

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *Continued*

Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me. What do you have in your house?"

"I don't have anything there at all," she said. "All I have is a little olive oil."

Elisha said, "Go around to all of your neighbors. Ask them for empty jars. Get as many as you can. Then go inside your house. Shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all of the jars. As each jar is filled, put it over to one side."

The woman left him. After that, she shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her. And she kept pouring. When all of the jars were full, she spoke to one of her sons. She said, "Bring me another jar." But he replied, "There aren't any more left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

She went and told the man of God about it. He said, "Go and sell the oil. Pay what you owe. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The Son of a Woman From Shunem Is Brought Back to Life

One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A rich woman lived there. She begged him to stay and have a meal. So every time he came by, he stopped there to eat.

The woman said to her husband, "That man often comes by here. I know that he is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room for him on the roof. We'll put a bed and a table in it. We'll also put a chair and a lamp in it. Then he can stay there when he comes to visit us."

One day Elisha came. He went up to his room. He lay down there. He said to his servant Gehazi, "Go and get the Shunammite woman." So he did. She stood in front of Elisha.

He said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'You have gone to a lot of trouble for us. Now what can we do for you? Can we speak to the king for you? Or can we speak to the commander of the army for you?'"

She replied, "I live among my own people. I have everything I need here."

After she left, Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can we do for her?" Gehazi said, "Well, she doesn't have a son. And her husband is old."

Then Elisha said, "Bring her here again." So he did. She stood in the doorway. "You will hold a son in your arms," Elisha said. "It will be about this time next year."

"No, my master!" she objected. "You are a man of God. So don't lie to me!" But the woman became pregnant. She had a baby boy. It happened the next year about that same time. That's exactly what Elisha had told her would happen. The child grew. One day he went out to get his father. His father was with those who were gathering the crops. The boy said to his father, "My head hurts! It really hurts!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." The servant lifted the boy up. He carried him to his mother. The boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died. She went up to the room on the roof. There she laid him on the bed of the man of God. Then she shut the door and went out. She sent for her husband. She said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey. Then I can go quickly to the man of God and return."

"Why do you want to go to him today?" he asked. "It isn't the time for the New Moon Feast. It isn't the Sabbath day."

"Don't let that bother you," she said. She put a saddle on her donkey. She said to her servant, "Let's go. Don't slow down for me unless I tell you to." So she started out. She came to Mount Carmel. That's where the man of God was. When she was still a long way off, he saw her coming. He said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the woman from Shunem! Run out there to meet her. Ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said. She came to the man of God at the mountain. Then she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is suffering terribly. But the Lord hasn't told me the reason for it. He has hidden it from me."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

"My master, did I ask you for a son?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't get my hopes up'?"

Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your coat into your belt. Take my wooden staff and run to Shunem. Don't say hello to anyone you see. If anyone says hello to you, don't answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

But the child's mother said, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So Elisha got up and followed her.

Gehazi went on ahead. He laid Elisha's wooden staff on the boy's face. But there wasn't any sound. The boy didn't move at all. So Gehazi went back to Elisha. He told him, "The boy hasn't awakened."

Elisha arrived at the house. The boy was dead. He was lying on Elisha's bed. Elisha went into the room. He shut the door. He was alone with the boy. He prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed. He lay down on the boy. His mouth touched the boy's mouth. His eyes touched the boy's eyes. And his hands touched the boy's hands. As Elisha lay on the boy, the boy's body grew warm.

Elisha turned away. He walked back and forth in the room. Then he got on the bed again. He lay down on the boy once more. The boy sneezed seven times. After that, he opened his eyes.

Elisha sent for Gehazi. He said to him, "Go and get the Shunammite woman." So he did. When she came, Elisha said, "Take your son."

She came in. She fell at Elisha's feet. She bowed down with her face toward the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the widow need Elisha's help? *(Her husband had died and left her owing money. She was afraid her debtors were going to take her two sons and keep them as slaves.)*
2. How did Elisha help her? *(He told her to gather as many empty jars as possible, go into her house, close the doors and fill all of the jars. Then go and sell the oil and use the money to pay off the debt she owed.)*
3. Did Elisha's "plan" work? *(Yes it did.)*
4. How do you think the widow felt in her heart after Elisha was able to help her? *(Discuss together. She was likely grateful for the blessing that she experienced in her life.)*
5. What was so special about the Shunammite woman in today's story? *(She went out of her way to take care of Elisha every time he visited her town. She was able to be a blessing to Elisha.)*
6. What kinds of things did she do for Elisha? *(She fed him, and even made a room for him in her house where he could stay.)*
7. How did Elisha help her? What happened? *(Elisha told the woman she would have a son, and she did a year later.)*
8. How did the woman feel when her son died? Then what did she do? *(Discuss together. She was beside herself with grief and she went after Elisha for help.)*
9. Was Elisha able to be a blessing to the woman? How? *(Elisha was able to bring the boy back to life once again.)*
10. In what ways can you be a blessing to others? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary. Make a list on your easel or white board.)*

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. As you do, open your Bibles to Deuteronomy 28:1-13 and read the passage together. Then discuss the questions below.

Deuteronomy 28 ~ Blessings for Obeying the Lord

¹ Make sure you obey the Lord your God completely. Be careful to follow all of his commands. I'm giving them to you today. If you do those things, the Lord will honor you more than all of the other nations on earth. ² If you obey the Lord your God, here are the blessings that will come to you and remain with you.

³ You will be blessed in the cities. You will be blessed out in the country.

