

LESSON 3

ELIJAH RESTORES A BOY TO LIFE THROUGH GOD'S POWER

OBJECTIVES

1. To know that we need to turn to God's presence and His power in times of crisis.
2. To remember that we need to trust in God and His will to be done.
3. To understand that God has the power to raise us from the dead.

MEMORY VERSE

“And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.”

(1 Corinthians 6:14)

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for bringing us once again into Your presence to worship and praise You. Thank You, Lord, for allowing us to experience peaceful times as well as tough times. Although we often do not understand why sad and painful things happen—things that cause us to be sad, angry, worried and without hope—in the midst of these bad times, You are always by our side, guiding and comforting us. Help us to hold fast to our faith during trials and give us the wisdom to learn the lessons that You want us to learn so that we may grow and become more perfect.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. A Crisis in the Widow's House
- b. God Gives Trials to Stretch Our Faith
- c. Elijah Prays
- d. The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

3. Life Application

- a. God Has the Power to Resurrect
- b. Strengthening Our Faith Muscles

4. Activity—Resurrection Bingo



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Resurrection and Transformation

The examples of resurrection in the Bible are reminders to the believers of the great and extraordinary event that will occur at the Lord's coming. By the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, God will raise believers who have died. Just as the Lord Jesus was raised to a spiritual body, believers will also be clothed with a spiritual body—glorious, powerful, and immortal. Those who are alive will be caught up in the clouds and shall meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever (1 Thess 4:16-17; 1 Cor 15:51-52; Phil 3:20-21).



Reaching Out to Your Students

Everyone goes through tough times in life. It's important to let our students know that trials and difficulties are ways that God uses to refine us. Have students talk about some of the tough times that they might have faced, such as the death of a loved one, difficulties in school, problems with friends, or the sickness of a family member. However, be sensitive of those who do not wish to share. Help our students realize that in the same way that teachers give homework or exams to promote academic growth and responsibility, God, too, uses trials in life to train and strengthen our faith.

Instead of challenging, resisting, or complaining during hard times, encourage students to think of lessons that they can learn from them. Remind them that God will not abandon them but will carry them through it. Students can be encouraged to read the examples of Bible characters to see how they dealt with difficult times. They can also be encouraged to express their feelings through journaling or drawing. Inspire the other students to show love and concern through praying for those under trial.



Opener

5 Minutes

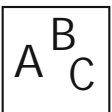
Before class, prepare samples of polished stones and unpolished stones. Polished stones can be obtained in craft stores. Have your students pass them around and compare the colors, texture, and possible uses of the polished and unpolished stones. Write up their observations on the board. Then, continue with the teaching.

Rocks are made up of combinations of one or more minerals, which give them their color. You can notice that the polished stones exhibit beautiful colors, and they are smooth to the touch. They could be collected for people to admire or made into beautiful jewelry to be worn.

As for the unpolished stones, their colors are not as enhanced; they are rough to the touch and may have sharp angles and edges that can cut you. Unpolished stones are commonly used to cover the ground, where they are trampled on, or used for making buildings or roads.

To transform them from common rough stones into beautiful stones, stones go through refinement processes, such as tumbling, cutting, and polishing. Similarly, God sometimes allow us to undergo trials where we are polished and transformed so that over time, we become more like our Lord Jesus.

In today's lesson, we will learn how Elijah and the widow of Zarephath underwent a great trial and the lessons that God wanted them to learn.



Vocabulary

resurrect: (v.) to bring back to life; to come back to life

mortal: (adj.) certain to cause death



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. As you go over the story, pause to allow the students to complete the worksheet. The answers are underlined.

A Crisis in the Widow's House

Last week, we learned how Elijah was sent to the house of a widow from Zarephath. The widow was desperately poor as she only had a handful of flour and a little oil left—only enough for a last meal for her son and her. Even though Elijah knew that she only had so much flour and oil, he still asked her to make bread for him, reassuring her that the flour and oil would not run out until the drought ended. Because of her love and her faith in Elijah's words, the widow had the courage to make bread for Elijah first, instead of herself. Consequently, the widow was able to experience God's grace and blessings. For the duration of the famine, the widow was able to eat daily of the flour and oil that did not run dry. Today, we will continue to learn about Elijah and the widow.

After a period of peace and blessings, a crisis occurred in the widow's household. What was this sad and terrible thing that happened? Let's read 1 Kings 17:17. The son of the widow became ill. The illness was so severe that the boy died.

