

Old Testament

A woman gets help

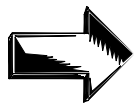
2 Kings 4:1-7

Younger Verse

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Older Verse

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

What do you do when you need help? In today's lesson, there is a woman who needs help desperately. Let's see what she does.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Elisha was a messenger for God. He visited many different towns and shared with the people special messages from God. He was very kind and helpful.

One day a woman came to Elisha. She told him that her husband was dead. He had also been a man who loved God and told others about Him. They owed lots of money to people. She was very scared because the people told her they wanted their money back. The people even told her that they would take her sons as slaves if she did not pay them back! The woman was desperate for help. She had no money and only a little olive oil in her home. Olive oil was used to make food and also used to make light in lamps.

Elisha knew that God would help. He gave the woman some special instructions. If she had faith and obeyed, God would take care of her family.

The woman did as Elisha asked. She gathered every empty pot and jar that she had. She asked her boys to go to their neighbors and friends' homes and borrow empty jars too. Then, she went into her home and shut the door. They began to pour the little oil they had into the jars.

Suddenly, a miracle was happening. One by one, the jars were full of oil even though there was only a little oil in the one jar. Again and again, the boys brought her jars and she poured oil into every empty jar. Finally, there were no more jars. As soon as they told their mother this, the oil stopped flowing.

Lesson Goals

Share how God took care of the woman
See how we can help others in need
Share what it means to have faith

The woman told Elisha about the miracle. He then told her to sell the olive oil and pay what she owed to the people. God helped her when she was having trouble.

Did you notice that when the woman was in trouble, she went to a man of God for help. She knew that God could help her with her problems. When we have needs or problems, we can pray to God for help. One thing we need to remember is that God may not answer our prayer exactly the way that we think he will. The woman had to have faith and do some work to see how God was going to help her. Even people who believe in God have problems. The good thing is that we know that God will take care of us and help us during hard times.

Another thing we can learn from today's lesson is the woman's trust and faith in God. She followed God's instructions that Elisha told her. She gathered as many jars as she could find. She knew that God would help her and He did.

In our own lives, we may feel like our hearts are empty like those empty jars. We may feel sad or feel like no one understands us. God tells us that He loves us and wants to make our empty lives full. He wants to fill us with His love. How? We must tell Him we are sorry for all the sins that we have done. We must ask Him to forgive us and clean us. Because Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, God promises to clean out our sins and make us like new. He will fill us up and help us live for Him when we ask Him. He will come into our lives and be our forever friend. Would you like that in your life? All you have to do is pray and ask God for help just like the woman in today's lesson. God WILL listen and help you. If you want to know more, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Do activities to help the kids understand and apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the verse in gold crayon or marker (because it's the "golden rule"). Cut the verse into puzzle pieces and help the kids arrange it in order. Share how Elisha did good to help others.

Prayer Time

Pray and ask God to help with needs that you have. Thank Him for listening and loving us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring olive oil to taste. Some people like it mixed with parmesan cheese on a plate. Use bread to dip.

Planning for Lesson 63
Elisha and the woman from Shunem
2 Kings 4:8-37

Preschool Lesson
For
A woman gets help

Bring a little sock puppet to use to tell the story today.

One day a Knock, knock (make a knock noise) came at my door. "I wondered who it was?" When I opened the door, it was two boys who were my neighbors. They asked me for any empty jars or pots that I had. They said it was very important.

I quickly found several pots and gave them to the boys. The boys told me they would return the pots soon.

Later, I found out why they needed the pots. Their mother needed money. Her husband had died and they were not sure what to do. The woman knew that Elisha would help her know what to do. Elisha told her that God would help in a special way.

He asked her to find as many pots and jars as she could. She sent her boys to my house and other homes around town. The boys brought back many jars.

Then, the woman and the boys shut their door and followed God's instructions. She poured olive oil into each pot. She started with only a tiny bit of oil and believe it or not a BIG miracle happened. The more she poured the oil into the jars, the more oil she had! She started with a little and finished with MUCH oil. It was a miracle from God.

God helped her have enough oil to sell to pay back the money her family owed to others.

God took care of the woman and her sons. He promises to take care of us, too. Just as the woman went to Elisha for help from God, we can pray to God and ask for help too. God will listen to our prayers and help us.

Sing a song to the tune of "Mary had a Little Lamb."

Elisha helped a woman, woman, woman.

Elisha helped a woman when she needed help.

The boys asked for many jars, many jars, many jars.

The boys asked for many jars from their friends and neighbors.

They went inside and shut the door, shut the door, shut the door.

They went inside and shut the door and followed God instructions.

The oil poured into the jars, to the jars, to the jars.

The oil poured into the jars until all were full.

God did a miracle, miracle, miracle,

God did a miracle to help this little family.

Hands-On Activities
For
A woman gets help

Show the kids how kindness in today's lesson, helped others and caused more people to be kind to others. (chain reaction) Bring a bottle of bubbles. Blow a bubble and share a kind thing in the story. Blow another bubble and share how that kindness helped the woman. Ask the kids to share how they have been kind to someone. THEN, get them to think how that kindness helped the other person to be kind to someone else. Blow a bubble for each act of kindness. Share how our kindness helps others want to be kind and helpful to others. Blow lots of bubbles and share how God wants us to be kind to others just like we want them to be kind to us! (our verse for today)

Bring little jars or vases to act out today's lesson. Bring olive oil or vegetable oil to use. You may want to bring cut up paper as "money" to pay back the debts.

The woman in today's story had lots of faith. That means that she trusted God even though she was not sure what He would do with all the jars. She collected many jars as God told her to do. Faith means that you trust and believe in God. Write the letters of the word on 5 pieces of paper. Bring a bean bag or zipper bag filled with beans (or something). Let the kids take turns trying to throw the bag to spell F-A-I-T-H.

To show the kids what it means to trust God and have faith, bring a BIG zipper bag, baking soda and vinegar. Sprinkle about a tablespoon of soda into the bag. Next, add the vinegar. Watch the reaction! It bubbles and foams up! Share how with God's help, the soda changed. When we believe and trust Him, he will help us and make amazing things happen in our lives.

Bring a music CD (and player) or a nut (like a pecan or walnut). Use them as props to talk about faith. Ask the kids what is on the CD or in the nut. Challenge them to prove to you that they are correct. The kids cannot prove it until they play a song or eat the nut. Share how faith is trusting and believing even when you cannot "prove" or "see" things. Share how God wants us to have faith in Him even when we don't know what is going to happen.
