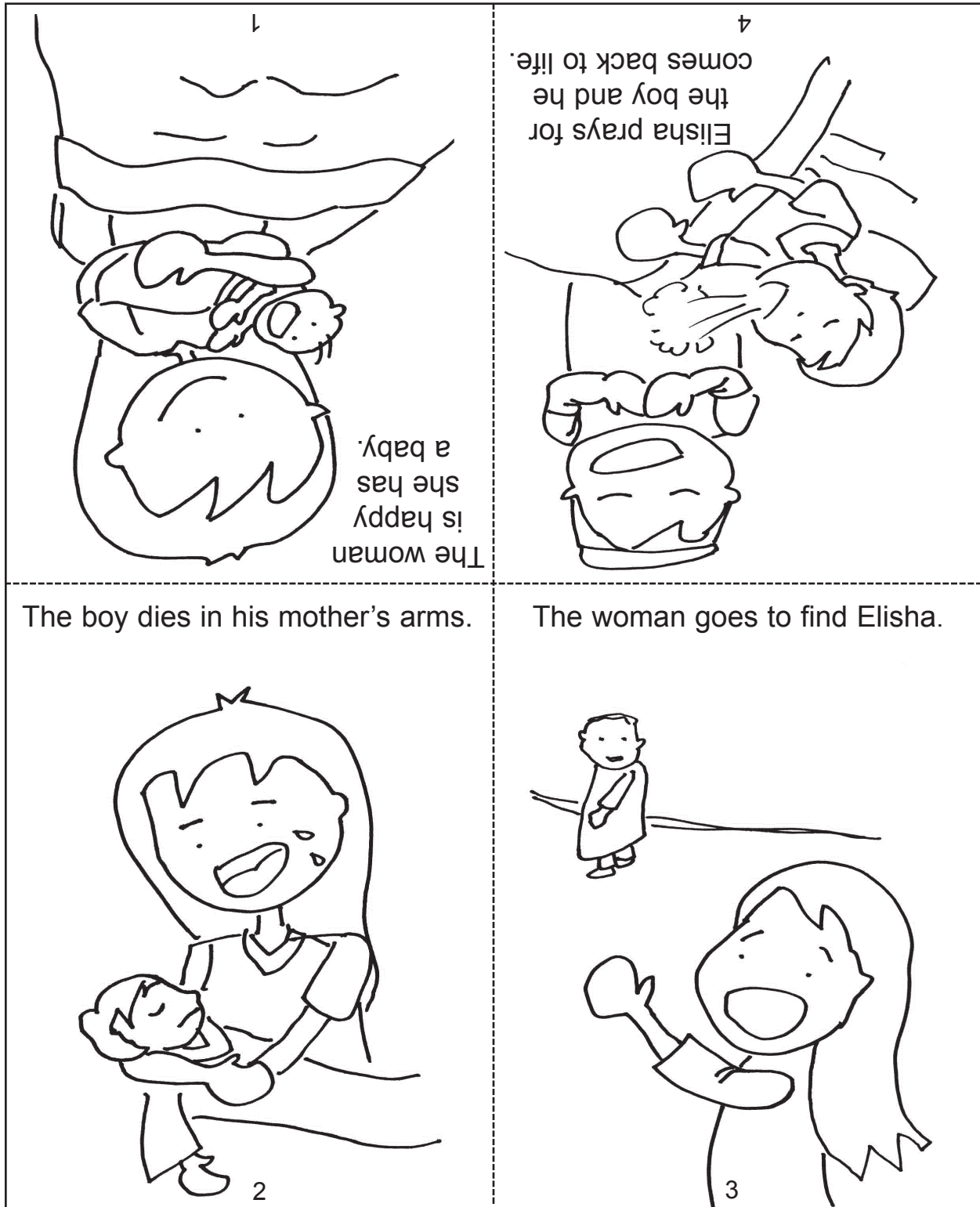
Activity 11:2

### Elisha Prays For the Boy

Cut out the story book and fold along the dotted lines.

Review the story with the teacher.

Color in the pictures.



The woman  
is happy  
she has  
a baby.

The boy dies in his mother's arms.

Elisha prays for  
the boy and he  
comes back to life.

