

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.

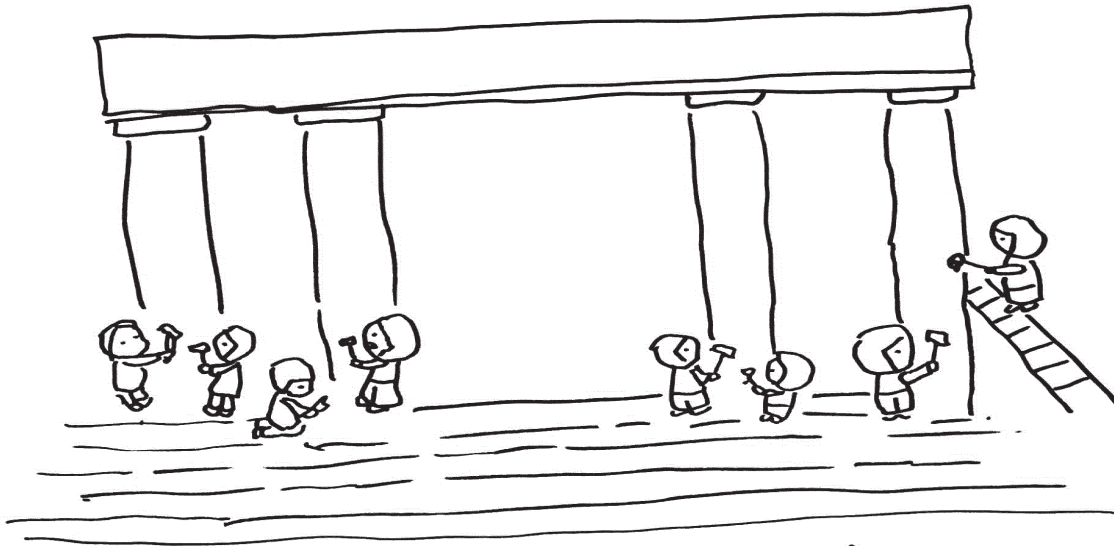
Please help me, Lord
 So that I may know
 The kinds of things
 That can help me grow.

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
_____.



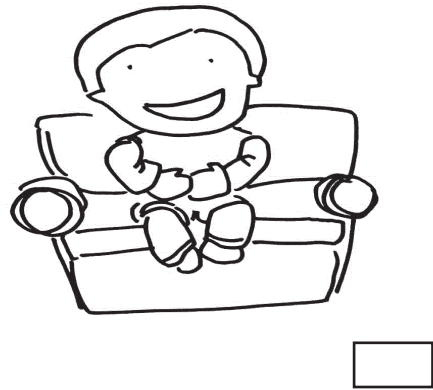
Activity 8:2

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>YES NO</p>	 <p>YES NO</p>
 <p>YES NO</p>	 <p>YES NO</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:

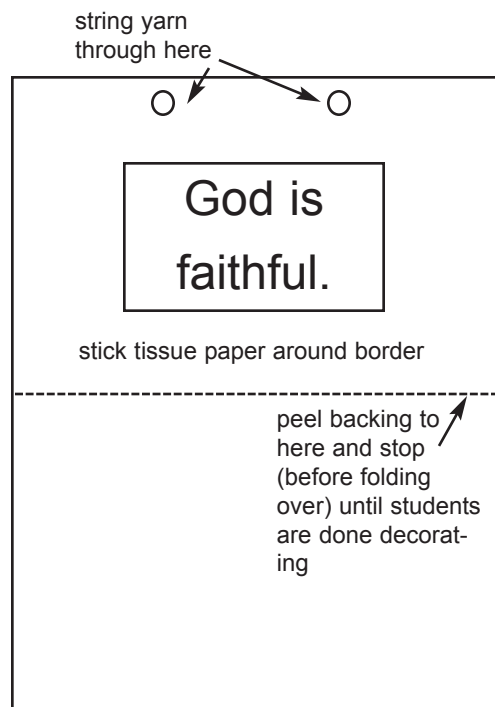
1. clear, self-adhesive paper (16x12 inch pieces)
2. assorted tissue paper
3. blank paper (4x6 inch pieces)
4. markers
5. hole punch
6. yarn
7. scissors

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.