Have you ever experienced losing something or someone that you love very much? How did you feel when it happened? How did you react? How do you think the widow must have felt when she saw her son getting worse with each day? And how do you think she felt the moment he died? What emotions do you think the widow was feeling at the time? (She might have felt angry, extreme sadness, lost, empty, helpless, hopeless, and desperate. As a mother, she would have had wonderful dreams for her son; she would have wanted to see him grow up and be a great person. Now that he had gone, she would have felt very disappointed and lonely. She even might have wanted to die, too.)

Let's read 1 Kings 17:18. Based on what the widow said to Elijah, what can we learn about her feelings?

1. She felt angry. "What have I to do with you, O man of God?"

The widow was angry and she asked Elijah, "What did I do to you that has caused you to treat me in this way?"

2. She had some guilt. "Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance?"

The widow thought that Elijah must have known of her past sins and that she was being punished because of them. The Bible does not mention what her past sins were, but she felt guilty and believed that this was a punishment for her sins.

3. She placed the blame on Elijah. "And to kill my son?"

The widow felt that Elijah had caused her son to die. If he had not come, then all this would not have happened. Because of Elijah, her whole world had come collapsed, and she had lost the person dearest to her.

God Gives Trials to Stretch Our Faith

God had been providing for the widow and her son throughout the famine. She had been experiencing God's miracle and power but suddenly, all of it was taken from her. Her peaceful and joyful world had suddenly become dark, hopeless, and full of despair. Sometimes in our lives, we find that even though we trust and obey God, we too will meet with trials and afflictions that rob us of our peace and joy.

- a. God was not trying to hurt the widow by taking her son. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." When bad things happen, it is hard to believe that God is still there and that He loves us. We may wonder, "If God loves us, then why does He allow such things to happen? Why does He bring such pain?"

God used the trial to allow the widow to know Him better. Sometimes when we live in peace and grace, it is easy to take God's blessings for granted. We may become ungrateful and complacent in drawing closer to God. But when tribulations and difficulties arise, we start to think about our faith, our past actions, and our relationship with God.

- b. God is in control of life and death. He is in control even in the most painful moments of our lives. When we are most hopeless and have no control of the situation, we need to remember that God will not abandon us. He will carry us through the difficult times.

Elijah Prays

As Elijah looked at the grieving mother and heard all the pain in her heart, Elijah simply said to the widow, "Give me your son." He then tenderly took the child out of the mother's arms and carried the boy up to his own room where he stayed. Elijah laid the boy down on his bed and then began to pray.

Let's read 1 Kings 17:20-22. Elijah knew that God was the only one who could solve the crisis. Let's see how Elijah prayed to God.

To begin, Elijah asked God a question. "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" Elijah didn't understand why God would bring tragedy on the widow by taking away her son. The first tragedy that occurred was the crisis of famine that fell upon Israel, and even the widow and the son were not spared from the suffering.

Elijah wondered why God would bring even more tragedy upon her house. When we meet with troubles, it is natural to ask why. Elijah was a man just like us (Jas 5:17), and he too wanted to understand. It is fine to ask God about things that we do not understand, just as a child would ask a father. However, when we ask, we should not have doubt in our hearts, and we need to wait for God's answers.

Although Elijah asked of God, he did not doubt. He continued to pray. How did Elijah pray?

Elijah stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." Let us examine Elijah's prayer and what happened as a result of it.

- a. Elijah fully believed that God was an almighty and powerful God. He knew that life and death are in the hands of God; He can kill and He can make alive. Even though at that time, Elijah could not have

read about a recorded instance of someone who had been raised from the dead, Elijah grasped the greatness and power of God by asking for the impossible. He asked God to resurrect the boy. God heard Elijah for his tremendous faith in Him and for his love and compassion for the widow.

- b. Elijah stretched himself on top of the child. This may seem a rather strange way of praying, but Elijah put himself fully in the shoes of the dead son and his mother. He prayed with all his might and being. Later on, Elisha, Elijah's successor, also resurrected the son of another widow, and he prayed in the same manner (2 Kgs 4:32-35).
- c. God answered Elijah's earnest prayer; the soul of the boy returned to his body and he was made alive.

Elijah was human like us, but he was able to pray so that miracles happened. We, too, can have the same experience as Elijah. Through prayer, we can change a situation that appears dark and utterly hopeless to one of hope, joy, and thanksgiving. James 5:17-18 says that Elijah prayed and the whole land did not rain for three and a half years because of the sins of the Israelites (cf. Ps 107:33-35). He prayed again and the rain came down and the earth produced fruit once again.

