

# Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

## Level C Teacher Overview

**Key Message:** The Lord is always present with us.

**Text:** 1 Kings 17:16-24

### **Activity Options** (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Look Closer: Visiting the Upper Room
3. Take Action: Simple Scripture Scramble
4. Meditate and Activate



### **1 Kings 17:22-23**

The Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

**Dear Teacher,**

Please take a moment to fill out the Feedback Report on the next page. The information you share will help us continue to meet your needs in the future.

With gratitude,  
Office of Education Sunday School Staff

# Sunday School Teacher's Feedback Report - Level C

Please give this report to your Youth Program Director, or send it directly to the Office of Education by one of the means listed below. Thank you.

**Fax:** 267.502.4935

**Email:** sundayschool@newchurch.org

**Mail:** Office of Education, P.O. Box 743, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 USA. Thank you.

**Name of Congregation, Group, etc.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of students in your group today** \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials Used in Class (check all that apply)**

- Talk About It
- Look Closer: Visiting the Upper Room
- Take Action: Simple Scripture Scramble
- Meditate and Activate

**Materials used as "Take-Home" Activities (check all that apply)**

- Talk About It
- Look Closer: Visiting the Upper Room
- Take Action: Simple Scripture Scramble
- Meditate and Activate

**Comments:** We welcome your feedback. Let us know what worked for you.

# Talk About It

## I Kings 17:16-24: Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

1. We are alive at an amazing time in history! Scientists and doctors have developed medicines that can cure people of many diseases that took the lives of millions of people for a period of time. We can even keep very sick people alive with machines so they can be cured. But once a person has died (breathing and heart have stopped) it is impossible to bring him or her back to life. Three people in the Word performed miracles that brought people back to life! Can you name one of them? (Elijah, Elisha, Jesus)
2. Today's story is about a widow who lost her son. Her son was very important in her life—he was her only family, her hope for the future. Sometimes we might feel like the widow—as if we have lost our hope for the future. We may feel that the Lord is far away from us—we have lost Him in our lives.
3. What did the woman do when she discovered that her son had died? (She cried out to Elijah.) How must she have felt? How might you feel if someone close to you died?
4. What was Elijah's response to her? (Give me your son!)
5. The widow gave her son to Elijah, and he took the boy upstairs. Each of us has an "upper room" in our minds. It is where the Lord lives with us. It is the quiet place where we can think about the Lord—away from thoughts about our friends and daily activities. We can take our difficulties to the Lord in this place.
6. The "upper room" is where we can pray to the Lord. The "Elijah" in us that offers our prayers is the truth we know from the Word. This truth forms our conscience, which helps us see what we are doing—what we are choosing—in the Lord's light.
7. Elijah's prayer brought a miracle—the boy came back to life! The new life is the new purpose we feel in answer to a prayer—we may feel hope so that we are inspired to try again, feel comfort when we are hurt, or experience peace from angry feelings. Elijah took the boy downstairs to his mother again with joy and told her, "See your son lives!"
8. The widow declared that Elijah spoke the truth. After giving her dead son to the prophet, she saw the results of what he did—her son revived. We can see the difference that living from the Lord's truth can make in our lives when we lay our struggles before Him and let Him revive us through His Word.

# Look Closer: Visiting the Upper Room

**I Kings 17:16-24: Elijah Revives the Widow's Son**



Our minds experience many kinds of thoughts! Some of them are worldly, and some are heavenly. This activity is designed to build awareness of the kinds of thoughts we have, and to look at ways we can cultivate higher thoughts.

### *Supplies Needed for the Class*

- copy of “Visiting the Upper Room” (see attached)
- pens or pencils
- post-it notes or cut up squares of paper
- large chart paper, board or overhead projector
- *optional*: tape

### *Teacher Preparation*

Set up chart paper, board or overhead ahead of time for group activity (see following page for directions on what it should look like).

### *Directions*

Follow the scripted introduction and activity. Complete activity with the discussion that follows.

# Visiting the “Upper Room”

I Kings 17:16-24 New Life for the Widow’s Son

## Many kinds of words

We have words that express many kinds of thoughts. Some thoughts are about worldly things and others are about spiritual or eternal things. I’m going to give you some words, and I want you to write down the first thing that comes into your mind when I say each one. For example, if I say water, you might write down *wet*, *bath* or *hot* or you might write down *truth* because this is the spiritual meaning of water. Let’s see what comes to mind. I’m hoping that we will have many different words. Write each word down on a separate post-it, or on a piece of paper.

