

Elisha Raises A Boy From The Dead

2 Kings 4:18-36

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 4:33

“He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Construction paper (various colors), pencils, scissors, and glue sticks.

Blindfolds, either brought in to class or made in class. For making in class you will need black construction paper, rubber bands, scissors, and a stapler.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

E, E, Elisha!

This game is a variation of “Duck, Duck, Goose.” Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be “it.” They will go around the circle of children saying, “E, E, E.” With each “E” they can tap one of the children. Then when they say, “Elisha!” the person they tag will get up and chase them around the circle. The “tagged” person must try to catch the child who tagged them before they run around the circle and sit down in the vacant spot.

If they cannot catch them, the “tagged” child will become “it.” If they do catch them, the original child will remain “it” until someone cannot catch them. Allow a few rounds of this game.

Introduce the lesson to the children. We will be learning about a woman who was looking for Elisha so he could help her. We will be learning that **God wants to use us to bless others.**

LESSON TIME!

Remember the Shunammite woman from last week—the woman who showed hospitality to Elisha? Because of her kindness, God blessed her with the desire of her heart—a son. One day, however, her joy was suddenly turned to sorrow.

2 KINGS 4:18-25

And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers.

And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.

Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."

So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."

Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!"

When the boy cried, "My head! My head!" we do not know what happened, but it certainly seems he was in a lot of pain, and it seems to have come upon him suddenly. It was serious enough that his father told a servant to take him to his mother.

Think for a moment of life back in those days. There were not any doctors as we now know them. There were no hospitals or urgent care centers. When sudden illnesses or injuries happened like this one, there was not really much that could be done. This young man lay on his mother's lap and died. This precious gift from the Lord had now been taken away from her. There could not be many more difficult trials one could experience than the loss of a child.

It must have been very painful for this mother to have her only son die on her lap and feel helpless. But, was she helpless? Hope emerged in her heart. Through the prophet Elisha, many years earlier, God had promised her a son. God can do miracles. Perhaps the Lord would do something to help through Elisha, the man of God.

The Shunammite woman laid her son on Elisha's bed in the special room she and her husband made for him. She asked her husband to let her go to the man of God (Elisha). Even though he did not understand at that point why she sought Elisha, he let her go.

So, she left to find the man of God. She did not want the servant to slow down for anything. Her heart was steadfast, looking to God for help. How important it is in our time of crisis that we fasten our eyes, our hearts, and our mind on God.

2 KINGS 4:26-30

"Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."

Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."

So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.

The Shunammite woman was in great pain, and perhaps shock, following her son's sudden death. It may be why she said, "everything is all right" to the servant Gehazi. Her only hope seemed to be to get to the man of God, Elisha. Upon reaching Elisha, she grabbed hold of his feet.

It is interesting to note the part that feet play in scriptures. In Ruth 3, Ruth laid herself at Boaz's feet, in need of a kinsman-redeemer. In Matthew 28:9, we read Mary "held Him by the feet," when she recognized her Savior. In Mark 5, the woman with the flow of blood fell down before Jesus after she was healed.

In Ephesians 1, we are told that God placed all things under Christ's feet. It seems to be a place to acknowledge God, to worship, and find mercy.

The Shunammite woman clung to his feet in silence, expressing her deep need for God's intervention. She asked Elisha a question, "Did you deceive me?" She was reminding Elisha of the promise from God he had given her—she was to have a son. Now, her son lay dead, and she questioned Elisha. Was the promise still to be true? She did not want to be deceived.

The Shunammite woman did well to keep lines of communication open between her and God in this crisis. Sometimes we do not understand the things that the Lord allows in our lives. It is okay to go to God with the hard questions we have. God loves us and wants to help us. We will find mercy and grace.

As soon as she spoke about her son, Elisha the servant flew into action. Giving instructions to his servant Gehazi first, he followed the woman back to her home. Elisha knew that God knew her needs before she even asked. He desired to be God's servant to bless her life. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

Where's Elisha?

The Shunammite woman was looking for Elisha. This is a fun game of trying to find Elisha. You will need blindfolds for all of the children who would like to play. If you would like for your class to make their blindfolds you could use black construction paper with rubber bands. The children can cut out a blindfold, cut the rubber band in one spot, then staple each end of the rubber band to each end of the mask.

Once the children are blindfolded, have them all stand at one end of the room. Remind them not to peek! Tell them that their goal is to find Elisha. You, as the teacher, are Elisha. When you say, "go!" the children can all move forward towards you and try to find you as you try to elude them. As an option you could have them all hop on one leg ONLY. Move around the room and say "Elisha's over here!" Do this several times and see if any of the children can find you. Use this game as a review of the lesson or just to have fun.

2 KINGS 4:31-36

Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."

When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed.

He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.

And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.

He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

Elisha followed the woman back to her home, eager to help. What wonderful things God can do when His servants are available to hear and respond to His call. Elisha was a servant who cared about people. For us to truly be servants, servants who are like our master, the Lord Jesus Christ, we must care about others. If we care, we will be available to be God's instrument to bless others. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

How interesting that after Elisha prayed, God had him stretch himself out on the boy. His body warmed the boy's. It is just like God to raise this boy from the dead in a way we cannot explain. His ways are so much higher than ours. God knows our tendencies as humans to want a pattern or a formula to hang onto. God works in the ways He chooses and cannot be confined to a pattern or formula.

Who can say why Elisha was eyes to eyes and hands to hands with this boy? Who can say why Jesus simply spoke to the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7), or why He took Jairus' daughter by the hand (Luke 8). Or why Elijah stretched himself over the widow's boy 3 times (1 Kings 17), or why Paul threw his arms around the young man who fell out of the window (Acts 20). God is amazing, is He not?

It is interesting how this miracle mirrors the miracle God did through Elijah for the widow's boy in 1 Kings 17. Remember Elisha's request for a double portion of God's Spirit. God answered that request.

Imagine the joy of this mother as her boy was raised from the dead. God, who is able to make impossible, possible, gave her son back to her alive! What a joyous ministry Elisha had, being God's instrument to bless others. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

Did you know that you, as God's child, have been given gifts? (1 Corinthians 12) The gifts are not for you, but for others—for the "building up of the body of Christ." God wants us to serve others, to help and encourage others who may be struggling. Are you using your gifts and talents to help others? That is God's plan! **God wants to use us to bless others.**

Helping Hands

In today's lesson, we learned about how Elisha helped the Shunammite woman. For this craft, the children will be making "Helping Hands." On a light colored piece of construction paper have the children trace their own hands. Next have them cut out the hands on the paper. Have them glue the hands to a different color of construction paper.

On the left hand, have the children write down the ways that ELISHA reached out in kindness in our lesson today. On the right hand, have the children write down ways that *they* can reach out to others in kindness. For younger children, you will have to help with the writing. If you would like, you can have them decorate their picture with markers or by gluing on different things (ex. Colored rice, etc.).

As an added activity you can look in a concordance or Nave's Topical Bible under the topic of "kindness." Look for other scriptures and examples of Bible characters showing kindness. As a group look up a few of these and talk about ways we can show kindness to others.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer to ask the Lord how He would like to use each one of us and then for the strength and ability to help others around us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.