The woman goes to find Elisha.

# God Heals Naaman

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

2 Kgs 5:1-19

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God helps all those who come to Him with faith

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To learn to follow instructions because God wants His people to follow His instructions

### Memory Verse

"Apply your heart to instruction." (Prov 23:12)



## Bible Knowledge

### Naaman

Naaman was a military commander of the Syrian army during the reign of Ben-Hadad I (2 Kgs 5). Although afflicted with leprosy, he still held his high position. This might suggest that his form of leprosy was not contagious. At the suggestion of a young female Israelite prisoner, he took a letter from his king, along with gifts, to the king of Israel (probably Jehoram), so that he might find a cure for his disease. He was referred to Elisha, who offered him a cure by instructing him to bathe in the River Jordan seven times. Naaman was healed after he humbled himself in front of God. Following his cleansing, he professed faith in the God of Israel.

### Elisha

Elisha was a prophet of Israel. Elisha was plowing the fields one day when Elijah (see Lessons 9 and 10) passed by and threw his mantle on him (1 Kgs 19:19). It was a symbolic way to anoint Elisha and allow him to know that God had chosen him

to continue the work of Elijah. Elisha obediently followed. His prophetic call was once again confirmed when he saw Elijah ascend to heaven and was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs 2:1-12). Although the Bible does record that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Elisha was not trying to outdo his predecessor. By asking for a double portion of his spirit, Elisha was simply asking God to give him spiritual power to do His work.

Elisha began his ministry near the end of King Ahab's reign. Elisha performed many miracles during his work. Some of them included making the bad water good again (2 Kgs 2:19-22), providing the widow with oil so her children did not have to be sold (2 Kgs 4:1-7), raising a boy from the dead (2 Kgs 8-37), making a poisonous pot of food edible (2 Kgs 4:38-41), making an ax head float (2 Kgs 6:5-7), and healing Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5:1-27).





## Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds seem to talk a lot. However, most of their language revolves around their needs and wants. A lot of times, we will see our students playing together, so it is assumed that social interaction is occurring. But much of the time what is occurring is simultaneous play. There isn't actually much involvement in conversation. True socialized and interactive speech does not become very apparent until a child reaches about six or seven years of age.

Because each child develops their language skills and abilities at different rates, it may be difficult for them to be very expressive when it comes to talking about Jesus. We may find that they will use short

responses such as "God is good," and "He loves me," to describe their relationship with our Lord. These are great beginnings. But in order to strengthen their expressiveness so that they become more open about their feelings for God, we will need to do much probing, and we will also need to engage them in small group discussions that have a specific topic in mind. For example, in today's lesson, we can talk about how a person might feel when he is healed by God. What kinds of things might he say about God? Also make it a point to ask "Why?" when the students say things like "God is good," or "He loves me." The students are just beginning what will be a huge mission for the rest of their spiritual lives. That is why it is crucial to allow them time to develop their skills now at telling others about Jesus, and provide them with plenty of teacher-guided opportunities.



## Vocabulary

### **Prisoner**

someone who does not have freedom; he could be in a prison; he could also be forced to do work

### **Sore**

an open wound on the skin; broken skin that did not heal



## Before You Teach

In today's lesson, God heals Naaman from leprosy. But before he recognized the power of the almighty God, he first had to submit to the words of Elisha the prophet. In fact, what Elisha told Naaman was simple enough. All the commander had to do was go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Yet, it was the very simplicity of these instructions that almost caused Naaman to miss the opportunity to come to know God. Perhaps he expected Elisha to tell him to climb three mountains first, or to kill many enemy soldiers so they could be sacrificed to God. Naaman thought he had to pay a heavy price to be healed. But Elisha discarded that notion and only told him to believe.

This is the greatest part of God's salvation. It is free to all who believe in Him. We don't need to do anything to earn it. God's grace is given to every one who confesses Lord Jesus as the Savior.

There are many examples in the New Testament of people being healed because they believed. In Matthew 9:27-29, Jesus healed two blind men. Jesus asked if they believed He was able to help them and the two men answered that they believed. Then Jesus touched their eyes and they were instantly made well. In Mark 9:21-29, a father came to Jesus to ask Him to help his son who was possessed by an evil spirit. Jesus told the father that if he believed, all things are possible. Immediately, the father answered, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Then Jesus drove out the evil spirit.