The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

When Elijah took the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother. We can only imagine how joyful she must have been when she saw her son, alive again! What impact did her son's resurrection have on the widow? Read 1 Kings 17:24. The woman said, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

God used this crisis to convince the widow that Elijah was a true man of God. He spoke the truth of God, and God listened to him. She came to really know the God of Israel.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

The true God came down from heaven and took the form of a Man, the Lord Jesus. Jesus came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God, but later He was crucified and died on the cross. But the Lord rose on the third day, victorious over sin and death. Because Jesus is God, He has the power to save mankind from sin and death so that our souls can resurrect and be reborn.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

- 1. Those who are under grace and blessings will not face trials and afflictions.** False; God allows trials to happen so that we can be transformed.
- 2. The only reason why we face trials is because God is punishing us for our sins.** False; God wants to help strengthen our faith and our relationship with Him.
- 3. After her son was resurrected, the widow realized that God was the true God and that Elijah was a true man of God.** True.
- 4. God allows us to face difficulties so that our faith and trust in God will grow and we can become more perfect.** True.
- 5. The widow blamed herself for her son's death because she was not able to provide enough for him to eat.** False; she blamed Elijah for the boy's death.

Short Answer

- 6. What can we learn from the way Elijah prayed for the dead boy?** Elijah did not doubt God's power to resurrect the boy. Elijah also prayed unceasingly until the boy came back to life.
- 7. How did this experience of praying for the dead boy help prepare Elijah for his future trials?** Possible answer: His faith in God was strengthened.
- 8. Miracles are only a prayer away. Share a time when a difficult problem was resolved through prayer.** Allow students to share.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. GOD HAS THE POWER TO RESURRECT

From our story today, we learned that the widow's son fell sick and died. When a person's soul leaves his body, the person dies. Later when Elijah prayed for the boy, the soul of the boy returned to his body, and he was able to live again. This is physical resurrection. Read the Bible passages to find out who else resurrected from the dead.

1 Kings 17:17-23

2 Kings 4:18-37

2 Kings 13:20-21

Luke 7:11-15

Luke 8:49-55

John 11:39-44

Acts 9:36-41

Acts 20:9-10

Matthew 28:5-6

The widow of Zarephath's son

The Shunammite woman's son

The man who resurrected upon touching Elisha's bones

The son of the widow from Nain

Jairus' daughter

Lazarus

Dorcas

Eutychus

Jesus

What does the resurrection mean to me?

The Future Resurrection

Even though most of these characters resurrected in their lifetime, they all eventually died like everyone else because they had mortal bodies, and, as humans, they did not have the power to overcome death.

With the Lord Jesus it was different. After Jesus was crucified on the cross, He rose again on the third day and never died again. Jesus has power over death. When He resurrected Jesus did not resurrect in the same form as His previous physical body, but rather in a spiritual body that is glorious and imperishable.

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Today our Lord Jesus is alive! Because of His resurrection, Jesus has given us a new and living hope (1 Pet 1:3). If Jesus had not overcome death, our faith would be meaningless, and we would have no hope of salvation. Jesus' resurrection is a reminder and a hope to all the believers that, on the last day, God—who raised Jesus from the dead—will also raise us from the dead (2 Cor 4:14). Through the power and might of the Holy Spirit, our physical body will resurrect and be transformed into a spiritual body that is powerful, glorious, and immortal (1 Cor 6:14).

Resurrection into a New Creation

When we are baptized, our old self, our body of sin, is destroyed and dies. When we rise out of the water, we resurrect into a new creation in the likeness of Christ. We no longer belong to sin but have the life, holiness, and righteousness of Christ.

However, though we are a new man after our baptism, we still live in our physical bodies. We continue to have weaknesses, bad habits, and sin against God. However, God understands our nature, so He has given us His Spirit. The very Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living inside of us, and it is He who gives us life, strength, and power to overcome our weaknesses so that we can strive for perfection (Rom 8:11). What a marvelous blessing and grace this is!

2. STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH MUSCLES

Have you ever played sports or been part of a team, such as a baseball team or basketball team? When you are an athlete, you will realize that to be good at the game or to stay competitive, it is important to spend a number of hours training. The practice trains and strengthens our body so that we can have greater flexibility, move faster and more freely, and play more skillfully.

Imagine what happens if we don't train and use our muscles? What would happen if we just sat around all day? Yes, our muscles will atrophy; they will get smaller, we will get weaker, and our performance would suffer.

It is the same with our faith. Faith is a lot like a muscle—it needs proper food and exercise. In addition to feeding our faith through God's words and praying, God gives us many opportunities to build up our faith muscles so that we become stronger and stronger.

Without these trials, our faith can become sluggish and we will lose focus in life. Each trial makes us stronger and more skillful in fighting against sin and our enemy Satan.

