Elementary 1

Year 2 Book 2

The Victorious Soldiers

Teacher's Guide & Student Worksheets

This Teacher's Guide is dedicated to those
who serve God in the children's ministry.

May God continue to grant you wisdom
and strength to impact the future generations.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8)

Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 2

The Victorious Soldiers

Contents

Lesson Index	i
How to Use This Teacher's Guide	ii-iii
Your Teaching Procedures & Teaching with Music/Bible Dramatics	iv
Understanding Your Students	v
Memory Verses	vi

Lesson Index

Lesson 1	Elijah and the Ravens	1-9
Lesson 2	A Handful of Flour and a Little Oil	10-17
Lesson 3	God Answers Elijah's Prayer for the Widow's Son	18-26
Lesson 4	Fire on Mount Carmel	27-37
Lesson 5	A Little Cloud	38-50
Lesson 6	God Comforts Elijah	60-69
Lesson 7	Elijah Confronts Ahab's Wickedness	70-84
Lesson 8	Elisha Works for God	85-94
Lesson 9	The Never-Ending Oil	95-104
Lesson 10	The Shunammite Woman's Son	105-114
Lesson 11	Naaman and the Israelite Girl	115-122
Lesson 12	Greedy Gehazi	123-128
Lesson 13	Review	

All Scripture is quoted in NKJV unless otherwise indicated.

Revised November 2013.

Always pray for your students and pray for the wisdom to teach!

Welcome to the world of six to eight-year-olds!

This is a wonderful age range to be teaching, as students are beginning to mature and understand more about the world around them. However, they haven't all grown up yet and still need your gentle nurturing to guide them.

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

—Colossians 1:28

Although your students are beginning to read, they still learn in a variety of ways, including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands-on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are always good reminders at any level because they help the students make connections to the story and retain information. Hands-on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. For example, the students can be involved in making the scenes for the days of creation. This will help them remember what happened much more so than just a telling of the story. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned at the end of each lesson. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited before you move on. Knowledge and learning need to be built upon what they have already grasped. Only then can the students build on their experiences and make the proper connections in future lessons. Furthermore, since they are learning to read, it is vital to ask students to read at least one verse from the Bible each week during class time. You can assist them if they are having difficulty with **vocabulary** words, but this is the time to help them practice turning to the right section of the Bible they are studying. This is a great habit to build up now.

Vocabulary

This book is designed to be teacher-and-student friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. As in all of the textbooks, there are sections before the start of the lesson that give relevant Bible background information. Take the time to review the **Before You Teach** and **Understanding Your Students** sections to familiarize yourself with the teachings since your students are more sophisticated and require more than just an overview of the Bible story. Occasionally, there will be some teaching ideas included. These are simply suggestions you may want to consider as you prepare your lesson. Of course, you can adapt them as needed for your class and students. The story section is a retelling of the events recorded in the Bible.

Before You Teach

Understanding Your Students

You are encouraged to read it through, but remember to be ready to share the words of God, and not to literally read from the pages of this guide. Please also review the story by using the questions provided in the **Check for Understanding** section. This will give you a good idea of how much the students understand. You can ask each question directly or use other creative ways to have students share their answers.

Check for Understanding

A key indicator to a successful lesson is when the students take something home from the lesson. What have they walked away with and how can they apply what they have learned? The lesson is not complete until you have shared the discussion questions found in the **Spiritual Teaching and Life Application** section. You want your students to leave the class with the feeling that they want to draw even closer to God through specific actions they can take. Help them make goals and be sure to encourage them in their efforts.

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

The last thing you will need to consider for class time is which **activities** will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several from which to choose. Again, depending on the time and the abilities of your class, you may choose to do one or two to reinforce the teachings of the lesson.

Activity

Since your students are learning to read and write, this guide has included a **Homework Assignment** section. This serves to remind the students of God's word at home during the week. There is **no** separate student workbook, so you are encouraged to photocopy the homework sheets. The students can store their work in a binder or file folder. You can provide homework each week for them to insert in their folder or reproduce all twelve lessons at the beginning of each new quarter. Review the homework before they leave class so that the students are aware of what to complete and how to do it. You may need to brainstorm ideas for the life application questions so that the students have something to build on when they return home. All teachers need to consistently check homework to make this a useful tool and a good extension of the teachings. The students are also encouraged, via the homework assignment, to develop a daily Bible reading and prayer devotional time. Be sure the parents are aware of this expectation. A partnership between the teachers and parents will greatly facilitate the growing faith of the students.

Homework Assignment

Remember that your students are still growing. There are so many things they can do independently, but there are areas where they need extra support. Take time to get to know each of your students so that you can meet their needs. Most importantly, remember to allow time for yourself to grow closer to God as you help your students develop their relationship with Him!

You can't do MORE for your students until you have knelt down and PRAYED for each of them daily.

"'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."
—Zechariah 4:6

1

Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help the students praise God through hymnal worship.

Procedure: Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the students in simple hymns or action rhymes.

Be Prepared

Be Organized

Be Flexible

2

In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: To let the students hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

Procedure: Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship Procedure. They are:

1) **Bible Story**
2) **Check for Understanding**
3) **Spiritual Teaching and Life Application**

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words and practice the memory verse, both of which are listed in each lesson.

3

Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help your students become familiar with the word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is to help the students put the word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

Procedure: Let the students work on the activities. If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers. We have come up with a variety of activities as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

Teaching with Music

Do your students seem to enjoy music more than the lesson itself? Music can be an effective teaching technique within a lesson.

- Hymns that tell stories can enhance your lessons.
- Many students learn more easily if they can "feel" the material you are teaching. Choose hymns with motions and physical movement.
- Students who do not show emotion easily may find it easier to express themselves through hymns.

Keep these in mind when using music with your students:

- Learn the hymns before you teach them.
- Sing the new hymn to the students before you have them sing it.
- Sing the hymn in a variety of ways—assign parts, use rhythmic instruments, move around, and so on.

Teaching with Bible Dramatics

- Playacting can make Bible stories come alive for the students.
- Let the students volunteer for the roles they want.
- Encourage students to think about the mood, the setting, the characters, and their expressions and motives. They all contribute to making the story come alive.
- Encourage creativity. Acting out Bible stories can help students see the story and characters in a new way.