In both of these instances, the people involved were healed right away. It is because of their belief in God's power and authority. Sometimes, the most powerful faith is one that is simple and trusts in God completely. Today we may be praying for someone who has been ill for a long time. Although we may not always understand God's plan and timing, we are reminded in today's lesson to just believe. God will always provide for us.



## Bible Story

### **Elisha Does God's Work**

In the last lesson, we learned about a prophet called Elisha. He learned from Elijah, and after Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha continued to work for God. We learned that Elisha always passed by a certain town. So a family who loved God prepared a room for Elisha to stay in every time he came into this town. God saw how much this family loved Elisha, and so He blessed them with a baby boy. But after the baby grew into a boy, he suddenly died one day. The mother was very sad. She was so sad she ran to find Elisha. When Elisha heard that the boy had died, he went to see the boy. He prayed to God and stretched himself on top of the boy. Then the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha had raised the boy from the dead. He wasn't dead anymore. How was Elisha able to do that? God helped Elisha so that the boy could come back to life. Only God can perform miracles. And Elisha was a good worker for God. He always did things according to God's will.

Today we are going to hear about a man who needed God's help. This man came to Elisha to ask for help. Do you think Elisha was able to help him? Let's find out.

### **A Young Girl Is Taken Prisoner**

A long time ago, during the time when Elisha lived, Israel and Syria were enemy countries. That means the armies of Israel and Syria would fight with each other because they wanted each other's lands. Sometimes Israel would win, and sometimes Syria would win. When the army of Syria invaded Israel, the soldiers would burn down farm houses and steal crops. They also took some people of Israel back home to Syria and made them prisoners or slaves. That means they were not free to do anything. They could only work for the Syrians. In today's story, a girl who was only twelve years old was taken to Syria. She ended up in the house of a commander of the army. A commander of the army is someone who leads the soldiers. This commander's name was Naaman. This young girl worked for Naaman's wife. She had to do whatever Naaman's wife asked her to do. Every day, she worked in Naaman's home and took care of things.

### **Naaman Has Leprosy**

Naaman was a very important man because he had many soldiers who listened to him. He was probably very rich. He should have been happy because he could have whatever he wanted. But Naaman was not happy at all. He was sad. Do you know why he was so sad? He was sad because he was sick. He had a lot of sores on his skin. They came from a disease called leprosy. He was sad because no one or any medicine could make him well. Could the doctors make him well? No. Could his wife make him well? No. But someone knew how to help him. That person was the little servant girl. One day, the little girl told Naaman's wife that a man in Israel could make the commander well.

"If my master Naaman would go and see the prophet, then he would heal him of the leprosy," said the little girl to Naaman's wife. Who was this prophet this girl was talking about? This man was the prophet Elisha. When Naaman's wife heard this wonderful news, she told her husband. When Naaman heard the good news, he ran to tell the king. He wanted the king to give him permission to go to the enemy country and find Elisha.

"Well," said the king, "I will send you to see the king of Israel, and you can bring him a letter to tell him why you are going there."

The king of Syria wanted Naaman to be well too since he was such a good leader of the army.

### **Naaman Goes to See the King of Israel**

So Naaman traveled all the way to Israel. When the king of Israel got the letter from the king of Syria, he didn't know what to do.

"How can I make Naaman better?" asked the king of Israel.

But luckily, Elisha the prophet heard about the letter and Naaman.

He sent his servant to the king and told him, "Send Naaman to me. Then he will know that God is real."

So the king of Israel told Naaman to go see Elisha. Naaman got on his chariot and rode all the way to Elisha's house. When he stood at the door, Elisha sent his servant outside to see Naaman.

The servant told Naaman, "Go to the Jordan River. Wash in the water seven times and you'll be well again."

When Naaman heard this, he was really mad.

Naaman said, "I am not going into that muddy, dirty old river. I want Elisha to come out and call on God to make me better."

But Naaman's servants begged him to try it.

"What Elisha is asking you to do is so simple. You just need to go and wash yourself. Why don't you try it?" they asked.