From our lesson, we have learned that God used the trial to strengthen Elijah's prayer muscles. No one attains the perfection of a Christian overnight. No one receives God's power in one or two prayers. Elijah was a man just like us, and he, too, had to be trained in how to pray so that he could be equipped for greater trials that followed.

Immediately after praying for the widow's son, Elijah had to battle alone with the false prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. No one stood on Elijah's side; the Israelites had turned to Baal. For the challenge, Elijah and the prophets of Baal each had to pray to their god to send fire from heaven to burn up the sacrifices. The God who answered would be the true God. The 450 prophets of Baal went first and no matter how hard they prayed, not a single spark came down from heaven to light the sacrifices. It was then Elijah's turn. Because Elijah had the previous experience of resurrecting a dead boy, Elijah believed without a doubt that God would be able to "give life" to the Israelites and cause their hearts to turn back to God. God answered Elijah's prayer and the people of Israel returned to worshipping God.

Immediately after this, another prayer trial awaited Elijah. Elijah had to pray for rain. After three and half years of drought where no crops grew and the land was dry and barren, it was hard to imagine that rain would fall. This time, Elijah prayed not three times, but seven times, for rain. Because of Elijah's complete dedication and faith in prayer, God caused a terrific rainstorm to occur.

1. In which areas do you need to train your faith muscles?

- a. Difficult situation – family problem, health concern, difficulty at school or with schoolwork, etc.
- b. Getting out of a comfort zone – setting a time to pray and read the Bible each day, sharing the gospel with someone, getting rid of a bad habit, obeying parents, changing a weakness in our character, etc.

2. What good things can come from the training?

- Have a deeper knowledge of God
- Trust God more
- Our faith is refined
- We can help others through trials
- For God's glory
- Helps us overcome greater trials

3. What steps can you take to help you become stronger?

Testimony

A Drowned Child Was Brought to Life

One day, two-year-old Fei-Wa, together with her five-year-old sister and another friend, went to play in the pool behind the house. They scooped up water to feed the cricket they had with them. Suddenly, Fei-Wa fell into the pool. Fei-Wa's sister did not dare to return home to report what had happened, but the little friend who was with them quickly ran to their house to inform the parents. On hearing the bad news, Fei-Wa's oldest sister ran as fast as she could to investigate.

It so happened that a farmer who was tilling the ground near the pool heard a cry from a washerwoman who had discovered the body. Without any hesitation, he rushed to find out the cause of the cry and together they lifted up the drowned child. The farmer was carrying the dead girl home when he saw Fei-Wa's oldest daughter running towards them, and they brought Fei-Wa home.

In the eyes of a doctor, Fei-Wa's condition was hopeless because Fei-Wa had been under the water for a long time. Her pulse had stopped, her body was cold, her face was pale, and the pupils of her eyes were dilated. In fact, there was no hope of reviving her at all.

Fei-Wa's father however, did not want to give up hope of saving his daughter and being a doctor, he was duty-bound to save her. He used different ways, such as artificial respiration and injections, to try to bring her back to life, but it was no use. She was dead.

When it seemed that there was no hope, Fei-Wa's parents turned to God for help. Together with other church members, who had arrived upon hearing the sad news, they knelt down and pleaded to God for mercy. Outside their house, many unbelievers stopped to look at what was happening. When they saw them praying fervently to God, they murmured among themselves, "How ridiculous and superstitious of them to pray for the revival of a dead child. If they can, through prayers, bring back the life of this child, we would definitely believe that Jesus is indeed the living God."

Although it seemed impossible in the eyes of men, nothing is impossible to God. Thanks to the Lord Jesus for His mercy and grace, their prayers were answered. God manifested His power and brought Fei-Wa back to life. In John 11:25 the Lord Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; when a person is resurrected, he will still experience a second death.
2. True
3. False; the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Spirit that abides in us.
4. False; those who are under God's grace can still face trials and afflictions.
5. True
6. Jesus, Lazarus, the son of the widow from Zarephath, the Shunammite woman's son, Dorcas, Jairus' daughter, Eutychus, the son of the widow of Nain, the man who touched Elijah's bones
7. It means that we can have faith that He can bring us salvation because He has power over death.
8. Elijah's experience with prayer and faith in God was strengthened; he prayed fervently and without doubt in God's power.
9. Answers may vary.



Activity

Resurrection Bingo

10-15 Minutes

Materials

- Blank bingo sheet [Make 4 x 4 template with title "Resurrection Bingo"]
- Markers
- Word list
- Clue list

Instructions

1. Write the word list on the board. Hand out the blank bingo sheet to the students and have them fill in the blank squares using the words in the word list. They can fill the sheet in any way they wish.
2. Randomly read out the clues and have the students cross out the correct answers on their sheet.
3. The goal is to try to get four in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. The first student that gets four in a row calls out "Resurrection" and double-checks with the teacher for confirmation that they have crossed out the correct answers.
4. If time permits, play another game. Students can use different markers for a new game to recycle the bingo sheet.