Elementary 1 (Ages 6-8)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
Body	
1. Still developing/growing, though the pace is slowing	Increase levels of difficulty in activities as the students become more able physically
2. Still get tired easily	Do not stretch one activity for too long; find a balance between times of quietness and action
3. No longer play alone; can adapt to group games or activities	Encourage student involvement with more cooperative group games; show respect to everyone
Mind	
1. Have strong sense of imagination	Encourage the use of imagination, but help students to discern fact from fiction
2. Still think according to words on paper; cannot accept abstract ideas	Use familiar similes and parallels to which students can relate, just as Jesus used the familiar to teach the unfamiliar
3. Concept of space and time is still limited	Be careful when describing time and space
4. Reading ability is gradually strengthening	Encourage the reading of books that promote spirituality
5. Have excellent memory	Encourage the memorization of Bible verses
6. Deductive thinking is still limited	Repeat content regarding abstract terms and truths
Mood	
1. Very sensitive; can have outbursts of emotion	Get excited or saddened easily
2. At the adorable stage; like to please teachers and receive praise	Easy to discipline, but pay special attention to giving praise and encouragement
3. Full of compassion and care for others	Nurture students to help, serve, and treat others fairly
4. Still tend to fear and withdraw	Provide a sense of security
Social Skills	
1. Make friends easily	Help them to establish friendships
2. Like to please adults	Establish a student-teacher relationship
3. Like to cooperate and do not like to compete	Promote cooperation by offering group projects/activities
4. Have good social skills; desire acceptance from others	Be careful not to promote hypocrisy when teaching
5. Still like to quarrel with friends; always change their best friends	Place emphasis on teaching students to love one another; encourage a giving spirit instead of a selfish one
Spirituality	
1. Have a simple faith; are interested in a life of faith; will initiate prayer	Use a systematic way of teaching faith and the truth; encourage prayer
2. Curious about death and heaven	Simply explain the truth of salvation
3. Like to attend RE classes	Nurture their interest in Bible reading and church activities
4. Are learning to differentiate between real biblical stories and fictional fairy tales or legends	Emphasize that the Bible contains the words of God and is not a common book, but one inspired and written by God
5. Are learning the moral teachings of good and evil	Emphasize the moral aspects of the Bible
6. All spiritual experiences come from imitating adults	Set a good example; share more spiritual experiences with students

E1 Year 2 Book 2 **December, January, February**

1. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)
2. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17a)
3. "Call to Me, and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 33:3a)
4. "Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer." (Psalm 4:1b)
5. "The Lord will hear when I call to Him." (Psalm 4:3b)
6. "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:12)
7. "The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground." (Psalm 147:6)
8. "For God is not unjust to forget your work." (Hebrews 6:10a)
9. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)
10. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)
11. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10)
12. "Be holy in all your conduct." (1 Peter 1:15b)

Lesson 1

Elijah and the Ravens

Before You Teach

God uses many people to help Him do His work. Two of His most memorable workers were Elijah and Elisha. They were humble and faithful prophets. By studying their lives, we can see the power and mercy of God. Elijah and Elisha performed some of the greatest miracles recorded in the Bible, which turned the hearts of many to the Lord. They also taught God's word so that people could lead lives pleasing to God.

By examining their lives, we can see the constant protection that God provided for them. In times of need, God provided and cared for them, demonstrating the unfailing love He had for everyone.

The Prophet Elijah

Elijah was one of the first of a long line of prophets God sent to Israel and Judah. The kingdom of Israel did not have even one faithful king throughout its history. In fact, each king led the people to worship idols. While Israel's kings still appointed priests, they were often corrupt and ineffective. As a result, the people did not hear God's word and their faith weakened. To rescue them, God sent prophets to deliver His word and to lead them back to the correct moral and spiritual path. For the next 300 years, these prophets played important roles in leading the people back to God. An important prophet, Elijah had a special relationship with God. He was sent to confront an evil king, and his messages were often rejected. Despite this, he was still determined to serve the Lord. Through him, many miracles were performed, and while he felt alone and afraid at times, he never failed to rely on God. His personal relationship with God was highlighted in the New Testament transfiguration scene when he appeared with Moses and Jesus.

Ahab

Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel twenty-two years as one of its strongest kings. Despite his political success, Ahab proved to be disastrous in the religious affairs of his nation. One of his biggest mistakes was marrying Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. She led the entire nation into idol worship. The Canaanites honored a group of gods and El was the most famous of them all. Baal, meaning "master" or "lord," was the most well known offspring of El. Some references say that the name Ethbaal meant "Baal is alive." Baal was known as the storm god who provided rain for the land. While the worship of this Canaanite god was evident long before Ahab's time, Ahab was the one who, on the advice of his evil wife, built a temple and altar for Baal in the capital city of Samaria, provoking anger in the Lord. When Elijah came to confront him, he refused to acknowledge his own disobedience to God. Instead, he chose to listen to the false prophets who always delivered "good" news; constantly following the words of the false prophets eventually led to his death.

Bible Text

1 Kings 16:29-17:7

Bible Truth

God always provides for us and shows us the best way.

Lesson Objectives

1. To reinforce the importance of obeying God in all circumstances.
2. To assure the students that every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need and bless us.

Memory Verse

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

(Acts 16:31)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, heavenly Father, for Your love and protection throughout this past week. We are so joyful to be here again to worship and learn about You. You are a loving, merciful God who came down to earth to die for our sins. Today, let us learn from Elijah so that God's grace and power can shine through us in our lives. Like Elijah, if we remain faithful and obedient to God, we will be protected and guided. Then, we can truly be called the victorious soldiers of Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

At this age, your students are highly impressionable. They tend to follow the crowd and already feel peer pressure. While Ahab was not under pressure, he certainly listened to the majority, even though they often made wrong decisions. Many times, your students will engage in something without knowing that it is inappropriate. Sometimes, they might realize that what they are seeing or doing is not right, but they feel powerless to change the situation. Let them know that God is always there and while it may seem like no one understands them, God does. If they trust in Him and pray to Him, everything will turn out all right. The compulsion to follow the crowd is hard to overcome, even for adults. Your students may feel out of place or "weird" because they have chosen to follow God. Ensure that your students realize that God knows everything and is always there to protect them, no matter what the situation. They need to be confident that God is someone they can rely on. In the end, their decision to follow God will be the best decision.

