

LESSON 10

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S SON

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Shunammite Woman

Shunem was a city located in central Israel. Whenever Elisha traveled south to the towns of Samaria or Gilgal, he would pass through Shunem. And when he headed north to Mount Carmel, he would pass through Shunem again.

The Shunammite woman knew that Elisha was a man of God. She demonstrated her love for God and her hospitality by preparing a room for Elisha on the house's flat roof. During the summer, families used these rooms for sleeping.

God rewarded her love and hospitality toward Elisha by giving her a son.

Raised from the Dead

God is omnipotent. Everything is under His control, including death.

Previously, we studied how Elijah resurrected a boy through prayer, demonstrating God's power. Today's lesson also demonstrates God's control over death through Elisha's resurrection of the Shunammite woman's son. Elijah and Elisha performed these miracles by praying to God and then lying on top of the dead boys.

The New Testament also records numerous episodes of people being resurrected. Jesus resurrected three people: a boy (Lk 7:14-15), a girl (Lk 8:52-56), and Lazarus (Jn 11:38-44). Peter also resurrected a woman (Acts 9:40-41), and Paul resurrected Eutychus (Acts 20:9-12).

To perform these miracles, Jesus, Peter, and Paul prayed to God and had faith in His power over death. This shows us that prayer and faith were essential components in performing these miracles.

Showing Hospitality

The Bible emphasizes the importance of hospitality. It gives many examples of hospitable people, such as Abraham, Lydia, Gaius, Aquila, and Priscilla.

God commanded the Israelites to be hospitable, too: "Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut 10:19). Thus, welcoming strangers into one's home and offering them food was a common practice. Strangers were treated as honored guests.

In the early years of the church, the believers welcomed and fed traveling prophets, evangelists, and teachers, but nowadays, this custom is becoming uncommon. Today's society is increasingly individualistic and self-centered. As a result, society is less hospitable.

We must resist this trend and practice the welcoming and receiving of others. We do not need an extravagant house or wealth to be hospitable. Even if we only have a table and two chairs, people will still appreciate our kindness.

The Bible tells us that God will reward us for our hospitality.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 4:8-37

BIBLE TRUTH

God loves and blesses those who share willingly.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To emphasize the importance of demonstrating hospitality.
2. To strengthen the students' understanding of God's power over life and death.

MEMORY VERSE

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

(1 John 3:18)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely through another week so that we can come to church and listen to Your words and to pray. Lord Jesus, You love us very much because You died on the cross for our sins. The Bible tells us that we should love others just as You love us. Help us to obey Your commands because sometimes we find it difficult to love and share. Give us the strength to be like You, so we can also love everyone around us. We praise and thank You, Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

In Matthew 10:40-42, the Lord Jesus assures us:

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward."

And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Hebrews 13:2 also reminds us not to "forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unknowingly entertained angels."

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Love is a very abstract word. It cannot easily be defined. It is not something concrete that can be touched.

For your students, it can be hard for them to understand what love is. They may associate love with hugging and wanting to be with that person. But it is important to share with them some of the ways they can show love because it is one of God's most important commandments. In 1 John 3:18, it records that we should not "love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Sometimes, it is hard to think of ways to help people.

Life often becomes so busy that helping people is not a priority anymore. Remind your students that Jesus wants them to be His helpers. They can show their love by sharing with others, just like the Shunammite woman who shared her home and her food.

Your students can share their love in other ways, too. They can help do simple chores around the house to show that they love their family. They can also pray to God and ask Him to guide all of His children.

VOCABULARY

wealthy: to be very rich; to have a lot of money and material possessions

reapers: people who work in the fields and gather the harvest

staff: a shepherd's walking stick

hospitality: kind and loving treatment of guests and strangers who come to your house

resurrect: to raise from the dead

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Elisha the prophet helped a widow who was in debt. A man came to her house to collect the money she owed but she had nothing to give him. So, he said that he would take her sons away to be slaves.

