

The Shunammite Woman's
Land Restored

2 Kings 8:1-6

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 8:6

“...Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two balloons and masking tape.

A bucket of Legos, Tinkertoys or other blocks.

Construction paper (two sheets per child), scissors, glue, and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Crab-walk Relay Race

This game will help the children get their energy out. You will need two balloons and masking tape. Using the masking tape, make a start line and finish line. Separate the class into two teams. Have each team line up at the starting line. Blow up the two balloons and give one to each of the starting children.

When you say, “go,” the first children in line will go to the floor and will do a crab-walk. They will do this by putting their hands and feet on the floor with their stomachs in the air. Next, they need to place the balloon on their stomach and balance it there as they head to the other side of the classroom. Then they will return and pass the balloon to the next person in the relay.

For added excitement, you can bring an electric fan and see if the balloon will stay on their stomachs. Have fun!

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever had to move to a new town where you did not know anyone? Maybe your father or mother got a new job which required such a move. It was probably hard to have to move to a new home, go to a new school, and make new friends. Sometimes, as many missionaries have done, people must move to another nation. The people act and dress differently in other countries. It takes time to adjust to a new culture.

In our story today, the prophet Elisha warned the Shunammite woman and her son that there was going to be a big famine—a famine lasting for seven years. There would not be enough food to eat. If they remained at home, they would starve. They *must* move to another country.

2 KINGS 8:1-2

Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years."

So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.

The woman was quick to respond with faith and obedience to God's leading. She and her family left their home and lived in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

Sometimes, God calls on us to do things that are not easy. The woman and her son had to leave their home and friends and move to a land where they were strangers. There was no one to help them there but God. No doubt, this took a lot of faith. God desires that we trust and obey Him.

Sometimes, God calls us to do things we do not understand. What do you suppose she may have been thinking when the prophet Elisha told her that she would have to move? Maybe she thought, “I’ve always lived here....why do I have to move?” or “Why can’t God just take care of me here?” God desires that we trust and obey Him.

Though it may be difficult and though we may not understand, God is faithful. He will always take care of us. The famine must have been pretty bad to force the Shunammite woman to stay away for seven years. By calling the woman to move to the land of the Philistines, the Lord was taking care of her needs. The Shunammite woman chose wisely to trust and obey God. **God takes care of His people.**

The “Following Instructions” Game

Sometimes the Lord may call us to do things that we do not understand until we have come through it, or even later. Just like the Shunammite woman in our story today, we need to obey. As we see in our story, the Lord took care of her every need. Use this activity to help reinforce the lesson and our need for obedience.

You will need a bucket of Legos, Tinkertoys or other blocks. Before class separate out 4 sets of 10-20 blocks and have the children get into pairs. The blocks in each set should be the same blocks. Take two pairs to begin.

Have the team decide who will go first. The person going second should turn around and keep their eyes closed. Give the first child 30 seconds to build anything they want. When the 30 seconds are up, do not allow the second person to see the creation, just the rest of the class. Now, give the second person their set of 10 - 20 blocks. The first person will now describe their creation to the second person who will have to make the exact same creation. Remember the second person cannot look; they can only receive instructions

from their partner. Give them one minute (since it is harder). Have the class decide which team came closest to the original creation. Allow all of the children an opportunity to play.

Reinforce with the children how important it is to listen to instructions and to follow them. We also need to be careful to obey the Lord.

2 KINGS 8:3

It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

After the seven-year famine was over, the woman came home. She went to the king to make an appeal (a request) for the return of her house and land. It seems that maybe someone else had taken over her property or had claimed that it was theirs. Can you imagine having some property that you thought was yours, leaving for seven years, and returning to find out that someone else had claimed it?

2 KINGS 8:4-5

Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

What timing! As the woman came into court to make her appeal for the return of her house and land, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was talking to the king about all the miracles of God that Elisha had been doing, including restoring the dead (this woman's son) to life. Gehazi looked up and saw the woman and her son and announced, "This is the woman and her son whom Elisha restored to life!"

2 KINGS 8:6

And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

The king asked the Shunammite woman if the story was true; she told him about Elisha and what God had done for her and her son. The king assigned an officer to see that not only her house and land would be returned, but all the income from her land for the seven years she had been gone would be returned.

Do you think that the woman's entrance into court just as the king and the servant of Elisha were talking about her and her son was a coincidence? No. God's ways are perfect! This was God's plan in order to provide for her needs. The woman received back much more than she requested or anticipated. The Lord rewarded her faith, trust, and obedience during difficult years. **God takes care of His people.**

Sometimes, in the midst of difficult circumstances, we are prone to question God's love and faithfulness toward us. God's intentions, as He works in our lives, are only good! Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Just as God had a wonderful plan in which He would care for and bless the Shunammite woman, God has a wonderful plan for our lives. May we trust and obey Him during the difficult times we encounter. God will certainly provide and will reward our trust and obedience. **God takes care of His people.**

Open The Door

When we need help we should always go to the Lord to ask Him for help! Jesus said in Luke 11:9 - "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." This craft will help us to remember to come to the Lord.

You will need two sheets of construction paper per child, one can be any color and the other should be brown. You will also need scissors, glue, and markers. Have the children cut out a door from the brown paper. They can decorate the door by using a marker. Have them glue the door to the other sheet of construction paper. Leave enough room for writing around the top, bottom and sides of the door. On the left side of the door write "Ask" vertically. On the top of the door write "Seek" horizontally. On the right side, write "Knock" vertically. On the bottom, write Luke 11:9. On the inside of the door write "and it will be opened to you!"

Allow the children to color or decorate their craft with other items. Remind them that this is what is pictured when the Shunammite woman went to the king to ask for help. We can go to the Lord, our King, anytime to ask for His help.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's care toward us and commitment to trust and obey Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.