Some students might encounter idol worship because of their unbelieving parents and/or grandparents. It is important to teach them to be aware that food or drinks offered to idols on the altar cannot be eaten. Explain to them that after knowing Jesus, we should only worship God and no one else. If they already have God with them, they cannot worship another god. Advise them that even if their parents or grandparents insist that they eat or drink the offered goods, they should still politely decline, being mindful to remain respectful to them.

Vocabulary

brook: small stream or river
raven: a large, shiny black bird
Baal: master or lord; also worshipped as the storm god
Ethbaal: "Baal is alive"

Review

Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 1: God's Chosen Servants

Lesson 1: Hannah Prays for a Son
Lesson 2: The Boy Samuel
Lesson 3: Eli's Wicked Sons
Lesson 4: Israel Wants a King
Lesson 5: The Lord Rejects Saul
Lesson 6: Samuel Anoints David
Lesson 7: David Kills Goliath
Lesson 8: Saul Is Jealous of David
Lesson 9: Jonathan and David, Best Friends
Lesson 10: David Refuses to Kill Saul
Lesson 11: Abigail Makes Peace
Lesson 12: David Becomes King
Lesson 13: Review

Themes from this book: Choosing to listen to and obey God; following God's directions; being loyal to God; growing in God's wisdom

Key characters: Samuel; Saul; David

Bible Story

Ahab and Jezebel
After King Solomon died, the land of Israel was divided into two nations because the tribes fought against each other. One nation kept the name Israel, while the other was called Judah. There were many evil kings who ruled over the kingdom of Israel. One of the most wicked was King Ahab. He did many things that displeased God, including marrying an evil woman called Jezebel. They worshipped idols together and led the Israelites away from God. The king and queen even built temples and altars for Baal so that the entire land of Israel could worship Baal.

God's Message for Elijah
When God saw all this wickedness, He became very angry. He decided to send someone to tell Ahab to stop or else He would destroy him. Elijah was a man of God who loved God very much and worked for Him. He was a prophet of God. A prophet is a messenger of God who tells other people the news he receives from God. God told Elijah to give Ahab an important message. He was going to punish the king and the people by not letting rain fall for a long time until Elijah said it could rain again. A period of time without rain is called a drought. When there's a drought, plants and food can't grow, which results in a famine that causes people and animals to go hungry. Elijah wasted no time in going to see King Ahab.

Elijah Delivers the Message
Elijah arrived at the king's palace and relayed God's message to him.

"King Ahab," said Elijah, "God has sent me here to warn you. God says that there will be no rain in this land until I say so."

Elijah hoped that Ahab would change his ways after hearing this warning. He wanted Ahab to realize that it was wrong to worship idols because it angered God. The absence of rain meant that there would be no water to drink and that all the plants and crops would die. The people were going to starve! Do you think Elijah was brave for telling the king that he had done something wrong? (Yes, he was, but he was able to do it with God's help. We should learn to follow God's words, even when we are afraid because other people are not doing the right thing.)

God Provides Food
After Elijah delivered the message to King Ahab, God knew Elijah was in danger, so He helped Elijah by telling him where to go and hide. He told the prophet to go to a brook far away. That way, King Ahab would not be able to find him. God also comforted Elijah by telling him not to worry about food or water. There would be lots of water to drink from the brook, and God had commanded ravens to feed him. Elijah did not question God. He obeyed and immediately set out for the brook. When we are scared, we need to remember that God is always with us and will protect us.

When Elijah reached the brook, he saw that it was a wonderful place. There were huge rocks all around and plenty of fresh water to drink.

That night, Elijah began to feel a little hungry, but there was no food to eat at the brook. He then remembered that God had told him not to worry. Elijah was confident that God would somehow provide. Suddenly, he saw several black birds flying towards him. Do birds normally bring food for people to eat? (No. This is a miracle! Only God could have done it.) They were ravens. They flew down to Elijah, and he saw that they were carrying bread and meat. God had sent the birds to provide Elijah with dinner.

The next morning, the ravens came again to Elijah and brought him bread and meat for breakfast. Every day, the birds came with food so that Elijah would not go hungry. Elijah was well fed and safe from Ahab because God protected and provided for him. Today, if we obediently listen to God's instructions, just like how Elijah listened to God and immediately went to hide at the brook, He will look after us.

Learning from Elijah
Elijah was very obedient to God. The only instructions God gave him were to go hide by a brook and wait for His providence. Elijah didn't know whether that would really happen when he arrived at the brook, but Elijah believed in God even before he reached the brook. We can always believe in the words of God, because whenever God says He will do something, He always keeps His promises. (For example, if God tells us to be good children so that we may go to heaven, we must be good children. We must believe that there is a very nice and happy place called heaven, and that if we are good, one day we can go there and be with God!)

There are times when we might be afraid, just like how Elijah was afraid because Ahab was after him. But what should we do when we feel afraid? We should remember God. When Mom and Dad are not there with you, you must remember that God is everywhere and will look after you. You can always kneel down to pray and ask Him to help you.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False
1. **King** _____ (Ahab) **married an idol worshipper whose name was Jezebel.**
2. **God became** _____ (angry) **when He saw the evil things the king and queen had done.**
3. **God punished King Ahab and the people by not allowing** _____ (rain) **to fall until Elijah said so.**
4. **God sent doves to bring food for Elijah.** False; God sent ravens.
5. **Elijah hid by a brook so that Ahab wouldn't find him.** True.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. Every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need.

Students, do you know what it feels like to go through the wilderness alone? [Let students answer.] It is probably dry, dark at night, and lonely. It must be scary, too! Why, then, did God send Elijah to the desert? Every great worker of God, such as Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist, and Paul, has gone through a period of alone time, either in the wilderness or a secluded location, to spend quiet time with God. That period is a time of preparation required to be a man of God. Prophet Elijah was sent to the wilderness, all alone, for a period of time. But in fact, he was not alone at all. The Lord was with him. Sometimes, we may feel like we are in the wilderness all alone. However, we need to remember that the Lord is always with us. God provides every need when we trust and obey Him.

In this lesson, God calls Elijah to the wilderness so that he learns to trust and obey God. What did Elijah learn? He learned that God provides every need.