She was very sad and she rushed to Elisha to ask for help. What did Elisha ask her to do? (To go to her neighbors' houses and borrow as many empty jars as she could.)

After gathering the jars, Elisha told her to go into her room with her sons and pour oil from her little jar into the borrowed ones. What happened as the woman poured the oil? (The oil did not run out until she had filled the very last jar.)

Elisha then instructed her to sell the jars and use the money to pay her bills. She even had some money left over to support her family.

This miracle happened because the woman trusted in God and had faith that things would work out. We learned that we should rely on God at all times and help others the way Elisha helped the widow.

Today, we are going to learn about a woman who helped Elisha and received God's blessing in return.

BIBLE STORY

A Room for Elisha

Elisha traveled to many different towns speaking God's message to the people. He often passed through a city called Shunem in his travels. [Show the location of Shunem on a map.]

There was a loving and hospitable woman in Shunem. When she saw Elisha, she would invite him to dine with her family and spend the evening in her home. She did this so often that it became Elisha's custom to stay with her family whenever he was in that city.

One day, the woman said to her husband, "I know the man who often comes through this town is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room for him on the roof. We can put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp in there for him and he can stay with us whenever he comes."

Her husband thought this was a good idea, so they built a room for Elisha in their home. Elisha was very thankful because now he had a place to stay and rest whenever he was in Shunem, and he was deeply touched by the woman's hospitality and kindness.

A Son for the Shunammite Woman

One day, Elisha was resting in the room the Shunammite woman had built for him. He was thinking of how he could repay this woman's generosity.

He asked his servant Gehazi to suggest what he could do for her. Gehazi told Elisha that the woman had no son, and her husband was old. So Elisha asked Gehazi to call for the woman.

Elisha said to the woman, "About this time next year, you will have a son to hold in your arms."

At first the woman was very surprised. She thought Elisha was joking with her. But she knew that a prophet of God would not lie to her so she believed and waited patiently. Sure enough, around the same time the following year, she gave birth to a son. It was exactly as Elisha had promised. The woman was overjoyed and loved her son very much.

A Sudden Death

The boy grew up, and the woman and her husband loved their son very much. They were a very happy family, but something terrible was to happen to the family.

One morning, the boy went into the fields with his father to watch the reapers harvest the crops. Suddenly the boy felt something was not right. Holding his head, the boy cried, "My head! My head! My head really hurts!"

His father became frightened because he did not know what to do. He said to one of his servants, "Carry the boy back to his mother." When the Shunammite woman saw her son in pain, she was very worried. She held him in her arms as he sat on her lap. But, around noon time, he died.

The Shunammite woman did not know why something this terrible had happened to her family, but she knew

what she had to do. She laid her dead son in Elisha's room and went to find Elisha. She knew Elisha was a great prophet to whom God listened, and she could ask for God's help through him.

She asked her husband for a donkey to carry her to Mount Carmel, where Elisha was staying. Her husband asked, "Why do you need to see Elisha? It's not Sabbath or a special day." She did not want her husband to know that their son was dead, so she replied, "Everything is fine."

She took a donkey and a servant and quickly traveled to Mount Carmel.

Elisha's Staff

The Shunammite woman wanted to find Elisha quickly. She refused to allow her servant to slow the donkey without her permission. When she arrived at Mount Carmel, she found Elisha and then collapsed before the great prophet, grabbed his feet, and wept loudly.

She told Elisha how happy she and her husband had been with their son, and how grateful they were to God for blessing them with something they thought they could never have. But now God had taken him away and her spirit was broken.

Elisha knew he had to fix this. He told Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand and be on your way. Do not greet anyone along the way and when you get there, lay my staff on the face of the child."

Gehazi left immediately, and they followed after.

Elisha Resurrects the Boy

Gehazi raced to the Shunammite woman's house. When he got there, he immediately went to Elisha's room and placed the staff on the boy, but nothing happened. Gehazi was stunned and did not know what to do. So he ran to Elisha and told him that the boy was still dead.