Food	Mountain
Drink	Ugly
Sleep	Baby
Fire	Beautiful

Now we are going to look at the different words people have come up with. Invite students to give responses on each word and talk about whether what came to mind for them was a worldly or spiritual idea. Record student responses on the chart you have set up. (Brainstorm spiritual or worldly ideas if all students come up with one type of idea. Add them to the chart also.)

## Sample Chart for Student Responses

Word	Worldly Ideas	Spiritual Ideas
Food		
Drink		
Sleep, etc.		

## Visiting the “upper room” of our minds

Just as we have words that describe different kinds of ideas, our minds have different parts. One part of our mind thinks about worldly things (e.g. eating, sleeping), and another part thinks about spiritual things. When we think about spiritual things, it is as if we are going to the upper room of our minds, just as Elijah went to the upper room in the widow’s house. Spiritual thinking is a higher form of thought.

## Discussion

1. Why is it useful to visit the “upper room” of our minds? (It is where we meet with God.)
2. How might this revive us, in the way that the widow’s son was revived? (We can look at things we are doing in our life from a higher, spiritual, vantage point. Our sense of the Lord’s presence can be restored in our life, and our priorities can change.)
3. What things can you do to make going to the upper room a habit? (read the Word, pray, go to church, stop and think before acting, listening to conscience, display quotes from the Word where you will see them easily)
4. What kind of life would we be living if we never visited the “upper room”? Could a person who leads this kind of life go to heaven after death?

# Take Action: Simple Scripture Scramble

## I Kings 17:16-24: Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

We can hold the Lord's Word in our hearts by knowing verses from memory, or by keeping quotations where they are easily seen. Bringing scripture to mind can help us raise our minds to the Lord for revival when we are in need of comfort or inspiration. Today's activity is designed to call to mind familiar memory verses—and perhaps introduce some new ones!

### Supplies Needed for Class

- copy of the Simple Scripture Scramble Quotations cut apart (see attached)
- copy of the Scripture Scramble Checklist in Biblical Order for the teacher (see attached)
- kitchen timer
- tape or pins for attaching quotes

*Hint:* Select quotations you think your students are most likely to know.



### Process

1. Attach one part of a matching quote to each student's back (being sure to use both parts of the same quote).
2. Tell the students that the goal is to find out what is written on their back, and to find the person with a quote that goes with theirs, completing a longer quotation.
3. Students now walk around the room searching for their match. Set a time for this (3 minutes—you may need more or less time depending on the size of your group).
4. Students may read quotes on others' backs and ask others to read aloud the quote on their own back, OR they may ask any questions they wish to get clues. Students may answer questions in full sentences, but should not give the quote away.
5. When two students think they have a match, they should stand next to each other.
6. When timer rings, check the matches. Have students read their quotations aloud, with partners reading each other's backs.
7. If there are any mismatches, ask students to give input on which they think belong together.
8. Repeat the activity using new quotations.

### Wrap-up

If time permits, ask students to think of situations in which the quotes that they had in the scramble might be useful in "raising someone up".

## Simple Scripture Scramble Quotations

<p>“I am the way,</p>	<p>the truth, and the life.” Psalm 14:6</p>
<p>He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you</p>	<p>But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8</p>
<p>For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory;</p>	<p>No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11</p>
<p>“Where two or three are gathered together in My name,</p>	<p>I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20</p>
<p>“Man shall not live by bread alone,</p>	<p>but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4</p>
<p>“Let your light so shine before men,</p>	<p>that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16</p>
<p>“I am the vine, you are the branches.</p>	<p>He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.” John 15:5</p>

<p>“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.</p>	<p>This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22: 37-38</p>
<p>“A new commandment I give to you,</p>	<p>that you love one another.” John 13:34</p>
<p>“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,</p>	<p>and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:29-30</p>
<p>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,</p>	<p>the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord. Revelation 1:8</p>
<p>So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.</p>	<p>Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.” Genesis 1:27-28</p>
<p>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.</p>	<p>You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:8</p>
<p>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.</p>	<p>He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. Psalm 23:1</p>