Do you have faith that God supplies every need? If we go through life on our own, it will be full of difficulties. But if we trust and obey God's instructions, He will take care of our needs. Even though there was a drought in the land, God took care of Elijah! He had water from the brook to drink, and bread and meat from the ravens to eat, both in the morning and in the evening. God provides our every need. Isn't that wonderful? In Matthew 6:31-34, we read,

> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Can you think of a time when God provided the needs of your families? [Teachers, perhaps you could take a few moments to give the students a chance to share a time when God provided for them.] It is pretty amazing to see how God has taken care of each one of us. There is no need too great or too difficult for God to supply. God has all power, all wisdom, and He loves us! He is well able to supply all our needs. When we have a need, we only need to talk to God about it in prayer, and trust that He will give us what is best.

Let's read the following testimony written by a student..

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify about how God helped my family.

A few years ago, my dad, along with many other people in his company, got laid off from his job. At about the same time, Irvine church was starting to build the second phase building and there were a lot of things to take care of.

My father was one of the members that helped oversee the construction work. Without a full-time job, my father was able to go help the church whenever there was a need.

While my dad didn't have a full time job, my mom had one. She teaches preschool, and during that difficult period of time, God blessed her with a lot of children to teach. We thank God that we didn't have to worry about money. My mom was glad that my dad could come see us at school when he came to do volunteer hours.

When the Irvine church second phase construction was completed, my dad found a part-time job. We were so happy! We didn't need to worry again. The church was glad for the permit because we received it just in time for us to host the World Delegate Conference.

God helped our church and family at the same time. I thank God for supplying our needs and guiding our family. May all the glory and honor be unto His holy name. Amen.

Testimony for Summer SSC 2013 by Rebecah Huang

2. God is there to protect and look after us, His children, if we completely trust in Him.

Ask the class, "Can you think of a hymn that talks about how God protects us?" Refer to the hymn, "My Father Watches Over Me."

Sing this hymn together as a class.

I trust in God wherever I may be.
Upon the land or on the rolling sea.
For some what may, from day to day.
My heavenly Father watches over me.

I trust in God, I know He cares for me,
On mountain bleak or on the stormy sea,
Tho' billows roll,
He keeps my soul,
My heavenly Father watches over me

[Explain the lyrics of the hymn and remind the students to trust and rely on God, just as they trust and rely on Mom and Dad. Also, share with the students some testimonies or your own experiences of when God kept His promise because complete trust had been placed in Him.]

The following scenario is a great example of how God keeps His promise to supply our needs when we place our trust in Him.

I Trust in You!

Caroline is very anxious about her violin performance next week. Last time, she shook so much during her performance that she had to stop playing and did not finish. She is so worried that this will happen again. Caroline prays every day about her performance next week. In her prayers, she says to God,

"Dear heavenly Father, my violin performance is next week. I'm so worried that I'll embarrass myself in front of my friends and disappoint my violin teacher and my parents. I don't have any confidence in myself! God, I know that everything is possible with You. I have heard so many stories about Your power and love. I really believe that You can help me! Prophet Elijah placed his trust in You, so in turn You kept Your promise to help and protect him even though everything seemed so impossible. I trust You just as Elijah does… I don't think I can perform in front of so many people next week without shaking, but I trust that You can help me. God, please give me Your strength for this performance; help me do better than last time and look after me so that I won't be laughed at. Thank You, Lord! Amen."

As the days go by, Caroline begins to feel more and more confident about her performance. She really feels the power of prayer and that God is listening to her request! At last, Caroline goes to her performance with little fear but great confidence in God. Before the performance, she reminds herself of God's promise. Even though she plays a few wrong notes, Caroline isn't as nervous as last time. She only shakes a little bit at the beginning of her performance, and as she continues playing, she can feel that God is with her, which helps her finish her performance beautifully.

3. Obey God in all circumstances.

Students, remember how the Lord instructed Elijah when there was drought in the land? The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan." Sometimes, we do not always see the big picture of what God is doing in our lives. God might give us just a little bit of information. We must be obedient with that direction in order to receive more direction.

Elijah had a choice—to obey or disobey God. But he chose to obey God, even though he had no idea how long he would be there. Elijah willingly obeyed God's guidance and allowed Him to take control of his life.

1. Ask the class, "What are some ways that can you obey God?"
2. Have the students write the following statements on a piece of paper (or alternatively on the whiteboard):

- I obey God by praying to Him every day.
- I obey God's teachings by reading the Bible.
- I obey God by thanking Him before eating meals.
- I obey God by going to church.
- I obey God by being good and submissive to my parents.

Are you willing to ask God to work in your heart and teach you? He wants our hearts to be in the right place before serving Him. Let's read this testimony to see how a child at your age learned to obey her parents even though she really wanted to have fun with her friends after church.

Last week, Amy invited me to her housewarming party on Saturday. I really, really wanted to go because all of my friends are going. But I knew that Saturday is always the Sabbath day, so I made up my mind not to go. We had a very edifying RE class about obeying God. Thank God that I didn't miss it! Sabbath is truly a blessed day.

Still, I really hoped to stay at church for a little longer to play with my friends. When we finished class, the teacher brought a new board game for the class and I wanted to play it with them. However, my parents needed to go because of a family dinner. I reasoned with them that I had already lost my chance to play with my friends at Amy's housewarming party, but my parents said we must go. I almost wanted to cry, but I thought about what we learned from RE class that day—blessed are those who obey God! God wants us to submit to our parents. God would be so disappointed to see that I cried to make my parents let me stay longer to play with my friends. So I said to my parents, "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad. You're right. We shouldn't be late to our family dinner. Let's go!" That night, my parents told me that they were very proud of me for obeying God in keeping the Sabbath and for being good and submissive to them. Their encouragement means a lot to me. Thank God for such wonderful parents!

Students, we have a choice to make every day—to obey God or not to obey God. When we obey God, God will surely bless us and guide us.

Activities

1 **"Put Your Trust in the Lord"**

Objective: To create a bookmark that will remind the students to always put their trust in God, no matter the circumstance.