When Elisha arrived at the house, he went upstairs to the room where the boy lay. He shut the door and prayed to God and asked Him to bring the boy back to life. After the prayer, he got up and stretched himself on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, and hands to hands. He felt the boy's body grow warmer.

After a while, he got up and walked around the house. Then he went back to the room and stretched himself on the boy a second time. Suddenly, the boy began to sneeze. In fact, he sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes.

Elisha called his servant Gehazi to summon the woman. She went to the room and Elisha told her to pick up her son. Her son had been brought back to life and given back to her. She then fell at Elisha's feet and thanked him and thanked God. She knew it was through God's power that her son had been resurrected. She then picked up her son and carried him out of the room.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. God blessed the Shunammite woman's kindness by giving her a _____ (son).
2. The Shunammite woman wanted to build a _____ (room) for Elisha because she knew that he was a man of God.
3. Elisha prayed to God and the boy sneezed _____ (seven) times before he woke up.
4. When Elisha's servant Gehazi put the staff on the boy, the boy came back to life. False; nothing happened when he put the staff on the boy.
5. The woman believed that only God had the power to make her son live again. True.
6. God is pleased when we show hospitality to our guests. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. It is important to show hospitality.

Whenever Elisha passed by Shunem, the woman knew that Elisha must have been hungry and tired from his travels, so she would welcome Elisha into her home. She and her family showed love and kindness by feeding Elisha and giving him a place to lodge. This type of love is called hospitality.

God gives us many good things to enjoy. We should share God's grace and blessing with others by being hospitable. When God sees how we show care and concern to others, He will bless and reward us. How did God bless the woman's kindness? He gave her a son.

There are many examples in the Bible of people who showed hospitality to visitors. For example, there was a man who welcomed three visitors to his tent. What was his name? That's right, it was Abraham.

One day, Abraham saw three strangers coming towards him. He realized that they must have been tired, hot, and hungry, so he invited them to rest and eat in his tent. Abraham prepared the best food he had for the strangers. The Bible also tells us something amazing about these strangers. Let's read Hebrews 13:2. Who were these guests really? Yes, these guests were God and two angels. During that visit, God told Abraham that he would have a son.

When Jesus was traveling and preaching at different places, he visited a family who loved and welcomed Him. The family had two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. Later on when Lazarus got sick and died, the Lord Jesus raised him up from the dead.

How can we welcome our guests when they come to our house? Suppose our friends, relatives, or even people who we do not know visit us. What can we do to make them feel welcome? [Have students come up with ideas.] We need to make sure we tidy up our toys and make our homes neat and comfortable for our guests. We can offer up our rooms for them to stay in, or place our favorite books or toys by their beds. We can also serve them foods that they will enjoy, such as ice cream, cake, or fruit. Moreover, many people enjoy having fresh flowers in the room. Instead of hiding in our rooms, or doing our own things, we can help entertain and attend to the guests.

Now, let's read a few scenarios and practice together as a class to show hospitality.

1. At Church

Today, there's a truth-seeker in your RE class. Her name is Amy. Your friend who brought Amy to church said that Amy has never learned about God before and is a little nervous about coming to church. What can you do to show hospitality to Amy?

Suggested Answers

- a) Prepare a Bible and hymn book for her
- b) Try to strike up a conversation with her
- c) Introduce her to other church members
- d) Show her around the church
- e) Preach to her and share your testimonies

2. At School

Eddie just moved from another state, and this is his first day at your school. He doesn't have any friends in this school, or even in this state. No one has really talked to him all day since nobody knows him, and he seems very quiet. What can you do to show hospitality to Eddie?

Suggested Answers

- a) Initiate a conversation with him
- b) Become friends with him
- c) Introduce him to your friends
- d) Show him around school
- e) Tell him about your school activities and invite him to participate
- f) Share about the town you live in

3. At Home

Your mom told you that one of her childhood friends, Lily, is coming to visit your home this evening to have dinner with your family. She's not from here and will be coming straight to your home from the airport after a long flight. What can you do to show hospitality to Lily?