Naaman thought for a while. At first he was really angry because he expected Elisha to come out and do something amazing to make him better.

But then he thought, "Maybe I should do what the prophet tells me to do."

So he quickly rode to the river.

### Naaman Obeys and Is Healed

When Naaman came to the river, he did just as Elisha told him to. He dipped into the water one time, two times, three times, four times, five times, six times. Each time he probably wondered, "Will this really make me well?" Then on the seventh time, after he came out of the water, he looked at his skin. It was completely clean. There were no more sores.

Naaman probably said to his servants, "Look at me! I'm well! I'm finally well!"

Right after he was healed, Naaman went back to see Elisha.

"Now I know that the Lord is the one true God,

and from now on, I'm going to worship the Lord only," said Naaman to Elisha.

Elisha was pleased that Naaman had listened to him, and God healed him of his skin disease. Elisha told Naaman to go home in peace.

### We Can Preach and Obey

In today's story, we learned two important things. The first was how the little servant girl told Naaman about God. She was brave and shared what she knew about God with Naaman. If she hadn't said anything, maybe Naaman would never have heard about God and would have stayed sick forever. We can also be brave like the girl and tell others about God and His love. That is called preaching.

The second thing we learned is that Naaman obeyed God, and God healed him. Actually, in the beginning, Naaman didn't want to listen and do what Elisha told him to. He thought what Elisha was asking him to do was silly. He wanted something amazing to happen instead. But we learned that it's always wise to obey the Lord. Even though we may not always understand everything, we know that God only does what is best for us. Our job is to obey and do what pleases God. Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him all the time.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Naaman?** (He was the commander of the Syrian army.)
2. **What kind of sickness did Naaman have?** (He had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. He had sores all over his skin.)
3. **Who told Naaman about Elisha?** (The little girl from Israel.)
4. **What did Naaman do once he heard about Elisha?** (He went to see the king of Syria, who told him to see the king of Israel.)
5. **Could the king of Israel heal Naaman?** (No, only God can heal people.)
6. **What did Elisha's servant tell Naaman to**

**do?** (He told him to wash himself in the Jordan River seven times.)

7. **Naaman was mad at first, but what did he do after his servants talked to him?** (He obeyed.)
8. **What did Naaman say when he was healed?** (He said he knew there was a God in Israel, and he would worship Him.)
9. **How can we be like the little girl and tell others about God? Who do we know that we can tell them about God?** (Let students respond. Some possible answers: grandparents, siblings, a neighbor, a good friend, etc.)
10. **What can you do to obey God?** (Let students respond.)



## Life Application Story

### Going to Africa

Cathy stopped by the store with her mom on the way home from school. She wanted to buy a special gift for her father. This was because her father was a pastor, and he was going to Africa the next day. He was going there to tell people about Jesus. He would be there for one whole month.

Cathy decided to buy her father a pen. It would remind him to write letters to her. When Cathy got home, her father was already packing.

"Daddy, I'm home," Cathy called out.

"Hello, Cathy," Pastor Hayes replied from his room. "How was your day?"

"Good," Cathy said as she walked to the bedroom. "Can I help you?"

"You sure can. How about you get my toothbrush?"

Cathy went to the bathroom and got her dad's toothbrush.

"Daddy, why do you have to go away for so long?" Cathy asked.

"Africa is a big place and it is far away. We need time to go and tell people about Jesus," Cathy's father explained. "Not everyone knows about Jesus there."

"Can I go with you one day, when I am bigger?" Cathy asked.

"I am sure that someday you'll be able to go to far-off places to tell people about Jesus too," Cathy's father said. "But you don't have to go to far away places. There are people right here you can talk to about Jesus."

"Who?" asked Cathy.

"There are a lot of our neighbors who don't know about Jesus," Pastor Hayes said. "And some of your friends don't know Jesus either."

"I guess. But how can I tell them about Jesus?" asked Cathy.

"Well, you don't have to give a long talk the way I do in the church. You can just remember to pray before you eat at school, or when a friend invites you to a birthday party on a Saturday, make sure you tell them why you can't go. When you do these things, you are telling others that God is important to you and that is the same as preaching-what I do," explained Pastor Hayes.

"Oh," said Cathy. "I guess I can do that. But sometimes I forget to pray before I eat at school."