Materials

- Assorted tissue paper
- Pressed and dried flowers/leaves (if possible)
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Glue
- Clear adhesive plastic

Instructions

1. Press the flowers or leaves by placing them between sheets of newspaper and slipping them inside a large phone book or heavy textbook for about a week. If this is not possible, then the students can create them out of other materials.
2. Cut out two 2" by 6" pieces of clear adhesive plastic. Set aside.

3. Cut a 2" by 6" rectangle from construction paper. Using this rectangle, cut a 3/8" border to use as the frame for the bookmark.
4. Print "Put Your Trust in the Lord" around this frame, adding other decorations as desired.
5. Cut out small pieces of colored tissue paper. Set aside.
6. Remove backing from a piece of adhesive plastic and stick the frame onto it (with the printed words down on the plastic).
7. Now add the pieces of tissue paper and/or the dried flowers and leaves onto the clear plastic that is showing.
8. Cover the frame with the other piece of clear adhesive plastic. Let the bookmark remind you to trust that God will take care of you!

2 Raven Mobile

Objective: To create a hanging mobile that depicts Elijah being fed by ravens, which will remind the students to always trust in God.

Materials

- Plain paper
- Stapler (alternatively, use glue or Blu-Tack)
- Clear elastic thread/string
- Colored pencils/markers
- Cardboard
- Single-hole punch

Instructions

1. Have the students draw on two pieces of pre-cut paper (which are of good size to create a mobile). On one page, draw Elijah by the brook; on the other, draw several black ravens.
2. After drawing their pictures, have the students glue the pieces of paper onto pre-cut cardboard pieces, preferably of the same size.
3. Using a hole puncher, punch four or five on the bottom of the picture with the ravens.
4. Using a hole puncher, punch four or five holes on the top of the picture with Elijah by the brook.
5. Connect the two pictures by threading some clear elastic thread/string through the holes. The end result should be four to five vertical strings connecting the two pictures (with the raven picture above and Elijah's picture hanging below).
6. With the remaining paper or cardboard, draw some pieces of bread and meat (about the size of small coins) and cut them out.
7. Randomly staple these onto the elastic thread/string (alternatively, use glue or Blu-Tack, but this may require an extra piece of paper to be attached to the back of the meat or bread to stick properly).
8. Punch one hole at the very top of the mobile, and attach a long piece of string to allow the students to hang the mobile up.
9. If time permits: have the students glue plain paper onto the reverse side of the mobile and write on/decorate it with the words "TRUST IN GOD ALWAYS."

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. A
3. False; God was upset that they were worshipping Baal.
4. True
5. rain
6. brook
7. ravens
8. They worshipped idols and built temples and altars for the idol Baal.
9. Noah listened to God and built the ark; Abraham moved out of his hometown to travel to a foreign place—Canaan; Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac for God; Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt by listening to and following God's instructions.
10. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 1—Elijah and the Ravens

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God always provides for us and shows us the best way.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To reinforce the importance of obeying God in all circumstances.
2. To assure the students that every time we obey God's word and trust Him, He will provide us with what we need and bless us.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 16:31)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : King Ahab and Queen Jezebel built _____ for the idol Baal.
   a. An altar
   b. A temple
   c. Both an altar and a temple

2. _____ : The ravens brought Elijah _____.
   a. Bread and meat
   b. Bread only
   c. Meat only

True or False

3. God was very happy that the people of Israel were worshipping Baal. _____
4. Elijah was safe from King Ahab because God protected him and made sure that he didn't go hungry or thirsty. _____

Fill In the Blank

5. Elijah spoke to King Ahab, saying that there would be no _____ until he said so.
6. Elijah ran away from King Ahab and went to hide by a _____.
7. During the famine, God sent _____ to give food to Elijah.

Short Answer

8. How did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel disobey God?

   _____

   _____

9. Elijah was obedient to God. Can you name some other Bible characters that also obeyed God (e.g., Abraham, Noah, and Moses)? How were they obedient?

   _____

   _____

10. How can you show your obedience today?

    _____

    _____

Lesson 2

A Handful of Flour and a Little Oil

Before You Teach

Faith
Throughout the famine, Elijah was fed by God through various means. God used ravens in the previous story, and in this story, God told Elijah to visit the home of a poor widow. He listened to God's words and went as he was commanded. Both Elijah and the widow demonstrated faith and great obedience to God's promise. Interestingly, the widow was not even an Israelite and, in fact, lived in Queen Jezebel's home territory of Sidon. It was very dangerous for the fugitive Elijah to enter this area and equally difficult for the widow to extend such warmth to him. Yet, it was because of her faith that she and her son did not eat their last meal. She sacrificed the last of her food resources as an act of faith. In the end, her actions proved her trust in God.

God, Our Sole Provider
It is evident from this incident that God is the only provider for our needs. Zarephath belonged to Sidon, a place ruled by Jezebel's father (Ahab's father-in-law), Ethbaal. In a place that worshipped the idol Baal, God showed His great power through a miracle that sustained the lives of Elijah, the widow, and her household for the duration of the famine.

Understanding Your Students

It may be difficult for the students to relate to this story because more likely than not, they have not experienced such a great miracle—jars that never run out of flour and oil—first hand. To them, it may be just another lesson about a miracle. It is at this time that we need to remind the students to connect the Bible stories together and not think of each one as an isolated incident. By connecting these stories, they will see a God who consistently showed abundant mercy and blessings. Encourage them to think of other Bible characters that also faced similar tests of faith and obedience. (Abraham's offering of Isaac, Noah's ark, and the crossing of the Red Sea are some examples.)

God is also faithful to His promises today. When the students learn to trust in God, He will provide them with everything that they need. Sometimes, things may seem impossible for them to accomplish, but they need to remember the examples set by Elijah and the widow. Jesus said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). He took care of Elijah and the widow by giving them food during the famine. Although the students may not require this particular kind of help, God will take care of any needs they may have when they rely on Him and follow His teachings.

Bible Text

1 Kings 17:7-16

Bible Truth

God will provide us with all things if we believe in Him and follow His way.

Lesson Objectives

1. To instill in students the importance of obeying the words of God.
2. To teach students to thank God for giving them food every day.

Memory Verse

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."

