

Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

Level D | Lesson 3 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: The Lord revives us.

Text: I Kings 17:16-24

Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Look Closer: Raising Up the Son in Our Lives
3. Take Action: Scripture Scramble Challenge
4. Meditate and Activate



I Kings 17:22-23

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

Talk About It

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

1. Scientists and doctors have developed treatments to cure people of diseases and invented machinery that can extend the lives of very ill people. 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 them? (Elijah, Elisha, Jesus)
2. Today's story is about a widow who lost her son. She had lost her husband and so her son was her only family—her hope for the future. Have you experienced feelings like the widow—as if you have lost hope for the future? (when, how?) Sometimes we may feel that the Lord is far away—that we have lost Him in our lives. Or perhaps we have lost sight of the truths that guide us or our sense of purpose—or perhaps we have not read the Word for some time.
3. How might you respond if you found yourself in one of these situations? What was the widow's response, and what did Elijah do? (She cried to Elijah—and Elijah responded by asking her to give him her son.)
4. Elijah pictures the Word. What action does the Lord invite us to take when we are spiritually sick—perhaps even to the point of spiritual death? (To go to the Word.)
5. Elijah took the boy to an upper room. This pictures an “upper room” in our own minds. What do you think this is? (The part of our mind that has a relationship with the Lord—away from thoughts about friends and daily activities. We might call it our conscience.)
6. The conscience is formed from truths in the Word—and this is what brings our moral choices to light. From this awareness we can make new choices, different from ones we have made in the past, trying again with new resolve the next time we have the opportunity.
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 our prayers—it may be hope so that we can try again, feeling comfort when we are hurt, or experiencing peace from angry feelings. Elijah took the boy downstairs to his mother again with joy and told her, “See your son lives!”—giving her new hope and a new purpose in life.
8. The widow declared that Elijah spoke the truth. We can see the Lord and grow closer to Him when we experience the difference that living by His truth can make.

Look Closer: Raising Up the Son in Our Lives

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

“Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.”

I Kings 17:17

This activity takes a closer look at how the impact of the world around us may contribute to feelings that our religion has died, and ways in which we can make changes to bring it back to life.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of “Raising Up the Son in Our Lives” (see attached sheet)
- pen or pencil

Optional Teacher Preparation

Select passages from the Word as a closing activity for the students. Look for peaceful background music for a meditation time to go with a prayer or reading.

Warm-up

The death of the widow's son pictures a death in our lives. It is when we feel that our religion has gone, or is no longer working for us. Let's take a look at messages we receive from the world around us.

Process

1. Distribute the page “Raising Up the Son in Our Lives” to students.
2. Read aloud, and discuss each section of the chart as it is read. Encourage further examples and responses.
3. Discuss “Restoring the son....” with the students.

Wrap-up

End the discussion with a group prayer, quiet meditation or readings from the Word.



Raising up the Son in Our Lives

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

“Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.” I Kings 17:17

The stories in the Word are the stories of our lives

The death of the widow's son pictures a death in our lives. It is when we feel that our religion has gone, or is no longer working for us.

Let's take a closer look at how the impact of what surrounds us might contribute to this.

Source	Messages That Impact Us
Friends	Our friends may take a different view of life and make moral choices that we do not agree with. We may go along with their ideas even when we feel uncomfortable because we are afraid of losing their friendship. Are these people really our “friends?”
Music	Song lyrics may promote unhealthy sexual behavior.
Advertising	Advertising promotes products and behaviors as cool. But are they good? Messages are streamed at us on the Internet, TV, and in print.
Clothing	Look at words and pictures on clothing. What are they promoting? Think about clothing styles that encourage modesty, and those that do not.
TV and Movies	The holiness of marriage is seldom portrayed. Immoral behavior is often made to look attractive, normal and acceptable.
Internet	Websites and ads may promote sick ideas. The solitary nature of being on the Internet leaves us thinking that nobody knows about it, and that it is OK.
Computer Games	Look for what defines winning. Is it killing everyone else for our own advantage? Is everyone who is opposed to us evil?

Restoring the son....

What can you do to bring the son back to life? To find new truths that revive you, raising you up into a new relationship with the Lord? Look for an idea that will work for you!

- **Go to an upper room** Go to a quiet place in your mind. Think about the choices you are making.
- **Read the Word** Set aside a few minutes each day. The Lord is in His Word and can speak to us there. Look for inspirational passages to lift you up.
- **Pray** Ask the Lord for help and inspiration. Prayer will bring Him closer.
- **Get a new start** Imagine the Lord as a loving Father! How joyful He must feel when we return to Him.