Word List

- Resurrection
- Crisis
- Man of God
- Imperishable
- Seven times
- Faith muscles
- Lazarus
- Dorcas
- Power over death
- Three times
- Baptism
- Jesus
- Trials
- Shunammite woman
- New creation
- Spiritual body

Clue List

Clue	Answer
The first person to resurrect and not die again.	Jesus
The widow of Zarephath recognized Elijah to be this.	Man of God
Trials and difficulties strengthen these.	Faith muscles
Elijah prayed this many times for rain.	Seven times
This is what happens when the soul of a dead person returns to his body.	Resurrection
He was dead for four days before he was resurrected.	Lazarus
God uses these to perfect our faith.	Trials
Jesus did not go through a physical death after His resurrection because He had this.	Power over death
Our old self dies and is buried during this.	Baptism
She had the same experience as the widow in today's story.	Shunammite woman
Elijah prayed this many times for the dead boy.	Three times
In the future, we will resurrect into a body that is this.	Immortal
After a period of peace and grace, the widow of Zarephath met with this	Crisis
She was known for her good deeds and for the clothes she made for others. She also died and resurrected.	Dorcas
While everyone else resurrected back into a physical body, Jesus resurrected into this kind of body.	Spiritual body
During baptism, after we rise out of the water, we become this.	New creation

ELIJAH RESTORES A BOY TO LIFE THROUGH GOD'S POWER

A. A Crisis in the Widow's House

a. After a period of peace and blessings, what crisis occurred in the widow's home?

b. How did the widow feel? Read 1 Kings 17:18.

1. "What have I to do with you, O man of God?" _____
2. "Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance?" _____
3. "And to kill my son?" _____



B. God Gives Us Trials to Stretch Our Faith

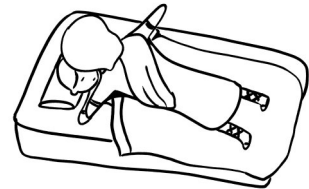
a. God gives us trials to help us think about our _____, our _____ and our _____ with _____.

b. God is in _____ of _____ and _____.

C. Elijah Prays

How did Elijah pray for the dead boy? Read 1 Kings 17:20-22.

1. Elijah _____ God why this happened, but he did not _____ God.
2. Elijah _____ himself out on the child _____ times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's _____ come back to him."
3. Elijah prayed until God _____ his prayers.



D. The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

God used this crisis to convince the widow that Elijah was a _____ of _____ . He spoke the _____ of God, and God _____ to him.



1. GOD HAS THE POWER TO RESURRECT

A. Look up the Bible passages to find out who resurrected from the dead.

- 1 Kings 17:17-23 _____
- 2 Kings 4:18-37 _____
- 2 Kings 13:20-21 _____
- Luke 7:11-15 _____
- Luke 8:49-55 _____
- John 11:39-44 _____
- Acts 9:36-41 _____
- Acts 20:9-10 _____
- Matthew 28:5-6 _____



B. What does the resurrection mean to me?

The Future Resurrection

With Jesus Second Coming, God who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us from the dead (2 Cor 4:14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our physical body will resurrect and be transformed into a spiritual body that is powerful, glorious and immortal (1 Cor 6:14).



Resurrection into a New Creation

When we are baptized, our body of sin dies and is buried. When we rise out of the water, we resurrect into a new creation in the likeness of Christ.

2. STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH MUSCLES

1. In which areas do you need to train your faith muscles?

2. What good things can come from the training?

3. What steps can you take to help you become stronger?



Resurrection Bingo



E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 3—Elijah Restores a Boy to Life through God's Power

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Corinthians 6:14)

True or False

1. _____ Resurrection is when the soul of a dead person returns to his physical body and he lives forever afterwards.
2. _____ When we are baptized, our old self dies and our soul then resurrects to be a new creation in Christ.
3. _____ The Spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead is different from the one that lives in us today.
4. _____ Those who are under God's grace and blessings will not face trials and afflictions.
5. _____ We face trials so that our faith and trust in God will grow and so that we can become more perfect.

Short Answer

6. Name three people who resurrected in the Bible.
7. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you today?
8. How did the experience of praying for the dead boy help prepare Elijah for his future trials?
9. Miracles are only a prayer away. Share a time when you had a difficult problem that was solved through prayer.