"Well, you can start tomorrow and try hard to remember," suggested Pastor Hayes.

He zipped up his bag. "It looks like I'm all done packing."

"No!" Cathy said. "You forgot one thing."

She reached into her pocket and took out the pen. "This is for you so you'll remember to write to me," Cathy said.

Cathy's father gave her a big hug. "I would never forget."

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Cathy's father going to Africa?** (He was going there to preach the good news.)
2. **What does it mean to preach the good news?** (It means telling others about Jesus and how they can be saved.)
3. **Who are some people you can talk to about Jesus?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What else can we do to share Jesus with others?** (Allow students to share. Remind them that their actions and words can also tell others they believe in Jesus. If they are nice, share and speak kind words, that shows others Jesus is living inside of them. They can also use opportunities (e.g. saying grace, not celebrating Halloween or Christmas) to talk about their beliefs.



## Activity 1

### Naaman Is Healed

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in

the third one and a 4 in the last picture.

1. The young girl tells Naaman's wife about Elisha.
2. Elisha tells Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan.
3. Naaman goes to wash in the Jordan.
4. Naaman returns to thank God and Elisha.



## Activity 2

### **Who Is Following the Instructions?**

Look at each set of pictures. Talk about who is following the instructions.



## Activity 3

### **Thanks to God**

In today's lesson, we learned that a man called Naaman was healed because he listened to God. After he became well, he thanked Elisha and God. Sing the following song to help the students remember the story and learn to praise God.

(Sung to the tune of Mulberry Bush)

**Seven baths did Naaman take, Naaman take,  
Naaman take.**

**Seven baths did Naaman take, count them all right  
now (count to seven).**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, Naaman's well,  
Naaman well.**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, count them all  
right now (count to seven).**

**Thanks to God who made him well, made him well,  
made him well.**

**Thanks to God who made him well, Alleluia!**



Activity 12:1

**Naaman is Healed**

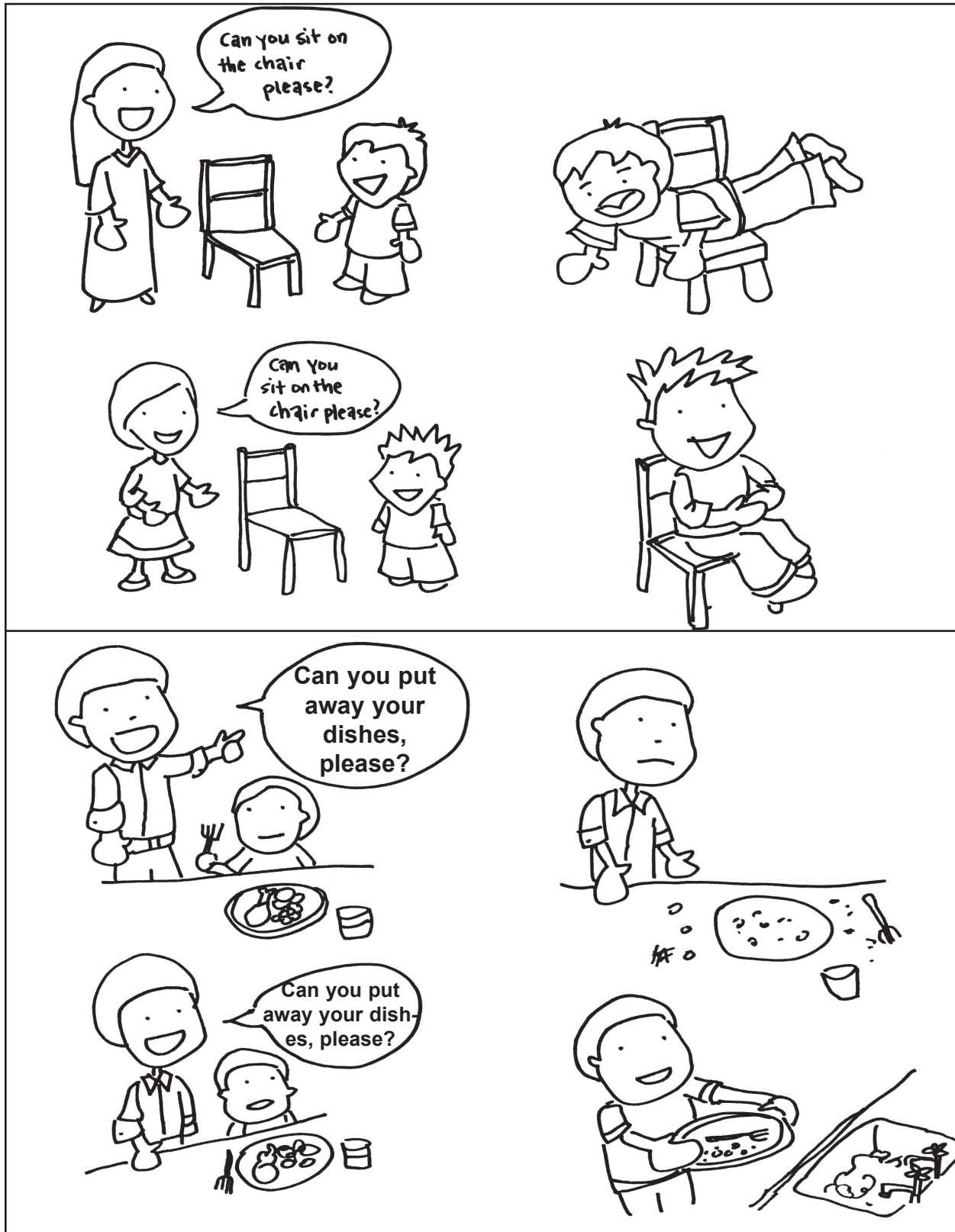
Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in the third one and a 4 in the last picture.



