

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

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

LESSON TIME!

We have been looking at Elisha's life as a servant of God. Do you remember when Elisha had asked Elijah for a double portion of the Spirit of God just before he was taken to heaven? Today we will be learning about one of the ways that God answered Elisha's request.

God knows what we need before we even ask Him, but He still wants us to ask. And you know He will answer every prayer too. Sometimes He answers in ways we don't expect or understand, but still, He answers. We will also see today how He answered a prayer.

In today's Bible story we will see God once again cause the impossible to become possible through his servant Elisha. We will see a woman look to God, trust in God and cling to God as she goes through a tough trial. We will learn that God sees what we need before we ask and how He often works through His servants to bless our lives. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

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!"

Remember the Shunammite woman from last week? How she recognized Elisha as a man of God and was hospitable to him? And because of her kindness, God blessed her with the desire of her heart, even though she didn't ask. She wanted a child more than anything and so the Lord blessed her with a son. God is so good to those who serve Him.

In these verses we see that the child has now grown up enough to go to the fields with his father. In verse 19 when the boy says, "My head! My head!" We don't know what happened, but he certainly seems to have been in a lot of pain and it seems to have come upon him very suddenly. It was also serious enough that his father told a servant to take him to his mother.

Now we have to think for a moment what life was like in these days. There weren't any doctors as we know them in those days. There were no hospitals or urgent care centers. When sudden illnesses or injuries happened like this one there really wasn't much that could be done. So 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 may not be any worse trial in this world than to lose a child.

It must have been very painful for this mother to have her only son die on her lap and not a thing she could do for him. But then she must have thought for a few moments...maybe there is something she could do. Perhaps the Lord would do something to help through Elisha the man of God who was her friend.

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 didn't understand at that point what she wanted, he let her go. He may have known about his son's death, but may not have known why his wife wanted to go to Elisha.

So she left to find the man of God. She didn't want the servant to slow down for anything. She may not have understand what God was doing in her life, but she trusted that God's servant Elisha could help her with the loss of her son. It is important that when we face trials or problems in our lives that we turn to the Lord for help. God knew what had happened and He was going to help her through Elisha. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

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 a lot of pain. Maybe she was in shock. That 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. As she took hold of his feet, Gehazi wasn't sure she should be touching such an important man, but Elisha allowed her, not sure what the trouble was.

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 John 20, when Mary recognized her Savior, she threw herself at His feet. In Mark 5, the woman with the flow of blood fell at the Lord's feet after He healed her. Then 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.

She clung to his feet without expressing her need. It was the only way she knew to acknowledge that she needed help from God because of what had happened. She asked Elisha a question, "Did you deceive me?" Basically she is reminding Elisha that he said that God would bless her by giving her a son. It was hard for her to believe at the time because she didn't have any children. She didn't want to be tricked or misled with such a sensitive thing. So now that her son had died she is questioning Elisha.

It is OK to go to God with the hard questions we have. Sometimes we don't understand things that the Lord does or allows in our

lives. We need to have respect for the Lord and His answers, but God loves us and wants us to come to Him with all of our questions. 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 and He often works through His servants to bless our lives. **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.

You can 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 was a servant who cared about people. For us to truly be servants and to be like Jesus we need to care about others. Elisha followed the woman back to her home and was eager to help. What wonderful things God can do when His servants are available to hear His call. We also need to be available to help others who are in need. With whatever gifts the Lord has given us we can 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. Isn't it just like God to raise this boy from the dead in a way we can't explain? His ways are so much higher than ours. He knows our tendencies as humans to want a pattern or a formula to hang onto. But God does things however He wants to and often he won't do two things the same way.

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 boy who fell out of the window (Acts 20). God is amazing, isn't He?

It is interesting how this miracle mirrors what Elijah did for the widow's boy in 1 Kings 17. Again we can remember Elisha's request for a double portion of God's Spirit and how God answered that request.

Imagine the joy of this mother as her boy was raised from the dead. God saw her need and used Elisha the servant to help her, made the impossible possible, and gave her boy back to her alive! Our God knows our needs before we even ask, and He loves to use His servants to bless other people's lives. **God wants to use us to bless others.**

God wants to use our lives to help others. Everyone of us, who are God's children have been given a gift. The purpose of the gift is to encourage and build up others. God wants us to serve others, help others and encourage others who may be struggling. Let's examine our hearts and ask ourselves if we are using our gifts and talents to help others. That is the Lord's plan for our lives. **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 to do so.