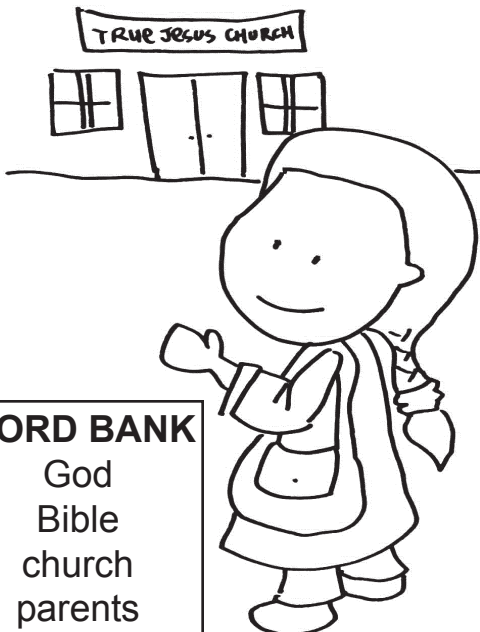
1. We can show our faith by praying to ___ and for the Holy Spirit.



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.)

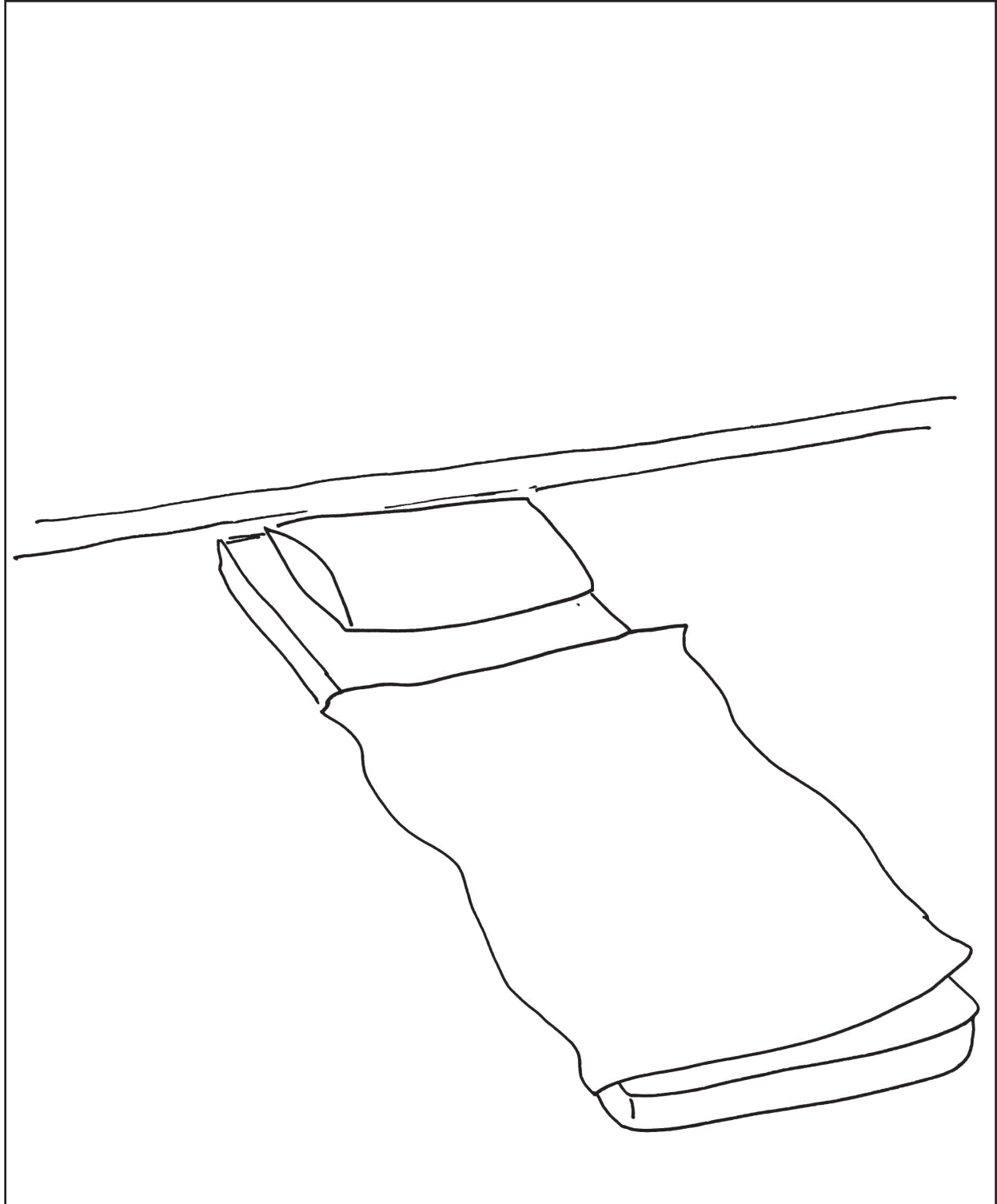
enough blocks so that they can build a room for Elisha.