Suggested Answers

- a) Help clean up the house so that your house looks presentable
- b) Prepare snacks and drinks for Lily
- c) Welcome her with smiles
- d) Be polite and respectful with her
- e) Be patient, even though it may be boring, during dinner
- f) Help your mom clean up after dinner so that she can spend more time catching up with Lily

By welcoming others and showing kindness to others, the Bible says that not only are we doing something for men, but we are doing something for God, too. God sees this and will remember what we have done (Mk 9:41; Mt 10:41-42).

2. God has the power to raise the dead.

Tell your students to hold their breath for different counts: 5, 10, 15... Holding our breaths for a short time is quite easy, but what happens when we don't breathe for a very long time?

We feel very uncomfortable and feel the need to take in air. In fact, when we don't breathe or breathe too little, we will die. When we are dead, our bodies become very cold and stiff. We cannot do anything.

When the woman's son died, she knew that no other person, not even her husband, could make him live again. However, there was one Person who could. Who was that? Yes, God.

In your mind, picture the sea. It's so wide that you can't see where it ends. Now, can you believe that someone has the ability to open up this sea and reveal the dry ground? [Let students answer.] No, of course there is no one in this world who can do that. It is impossible! But we know that God can achieve the impossible. Remember the story of the Red Sea? By the power of God, Moses parted the Red Sea and the Israelites crossed the sea on dry ground. This isn't a fairy tale. God isn't imaginary. Nothing in the Bible is magic. Every story that we've shared with you is a real historical event. They happened! Do you believe them? Do you truly believe that God has power over nature, over all living things, and even over the dead? Is your answer to these questions an absolute "yes" or just a "maybe"?

The Bible says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6). If we want to experience the power of God, we must first take away all the doubts we have. God rewards us for being good children, just as He rewarded the Shunammite woman with her son's life because of her hospitality and love. Any doubts we have are stumbling blocks for us to receive God's rewards.

The Shunammite woman knew that God could do anything. Even though her son was dead, God had the power to make her son live and breathe again. God could do that with the help of the prophet Elisha.

In our church, we have testimonies where God brought the dead back to life. One such testimony is about a little girl called Fei-Wa, who was only two years old.

One day, little Fei-Wa, her five-year-old sister, and another girl were playing by the pool behind their house. They were scooping up water to feed a cricket that they had just caught. Suddenly, Fei-Wa fell into the pool.

Fei-Wa was younger than all of us here. She couldn't swim so she sank beneath the water. There was no air. Every time she tried to breathe, water would enter her lungs. She was underwater too long, and she drowned and died. Her five-year-old sister was too scared to tell her parents that her little sister had drowned. But the little girl who was playing with them quickly ran to Fei-Wa's house to tell her parents.

Fei-Wa's father ran to the pool, but Fei-Wa had been underwater for a long time. She had stopped breathing, and her body was cold and pale. Fei-Wa's father was a doctor and he knew that it was impossible for his daughter to live again. It seemed like there was no hope. But because he loved his daughter, he would not give up. He tried many ways to help her breathe again, but nothing helped.

Just when it seemed as if there was nothing else they could do, Fei-Wa's parents turned to God for mercy and help. When other church members heard the tragic news, they came and, together with Fei-Wa's parents, they knelt down to cry out to God to make their daughter live again.

The Lord Jesus heard and answered their prayers. God showed His great power by causing Fei-Wa to breathe again and come back to life.

The Bible says, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up" (Jas 5:14-15a).

Once again, do you believe that God has the power to raise the dead? Do you have faith that God answers every prayer, even when we ask for the impossible? Here's a Bible verse for you to bring home and meditate on: "Have faith in God. [...] Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mk 11:22, 24).