Activity 12:2

### Who Is Following the Instructions?

Look at each set of pictures. Who is following instructions?





### Who Am I?

1. My mother brought me to the tabernacle to learn from Eli when I was just a young boy. (Samuel.)
2. I was the first king of Israel. (King Saul.)
3. I was a shepherd and played the harp for King Saul. (David.)
4. I was the giant who challenged the Israelite army. (Goliath.)
5. My father was King Saul. I was also David's best friend. (Jonathan.)
6. I was the son of David and I asked God for wisdom. (Solomon.)
7. I was a prophet of God and God sent ravens to feed me. (Elijah.)
8. At first, I was Elijah's helper. Then I became a prophet and even raised a boy from the dead. (Elisha.)
9. I was a great commander of the Syrian army. God healed me of my leprosy. (Naaman.)
10. I told my master's wife about Elisha so that he could get some help for his leprosy. (The young girl from Israel.)

### Short Answers

1. What did Samuel do to anoint Saul and David as kings? (He poured oil on their heads as a way to tell them God had special jobs for them.)
2. What were some things David did while he was waiting to be the king? (He was a shepherd, he played the harp for Saul, he killed Goliath, he was best friends with Jonathan.)
3. Who did David say gave him the power to kill Goliath? (David knew that God was the one who gave him power and helped him kill Goliath.)
4. What did Jonathan do to show David that they were best friends? (He gave him many

gifts and helped David escape from his father.)

5. Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom? (He wanted God to help him be a good king.)
6. What did Solomon say to God after he built the temple? (He praised God and gave thanks to Him. He also asked God to help the people follow His teachings.)
7. Why did God tell Elijah to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain for a long time? (He wanted King Ahab to know that only the true God could control the weather and all creation.)
8. Both Elijah and Elisha were God's prophets. They performed many miracles. Where did they get their power from? (They got their power from God. They trusted God and God helped them.)
9. Why did Naaman get angry when Elisha's servant told him to go wash in the River Jordan? (He wanted Elisha to do something amazing. He did not expect Elisha to ask him to go wash in a river.)
10. Why did Naaman get completely better at the end? (He obeyed God and did as Elisha asked.)

### Act It Out

To review some of the stories, plan some simple dramas/plays the students could role-play. There are a number of stories in this quarter's lessons that lend themselves to role-playing (e.g. David and Goliath, Naaman's leprosy). Make sure the dialogue is simple. The teacher may wish to bring in some props to make the plays more engaging. Do take time to review the important aspects of the stories and most importantly, have a good time.