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.



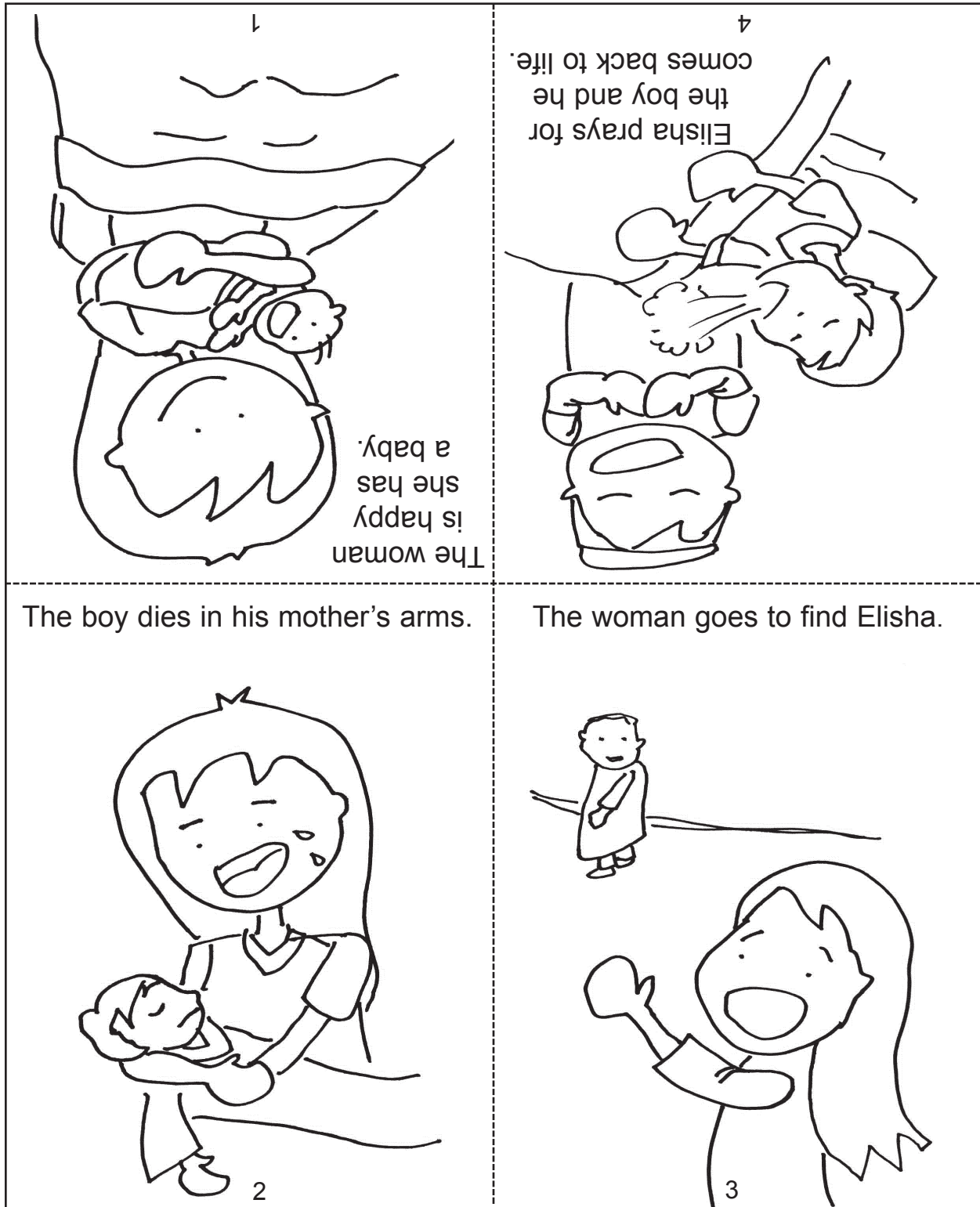
Activity 11:2

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.

Elisha prays for
the boy and he
comes back to life.

The boy dies in his mother's arms.

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)