ACTIVITIES

1

Welcome, My Friends!

Objective: To teach the students how to display hospitality and kindness to guests and strangers, and to let them know that God will bless them by doing so.

In this activity, the students will learn how to be hospitable by preparing light refreshments and serving them to the teacher and their classmates.

Materials

- Snacks (students or teacher can bring them)
- Paper plates and cups
- Napkins
- Plastic utensils

The students will need to bring snacks from home to serve their classmates and the teacher. The teacher may allow the students to bring snacks of their choice or assign students to bring certain snacks to avoid students bringing the same snacks. The teacher will need to speak to the parents in advance and will need to remind the students a week prior to the lesson. Alternatively, the teacher may bring the snacks and have the students arrange and serve the snacks.

The teacher is to assign each student a task in preparing the snacks. Some students can be responsible for folding the napkins and distributing them to the other students and the teacher. Other students can be responsible for arranging the utensils, cups, and plates. (If possible, to provide a nice touch, try to get plates and cups with a nice design.)

Have each student prepare one snack. Some students can wash the fruits and arrange them on a plate. Other students can arrange cookies, chips, and the drinks.

After the snacks are arranged properly, have the students sit at their desks. The students are to take turns serving the snacks that they have prepared. Remind the students how to serve their guests properly and how to socialize with their guests.

2

The Race / Optional Activity

The Shunammite woman was eager to reach Elisha. She was overjoyed when she had a son, but tragedy struck and the son died. She knew that only Elisha, the man of God, could help her. Help the Shunammite woman reach Elisha at Mount Carmel.

Instructions: [Please refer to the game board on the following page.] Have each student take a playing piece, representing the Shunammite woman. They are to help her reach Elisha at Mount Carmel. The students are to roll one die and move their piece accordingly. The students must follow the instructions that are on the space that they land on. The first student to reach Mount Carmel and Elisha wins. Two or three students may share one game board.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; she built a room.
2. True
3. False; nothing happened when Gehazi put Elisha's staff on the boy.
4. C
5. B
6. She was very sad.
7. God has given us many good things to enjoy, and He wants us to share them with others.
8. Circle the bed, table, chair, and lamp.
9. Answers may vary.

THE RACE TO FIND... ELISHA

START HERE

“Help me find Elisha!”

SHUNEM

“Let’s hope I find Elisha soon.”

You have a lot of energy. Move ahead 2 SPACES.

“May God continue to guide me!”

You are almost there. Move ahead 1 SPACE.

“Please give me strength O Lord!”

The sun is hot. Move back 1 SPACE to find shade.

Mount Carmel

“Praise God!”

“Look, there’s a river ahead where I can get some water.”

FINISH

“Please hear my prayer, God!”

You can see almost the foot of Mount Carmel.

It’s getting hilly. You slip back 2 SPACES.

“I think I should stop and pray to God!”

You are tired. Since you are resting, you will miss your next turn.

water

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 10—The Shunammite Woman's Son

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God loves and blesses those who share willingly.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To emphasize the importance of demonstrating hospitality.
 2. To strengthen the students' understanding of God's power over life and death.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 John 3:18)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. The Shunammite woman built a house for Elisha because she knew he was a man of God. _____
2. The Shunammite woman did not tell anyone that her son had died because she knew that only God could make her son live. _____
3. When Elisha's servant Gehazi put the staff on the boy, the boy came back to life. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : After Elisha prayed to God, the boy _____.
 - a. Coughed seven times
 - b. Blinked seven times
 - c. Sneezed seven times
5. _____ : After Elisha lay on the child, the boy's body became _____.
 - a. Itchy
 - b. Warm
 - c. Cold

Short Answer

6. How did the Shunammite woman feel when she found out that her son had died?

7. Why does God want us to welcome others and show hospitality to them?

8. Circle the things that the Shunammite woman put in the room for Elisha.



9. The next time that you have a guest at your house, how will you show hospitality to that guest?
