

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 31
Elisha and the Widow's Oil; Raises the Shunammite's Son (II Kings 4:1– 37)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. A prophet always represents the Word of the Lord. The prophets spoke from the Lord to the people.
- B. Our "prophet" is the Word. The Word can show us our evils, soothe our troubles, and show us the way to true happiness.
- C. The two greatest prophets sent to help Israel were Elijah and Elisha. Because they obeyed the Lord, He was able to give them great power.
- D. The Lord performs miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who want to believe in Him and for the sake of the Word.
- E. Borrowing vessels represents learning truths so the Lord may fill them with His infinite good.
- F. All healing power is from the Lord.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. The Lord sent two great prophets to help the people of Israel turn away from evil and follow the Lord instead. The first was— ? (Elijah) Perhaps you remember the time the ravens fed him during a famine. After that he showed all the people that Baal was a false god with no power, so the people turned to the Lord once again.
 - 2. When Elijah's work on earth was finished, the Lord took him up to heaven in a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire!
 - 3. Do you remember who became the Lord's prophet after Elijah? (Elisha) Today we'll hear stories in which the Lord helped Elisha do two wonderful miracles.
- B. Tell/Read the Story: Read aloud II Kings 4:1– 37.

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Literal Sense

- a. A widow owed a man some money and could not pay him. What was the man going to do? (take her two sons to be his slaves)
- b. Why did she ask Elisha for help? (Because she knew Elisha was a great prophet and because her husband had been a prophet, too)
- c. What did Elisha ask the woman? (What do you have in the house?)
- d. What did she have? (A jar of oil. [Oil was very precious because it was used for food, to burn in lamps, to anoint kings and priests, and for other things.])
- e. What did Elisha tell the woman to do? (Go borrow many empty vessels [or containers] from all your neighbors.)
- f. What miracle happened when the woman poured the oil from her jar into the empty jars? (Her one jar of oil filled all the empty jars.)
- g. What did Elisha tell her to do with the oil? (Sell it and pay the money she owed; then she and her sons were to use the rest of the oil for themselves.)
- h. There was a woman in Shunem who gave Elisha food when he came there. What else did the woman do for Elisha? (She and her husband made a room for him to stay in with a bed, table, chair, and lampstand.)
- i. Elisha wanted to do something for the woman. How did he repay her kindness? (He promised that she would have a son, and she did have a son a year later.)
- j. What sad thing happened to the boy when he went into the field with his father? (He became ill and died.)
- k. What did the woman do when he died? (She put him on the bed Elisha used, and she went to see Elisha.)
- l. When Elisha knew that the child had died, who did he send ahead to help the child? (He sent Gehazi, his servant.)
- m. Gehazi laid Elisha's staff on the child's face. Did this heal the child? (No)
- n. What did Elisha do when he came to the child? (He prayed to the Lord. Then he lay down on top of the child two times.)
- o. What did the child do when he was healed? (He sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes.)
- p. What did the woman do when her son was healed? (She fell at Elisha's feet and bowed to the ground. Then she picked up her son.)

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2. Further Ideas

- a. Elisha did two wonderful miracles. When the Lord lived one earth years later, He did many miracles like these. He did them to help people believe that He was the Lord. Why do you think the Lord helped Elisha do miracles? Perhaps it was so people would believe that Elisha was a prophet of the Lord and so they would know how powerful the Lord is.
- b. Wasn't it wonderful that Elisha was able to help the widow so her sons would not have to be slaves? Think of how sad she would have been to have her husband and both of her sons gone. But after Elisha helped her, she could live happily with her two sons without worrying about money. The Lord wants us to be happy like the widow. He wants us to borrow vessels from our neighbors like she did. That means the Lord wants us to learn the truths about Him, heaven, what is good, and much more. Then the Lord can make us rich with good loves so He can help us be happy.
- c. Now let's talk about the little boy who died and then was healed by Elisha. Does this miracle remind you of one that the Lord did when He was on earth? (The Lord healed Jairus' daughter and Lazarus when they had died.) The Lord's helping Elisha to heal the little boy shows what a great prophet Elisha was. But first the mother had to go to Elisha, tell him her problem, and ask for his help.
If we remember to tell the Lord our problems and ask for His help, He can help us just as Elisha helped the little boy.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," HYMNAL #166.
2. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," HYMNAL #158.
3. "Happy hearts," HYMNAL #138.

B. Activities

C. Project: A BOOK— — ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

1. Materials Needed

- a. Front page for title cut in the shape of a jar: "Elisha and the Widow's Oil." (Construction or other stiff paper)
- b. Photocopied back page for book with list of truths (taken from AC 5135; copy attached).
- c. Additional pages on which the children can make one or more pictures of the story. (white drawing paper)
- d. Markers, crayons, oil pastels, or colored pencils.

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2. Ahead of Time
 - a. Photocopy back pages for books.
 - b. Trace the jar shape onto the construction and white papers.
 - c. If teacher has time, jar shapes could be cut out before class.
3. Method
 - a. Have children make one or more pictures of the story on white paper cut in Jar shape (Elisha talking with the woman; the woman with one jar of oil; the woman and her sons borrowing vessels; the woman pouring out the oil into many vessels), using one jar-shaped page for each picture.
 - b. Collate the book and fasten at the top with a paper fastener.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Some olives and olive oil to show the children.
- B. Clay or ceramic vessel(s) as examples of what the widow might have borrowed.
- C. Any picture of Elisha

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. THE SOWER, Vol. III, "Elisha at Shunem" (II Kings 4). B. (This lesson is not covered in Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES.)

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Borrowing Vessels

The LORD wants us to borrow vessels, too. That means He wants us to learn truths from the WORD. Here are some of the truths we should learn. Do you want to add more truths to this list?

The LORD created everything in heaven and on earth.

The LORD rewards those who do good, but those who do evil are punished.

Children should obey their parents.

It is wrong to steal.

Good people go to heaven; evil people go to live in hell.

A person should pray to the LORD every day.