Take Action: Challenge 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 the Class

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

Challenge Activity

1. The goal of this activity is for each student to discover what is written on their own back, and to find the person with a quote that goes with theirs, completing a longer quotation.
2. Students may only answer questions from others to get clues about their quotes with *one word answers*. Here are some examples of questions that can be answered using one word:
 - Is it in quotation marks showing that someone is speaking?
 - Tell me one key word. (This can be asked multiple times, but each answer must only be one word.)
 - Is it from the Old or New Testament? (remind students of the books in the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Revelation)
 - Is the quotation about the Lord?
 - Is the quotation about us—people?

Page 2 - Challenge Scripture Scramble

3. If someone doesn't know the answer, they simply shake their head and give no verbal response.
4. Attach one part of a quote to each student's back.
5. Students now walk around the room (approx. 5 minutes) reading others' quotes and trying to identify their quote.
6. When two students think they have a match, they can ask the teacher to check.
7. If there is a match, they can sit down, if not they keep searching.
8. When all students have found their match, sit on the floor in a circle so that each person is looking at the back of the person beside of them. Quote partners should sit next to each other. Have students all read the quote on the back of their partner next to them.

Wrap-up

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

Challenge Scripture Scramble Quotations

<p>Psalm 14:6</p> <p>“I am the way,</p>	<p>the truth, and the life.”</p> <p>Psalm 14:6</p>
<p>Micah 6:8</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?</p> <p>Micah 6:8</p>
<p>Psalm 84:11</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.</p> <p>Psalm 84:11</p>
<p>Matthew 18:20</p> <p>“Where two or three are gathered together in My name,</p>	<p>I am there in the midst of them.”</p> <p>Matthew 18:20</p>
<p>Matthew 4:4</p> <p>“Man shall not live by bread alone,</p>	<p>but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”</p> <p>Matthew 4:4</p>
<p>Matthew 5:16</p> <p>“Let your light so shine before men,</p>	<p>that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”</p> <p>Matthew 5:16</p>
<p>John 15:5</p> <p>“I am the vine, you are the branches.</p>	<p>He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.”</p> <p>John 15:5</p>

<p>Matthew 22: 37-38</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>John 13:34</p> <p>“A new commandment I give to you,</p>	<p>that you love one another.” John 13:34</p>
<p>Matthew 11:29-30</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>Revelation 1:8</p> <p>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,</p>	<p>the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord. Revelation 1:8</p>
<p>Genesis 1:27-28</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>Exodus 20:8</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>Psalms 23:1</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. Psalms 23:1</p>

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

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.”
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- 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.
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- 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.”

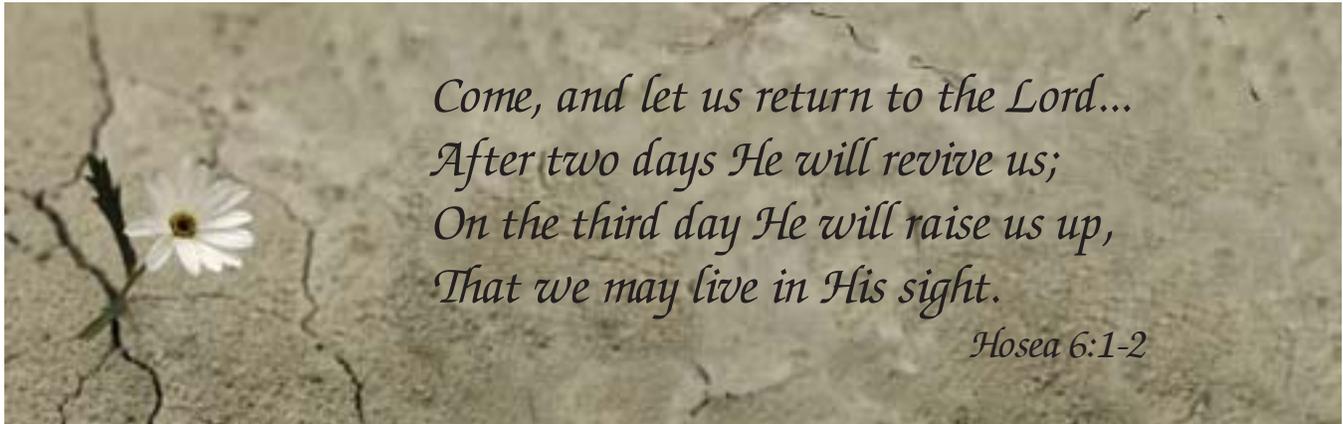
- Matthew 11:29-30 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, // and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
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- John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. // He who abides 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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