(James 1:17a)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for everything You have given us. Thank You for being there when we need You and for listening to our prayers. Please teach us to be obedient to Your words so that we can follow Your way. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Vocabulary

widow: a woman whose husband has passed away

Review

Last week, we learned about the wickedness of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. They led the people of Israel to worship idols instead of the one true God. Elijah, a prophet of God, was sent to warn the king of God's punishment for him if he continued to worship these idols. What was God's punishment? (There would be no rain until Elijah said so.) God knew Elijah was in danger after telling Ahab this, so He told Elijah to flee from the evil king. We also learned about God took care of and protected Elijah. Because there was no food or water in the land, how did God provide for Elijah? (God had ravens bring him food and he had water to drink at the brook.) What did we learn from this story? (We should obey God and follow His words.)

Bible Story

The Brook Dries Up
After Elijah fled from King Ahab, he stayed at the brook for a long time. But because there hadn't been any rain, the brook dried up. Elijah didn't have anything left to drink but he knew that God would provide him with what he needed.

One day, God spoke to Elijah and said, "I want you to go to a faraway city called Zarephath. I have told a widow there to take care of you." So Elijah listened to God and departed from the brook for the faraway city. When he finally reached the city gate, he saw a widow collecting some sticks.

The Poor Widow and Her Son
The widow that God had told Elijah to find was not a rich woman. She lived alone with her son, and they barely had enough to eat. In fact, when Elijah met the woman, she only had a handful of flour and very little oil, which was only enough for one last meal. How was this widow also going to provide for Elijah? When Elijah arrived at the city gates, he saw the widow and went up to her. He politely asked her if she could bring him some water. Since she still had some water left, she agreed.

As she was about to leave and get the water, Elijah called to her and said, "Could you also bring me a piece of bread?" When the widow heard his request, she faced a great problem. As much as she wanted to help Elijah, she knew she only had enough to feed her son and herself. Instead of making up an excuse, she truthfully told Elijah, "I have no food prepared and I only have enough flour and oil to make a little bread for my son and me. When that is used up, we will have no more food and will starve to death."

Elijah understood her problem. She was a widow who had no way of supporting herself, much less her young son. She likely had to depend on help from others to survive. But during the drought, she did not have very much left and Elijah knew this.

Do Not Worry
Instead of getting angry at the widow for not listening to him, Elijah comforted her. He told her not to worry and that God would provide.

Elijah said to the woman, "God will make sure you have enough food. Go prepare bread for you and your son, but first, make me a small cake from the flour and oil and there will be plenty left for you and your son. God will not let you run out of flour or oil until there is rain again in this land." Elijah believed in God and believed that He would take care of him and of the widow and her family. We can see that Elijah trusted in God.

The Widow Listens and Obeys
The widow trusted in God and did exactly what Elijah had asked her to do. She went home and mixed all the flour in the bin and all the oil from the jar. Then she baked a small cake and gave it to Elijah. When she looked into the bin and jar, she saw that a handful of flour and a little oil still remained! She had enough to feed herself and her son, just as Elijah had told her. This was a miracle!

What normally happens after you finish drinking a glass of water or after you eat the last cookie in the cookie jar? Nothing would be left! But God can do anything. God gave the widow, her family, and Elijah extra flour and oil to make food. That way, they would not go hungry during the famine. From then on, every day, the widow would take all the flour and oil out of the containers to make bread to feed all three of them. Each day, when she went back to cook, the flour and oil would still be there. They never ran out, just as God had promised.

The widow continued to feed Elijah for three years. Because they trusted God and believed in His mercy, this

miracle happened. Through this miracle, their faith in God grew even greater and they thanked God for taking care of them in their time of need. When we really need help, God will take care of us, just like how He looked after Elijah and the widow. All we need to do is to have faith in God, which means believing that He can do anything.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **Elijah had to leave the brook because it had** _____ (dried) **up.**
2. **Elijah was told by God to find a** _____ (widow) **who would take care of him.**
3. **The widow could not offer bread to Elijah because she only had a little bit of** _____ (flour) **and** _____ (oil)**.**
4. **The widow had faith and obeyed the prophet Elijah.** True.
5. **God is always loving and kind to those who obey Him.** True.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17a)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. Obey God's words.

The widow trusted in God and did exactly what Elijah had asked her to do. She went home and mixed all the flour in the bin and all the oil from the jar. Then, she baked a small cake and gave it to Elijah. When she looked into the bin and jar, she saw that a handful of flour and a little oil still remained! She had enough to feed herself and her son, just as Elijah had told her. It all started when she obeyed and did what Elijah had told her to do!

Ask the students, "What are some things that God wants you to do that show obedience?" Some possible answers are: Come to church, listen to my parents, be nice, share my things/toys, and be good in school. [Have the students call out their answers. You can either write them down or draw pictures on the whiteboard to represent the answers.]

Let's read this verse—John 14:23, *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'"*

The Bible tells us that God loves people who will keep His word. In other words, God will bless us abundantly if we always choose to obey Him. We need to be diligent followers of God, always thinking deeply about God's words and applying them to our daily lives. Let's read the following scenarios.

SCENARIO #1
Jane buys a drink from the snack bar at school and realizes that she received two extra dollars in change when checking out. Jane doesn't always use her allowance to buy snacks in school, so the two dollars could mean a nice treat for her on a day when she has no money. However, Jane remembers from the Bible that God doesn't like dishonest and greedy children. Even though Jane really wishes she could keep the two dollars, she doesn't want to lose the blessings from God. Therefore, Jane returns to the snack bar after school and gives the two dollars back to the storekeeper. Surprisingly, the storekeeper on that day is actually the owner of the snack bar. He is really amazed at Jane's honesty. Not only does he give Jane a free ice cream to thank her for bringing the two dollars back, he also promises to give Jane a free treat on the days that he sees her at his store. God always keeps His promises!

What does Jane do to show that she obeys God's word?
She returns to the snack bar and gives the two dollars back to the storekeeper.