God be merciful to us and bless us,	And cause His face to shine upon us. Psalm 67:1
God is our refuge and strength,	A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1
The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?	The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1
Have mercy upon me, O God	According to Your loving-kindness. Psalm 51:1
Bless the Lord, O my soul;	And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Psalm 103:1
Unless the Lord builds the house,	They labor in vain who build it. Psalm 127:1
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is	For brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1
In the beginning was the Word,	And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!	For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 136:1

## Scripture Scramble Checklist in Biblical Order

- Genesis 1:27-28      So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. // Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”
- Exodus 20:8        “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. // You shall have no other gods before Me.”
- Psalms 14:6        “I am the way, // the truth, and the life.”
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- Psalms 51:1        Have mercy upon me, O God // according to Your loving-kindness.
- Psalms 67:1        God be merciful to us and bless us, // and cause His face to shine upon us.
- Psalms 84:1        For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; // no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- Psalms 103:1        Bless the Lord, O my soul; // and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- Psalms 127:1        Unless the Lord builds the house, // they labor in vain who build it.
- Psalms 133:1        Behold, how good and how pleasant it is // For brethren to dwell together in unity!
- Psalms 136:1        Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! // For His mercy endures forever.
- Micah 6:8        He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you // but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
- Matthew 4:4        “Man shall not live by bread alone, // but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”
- Matthew 5:16        “Let your light so shine before men, // that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 11:29-30 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, // and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

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John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, // that you love one another.”

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. // He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.”

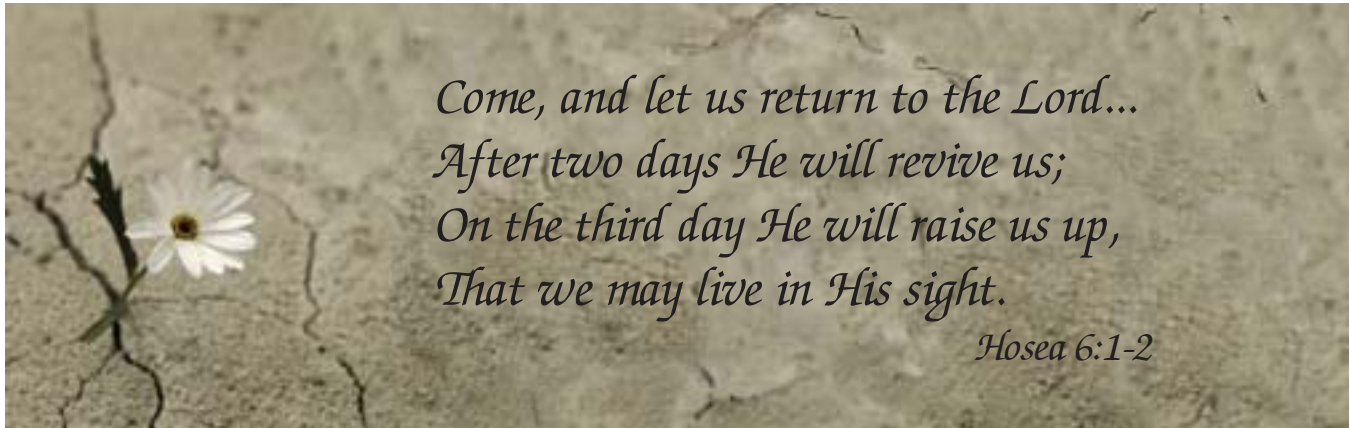
Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, // the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord.

## Meditate & Activate

Thinking or meditating about a passage from God's Word and finding opportunities to put it into action can be a powerful experience. Keep this card intact or cut out the illustrated quotation to use as a bookmark or put up somewhere in your home.

**Meditate:** Is there an ideal in your life that feels distant or dead, in need of new life? Seeking the Lord's help connects us with Him, giving Him the opportunity to renew our sense of purpose and strength.

**Activate:** Identify one ideal that you would like to strengthen or revive, such as speaking well of other people, being honest with yourself and others, or working hard toward some goal. Find an opportunity to put this ideal into practice today and notice the joy of new life and growth from the Lord.



To make a stronger bookmark, print this page on heavy paper or cardstock, cut in half and give half to each student.

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