⁴ Your children will be blessed. Your crops will be blessed. The young animals among your livestock will be blessed. That includes your calves and lambs.

⁵ Your baskets and bread pans will be blessed.

⁶ You will be blessed no matter where you go.

⁷ Enemies will rise up against you. But the Lord will help you win the battle over them. They will come at you from one direction. But they'll run away from you in seven directions.

⁸ The Lord your God will bless your barns with plenty of grain and other food. He will bless everything you do. He'll bless you in the land he's giving you.

⁹ The Lord your God will make you his holy people. He will set you apart for himself. He took an oath and promised to do that. He promised to do it if you would keep his commands and live exactly as he wants you to live.

¹⁰ All of the nations on earth will see that you belong to the Lord. And they will be afraid of you.

¹¹ The Lord will give you more than you need. You will have many children. Your livestock will have many little ones. Your crops will do very well. All of that will happen in the land he promised with an oath to your fathers to give you.

¹² The Lord will open up the heavens. That's where he stores his riches. He will send rain on your land at just the right time. He'll bless everything you do. You will lend money to many nations. But you won't have to borrow from any of them. ¹³ The Lord your God will make you leaders, not followers. Pay attention to his commands that I'm giving you today. Be careful to follow them. Then you will always be on top. You will never be on the bottom.

1. How many times do you see the word blessing, blessed, or bless in these verses?
2. What do we have to do in order to be blessed by God? (*See Verse 1*)
3. What are some of the examples of blessings listed in these verses? (*Go back through the verses as necessary in order to list some of the blessings.*)
4. Why do we have so many blessings? (*Because Heaven is full of them and God wants to give His blessings to us.*)

Remind the children that we can all experience God's blessings if we obey Him and His commandments (see memory verse). God also expects us to look for ways to be a blessing to others (see message). We can pray and ask Him to show us how to do that each day.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review a Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

“God’s Many Blessings” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Object Talks → “God’s Many Blessings”

You will need a water class, a pitcher of water, a spoon, some cheerios, and 10-20 marbles or large coins for this object talk. You will demonstrate how God overflows us with blessings, and examples of what those blessing may be in our lives. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

At the end of the demonstration, remind the children that not only are we fortunate to receive God’s many blessings in our lives, but we can also be a blessing to others. We can pray to God each day and ask Him to help us to become a blessing to others in our life.

Grades K-2

“Helping Hands” Craft

You will need construction paper (light colors), and pencils for this activity. You may also need extra “hands” to help the children. First, have the children trace their own hands (help them as needed). They will then cut out the hands and glue them onto a different color of construction paper. On the left hand, the children will write down ways that Elisha was able to bless others with kindness in today’s lesson. On the right hand, the children will write down ways that they can be a blessing to others with kindness. You will need to help with the writing for younger children. They could also decorate their papers with markers, etc. Be creative. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. Write the message on the bottom of the paper (or provide strips of paper with the message already written on it – they can glue it to their papers).

Grades 3-5

“Count Your Blessings”

Show the children the song “Count Your Blessings” in the church hymnal. Read the words together (you could choose to sing it too, if you like). Then have a class discussion about what blessings they have in their lives. Make a list together on the easel or white board. Provide the children with lined paper. Allow them time to make their own lists. They may choose items from the class list but encourage them to think of more on their own. When they are finished, have the children cut out their lists (by cutting around the list) and glue it to a piece of card stock or colored construction paper. Have them write “Count Your Blessings” at the top of their paper and write (or glue a pre-typed slip of paper) the memory verse onto the bottom of their papers. The children may further decorate the papers by using the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. or using number stickers (check your local dollar store).

Activity Ideas - Continued

“Bursting with Blessings”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Bursting With Blessings”

You will need balloons and slips of paper with Bible verses written on them for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will need to write the reference verses on the small pieces of paper and insert them into empty balloons. Then you will need to blow up the balloons and tie each one. Choose verses that are best for your children. The children will be popping their balloons to discover the verses and use their Bibles to look them up and learn more about “blessings.” Give the children an opportunity to “share” what they find. If you have less children, they can pop more than one balloon. Remind the children of the memory verse, that we can all experience God’s blessings if we obey Him and His commandments.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

What do you think it means to bless someone? Draw a picture of what you think that looks like.

Grades 3-5 (Choose One)

Why do you think God wants to bless us? Do you think you deserve His blessings? Why or why not? Write about it.

How can you be a blessing to someone else? Be specific with your examples. Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson about **Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Learn the memory verse: “*Give thanks no matter what happens.*” --1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the **Thanksgiving** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What are you thankful for? Make a list or draw a collage of all the things you are thankful to God for in your heart. Try to think of 20 things, and not just all big things either.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 11 → See various Elisha Lessons

Name: _____

Thanksgiving



"Give thanks no matter what happens."
--1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: F8. Elisha and the Miracles

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God's wants us to **be a blessing to others**. The children reviewed the stories of Elisha and the miracles with the widow, the Shunammite woman, and the boy he brought back to life. They also talked about if we obey God and His commandments then we will be able to experience God's blessing in our lives.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God."

--Deuteronomy 28:2 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. How did the widow help Elisha?
2. How was Elisha able to help the widow?
3. Do you think you can be a blessing to others too? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Try to think of a way that you can bless another family this week. Maybe you can make cookies or a sweet treat to share with them in your home? Possibly even a meal? Or perhaps there is a widow in your congregation who you can show love and kindness to in a special way. Talk about it together and come up with a plan on how you will be a blessing to someone this week.