SCENARIO #2
Shawn's best friend Robert accidentally scratched Shawn's new guitar. Even though Robert already apologized, Shawn is still very upset and angry. His brand new guitar isn't so perfect anymore! Robert tried to call Shawn later that day to apologize again, but Shawn wouldn't pick up. Shawn's mom asked him why he wouldn't answer Robert's call and he answered, "Robert is not my friend anymore. He scratched my guitar. I'm going to scribble on his math textbook tomorrow as revenge." Shawn went back to his room and started playing on his own with his guitar. He began to think about how the Bible has taught him to deal with anger—"'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Eph 4:26). He remembered that God wants us to forgive others with love. God certainly doesn't want us to take revenge by doing ungodly things. So, Shawn meditated on these words and finally convinced himself to let go of his anger. He didn't want his anger to affect his friendship with Robert or his relationship with God. The next day, Shawn found Robert in school and told him that he accepted his apology. Immediately, Shawn and Robert became best friends again. God also blessed Shawn with a stronger friendship with Robert because of his willingness to forgive and exercise self-control.

What did Shawn do to show that he obeys God's words?
Shawn meditated on His words and finally convinced himself to let go of his anger. He didn't want his anger to affect his friendship with Robert or his relationship with God. The next day, Shawn found Robert in school and told him that he accepted his apology.

2. Thank God for His love and care.

God loves and cares for us like a father. The Bible says, "And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed" (Deut 31:8). Wherever we go, God goes before us to make sure that we're on a safe path.

Ask the class the following questions.

1. "Class, does God look after you when you go to school?"
2. "Does God take care of you when you are asleep at night?"
3. "Does God protect you when you cross a busy road?"

[Have the students answer with an action (e.g., a nod, a smile, or a thumbs up). Emphasize how God takes care of us so that we are able to go to school and return home safely each day.]

He also promises to always be with us so that we will not fear anything or feel lonely. Let's read the testimony below and see how God cares for His little children.

TESTIMONY #1
Last year, my family had to move because of my dad's new job. Because of this, I had to go to a new school where I didn't know anybody. All of my classmates had known each other for a long time, so they already had their own groups of friends. I felt very lonely and isolated around them. I thought to myself, "Why did God bring me here? Shouldn't He already know that I'd be lonely here? Did God forget about me?" I was so sad that I went home that day and cried. It wasn't until my mom saw me crying that I told her about my feelings in this new school. My mom said, "Don't you remember what God told us in the Bible? He is constantly working to make a way to our future according to His beautiful plan. I certainly know that God brought us—your family—here for a reason. He will never leave you or us alone… Now, let's pray together! Have trust in God that He will provide for you." Since then, I prayed with my family every day. I began to feel closer and closer to God. I also began to read the Bible more and felt my trust in God growing stronger each day. A few weeks later, I found myself a group of friends after doing a school project with them. They are my best friends now and I cannot thank God more for giving me such wonderful friends. I never thought I'd make any friends in this school because everyone felt like a stranger to me. But God certainly listened to my prayers and provided for me. I'm also very thankful for this lesson that God gave me; it taught me to draw closer to Him when I'm in need. May all the glory be unto God's name!

Ask your students, **how does God love and care for us when we're in need?** [Discuss with your students and encourage them to share what they think. Below are some answers for your reference.]

1) **He listens to our prayers.** God is our heavenly Father, and He always hears His children when we reach out to Him. He's always ready to listen to us. We can tell God everything. Furthermore, we can be sure that He loves us so much that He wouldn't miss one word we say and will take action right away to help us.

2) **He provides for us.** God's grace is sufficient for all of us. The Bible tells us that since God takes care of even the smallest birds, He'll surely take great care of us. He knows exactly what we need and will always give us enough, if not more!

3) **He draws us closer to Him.** God loves and cares for us by letting us experience Him. Experiences with God are often so wonderful that they become key ingredients in our growth of faith. In other words, the more we experience Him, the stronger our faith will become.

3. Give thanks to God always.

The Bible says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess 5:16-18). We need to always remember to pray and give thanks to God in any circumstance. God hears us and will provide in one way or another. We do not need to worry about anything, but rather trust in the Lord that He has everything we need and will not hold anything back from us.

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Have you heard this song before? Why do we need to give thanks? We just learned that God loves us and cares for our every need. Elijah, the widow, and her son were in need of food, and God provided them with never-ending oil and flour. When we need courage, God gives us strength. When we're lonely, God gives us friends. God knows what we need and provides for us sufficiently. This is why the song goes, "Let the weak say, 'I am strong,' let the poor say, 'I am rich.'" God is always showering us with His blessings.

From now on, challenge yourself to give thanks to God every day. How has God made you strong and rich? How is God loving and caring to you? When we are able to acknowledge God in our lives and give thanks to Him, we will feel more content and happy.

ACTIVITIES

1 "Thank You, Lord!"

Objective: To remember to thank God for all that He provides when we obey His teachings.

Instructions: Fill in the right word for each sentence.

1. Lord, You are so wonderful. You kept me s___ ___ ___ from King Ahab. Thank You, Lord!
2. Lord, You are so wonderful. You gave me enough f___ ___ ___ ___ to make bread for my family. Thank You, Lord!
3. Lord, You are so wonderful. You gave my family enough f___ ___ ___ to eat. Thank You, Lord!

2 Our Food Is from the Lord

Objective: To create a "thank-you place mat" to remember how God provides food for us.

Materials

- Magazines with pictures of food
- Construction paper (assorted colors)
- Scissors
- Markers
- White glue
- Plastic adhesive cover

Instructions

1. Cut out pictures of food from magazines. You can also create your own pictures of food using the construction paper and markers.
2. On another piece of construction paper, write on the bottom of the paper "OUR FOOD IS FROM THE LORD."
3. Glue the pictures of food onto the remaining space to create a collage.
4. Cut an appropriate size of the plastic adhesive and place it over the construction paper as a protective covering. Now the collage can be used as a place mat.

3 Optional Activity

Plant some vegetable or bean seeds. Tend them and watch how they grow into the food that God provides for us to eat.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. C
3. False
4. Elijah asked the widow for <u>water</u> first.
5. Elijah asked for a <u>piece of bread</u> second.
6. Answers may vary. Suggested answer: I can give thanks: for my family; that I have enough food to eat; that I have clothes to wear; that I can go to school; that I have a warm bed; that I can go to church, etc.
7. She likely felt that she couldn't help since there was not enough flour and oil left to make bread for them all.
8. She would have only had one last meal with her son and perhaps would have died during the famine. She would not have experienced God's blessings.
9. Answers may vary. Suggested answer: We can pray to God to ask Him to help us listen to our parents. We can ask Him to help give us the wisdom and knowledge to do things for Him in our everyday lives (e.g., study at school, learn Bible stories in RE class, help out at home, etc.). We can ask God to give us the strength and energy to do the right thing!
10. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 2—A Handful of Flour and a Little Oil

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God will provide us with all things if we believe in Him and follow His way.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To instill in students the importance of obeying the words of God.
2. To teach students to thank God for giving them food every day.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 1:17a)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : When Elijah first saw the widow, she was _____.
   a. Cooking some food
   b. Carrying a jar of water
   c. Collecting some sticks

2. _____ : After Elijah asked for some bread, the widow _____.
   a. Ignored Elijah and walked away
   b. Went to bake bread using the remaining flour and oil she had
   c. Told Elijah that she had no bread, but only a little flour and oil

True or False

3. The widow was angry with Elijah after he ate the small cake. _____

Short Answer

4. What was the first thing Elijah asked for from the widow? _____
5. What was the second thing Elijah asked for from the widow? _____
6. Elijah and the widow were thankful to God for giving them food to eat during the famine. What can you thank God for today?

   _____

   _____

   _____

7. How do you think the widow felt when Elijah asked her for food?

   _____

   _____

8. What do you think would have happened if the widow had chosen not to follow Elijah's words?

   _____

   _____

9. It is always easy to obey when we feel that we can do it. Obeying was much more difficult for the widow because she felt that she couldn't help. How can we ask God to help us obey at all times?

   _____

   _____

   _____

10. The woman had great faith in God and trusted in His promise. Can you think of a time when you trusted in God and He helped you?

    _____

    _____

    _____

Lesson 3

God Answers Elijah's Prayer for the Widow's Son

Before You Teach

Death and Sin

When someone unexpectedly dies, people sometimes automatically assume that it is due to that person's sin (e.g., the blind man whom Jesus healed in John 9:1-2).

In the case of the widow's son, she believed that it was her own sin that caused her son's death, since he was still very young. After her son passed away suddenly, she cried out to Elijah, "Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

We know that God allows events to occur for special reasons. It may be true that some people die for the sins they commit, but we also know that everyone will eventually die a physical death, and that God has His time for each of us.

However, in this situation, the woman did not commit any great sin that led to the death of her son. Rather, he died so that God's glory could be revealed, just as Jesus had said the blind man was blind from birth so "that the works of God should be revealed in him" (Jn 9:3).

The Bible records many instances in which God's glory is revealed, but none seem to be greater or more dramatic than the raising of the dead. The most significant instance, of course, is the resurrection of Christ.

Like in this scenario, Jesus died not for His sins, but for the sins of all the people of the world. It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that our sins were washed away and through His death that we became a new and holy people. It is also through this wonderful sacrifice that Jesus overcame death and the world for our salvation.

Understanding Your Students

The woman in this story did not understand why her son was taken away so suddenly. When her son died, she had housed and provided for Elijah throughout the difficult times of drought and famine.

As detailed in the previous lesson (1 Kgs 17:7-16), when Elijah had asked the widow for a morsel of bread, she had been willing to give to him out of her faith in his prophesy of God's word, even though she was on her last bit of oil and flour.

When her son died suddenly, it seemed deeply unjust that a good person should have to suffer such a tragedy. Later on, the widow realized that it was through the resurrection of her son that God's glory was revealed. Fortunately, she had Elijah present to help her through the tough times and in the end, she was able to give praise to God instead of turning away because of her son's death.

Likewise, your students may not always immediately comprehend why unfortunate events happen in their lives or to those around them.

Bible Text

1 Kings 17:17-24

Bible Truth

God hears and answers all of our prayers.

Lesson Objectives

1. To believe in God's power by praying to Him.
2. To trust in God always.
3. To understand that God can use us to do marvelous things for Him.

Memory Verse

"Call to Me, and I will answer you."

(Jeremiah 33:3a)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for always being there to listen to our prayers. We know that at all times we can pray to You and ask for Your help. Please guide us so that our faith will grow stronger and we can learn to rely on You more. May all the praise and glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Of course, what they consider to be catastrophic may not be something as profound as death. Sometimes receiving bad grades or not having any friends may be all it takes.

Whatever the situation may be, it is important that we assure the students that bad things don't just happen to bad people. Just as those who die suddenly do not always die because of sin, tragedies likewise do not occur only to punish the unjust. In this case, the tragedy was a test of the widow's and Elijah's faith, and ultimately this miracle brought glory to God.

Often, the things that we go through are tests from God that will help us to know Him better and improve our faith. As teachers, we are like Elijah in this story. We need to remind our students to rely and trust in God's righteousness and in His promise that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28).

We should tell them not to murmur against God or question why things happen the way they do. We need to explain to them that God has His plan for everything, and while it may not be clear to us at that point in time, our reliance on God will help us through difficult times. As teachers, we need to be there to see our students through so they can continue to walk in God's heavenly pathway.

Vocabulary

resurrect: to raise from the dead

Review

Last week, we learned about how Elijah helped a widow and her son. He had to travel to her house from far away because the brook where he had been hiding had dried up.

How did Elijah know to go and find this woman? (God had instructed him.) When he found this widow, what did he ask of her? (He asked for some water and bread.) While she readily brought the water, she had trouble feeding the prophet. Why? (She only had enough food for one last meal, and she was saving it for her son and herself. But because she trusted in God and followed Elijah's instructions on what to do, she and her son did not have to starve to death.) How did God solve their problem? (God kept the flour and oil from running out until the famine was over.)

From this story, we learned the importance of having simple faith. When we trust in God, He will always be there to help us, even when we think it is impossible. Remember that everything is possible with God.

Bible Story

A Tragedy in the House

After God helped the widow and her son solve their food problem, they were overjoyed because they had witnessed God's great power and mercy. They knew that God would definitely take care of them during this famine.

To thank Elijah, the widow gave him permission to sleep in an upper room that she had in her house. During Elijah's stay with them, God provided flour and oil to feed all three of them every day. For a while, they had peace and plenty of bread to eat. But one day, something unexpected happened.

One day, the widow's son became violently ill. His sickness was so severe that he died. How do you think his mother felt at this time?

The widow was very sad. She cried and cried. She was also angry. When she saw Elijah, she asked him tearfully, "What did I do wrong? Did you come to remind me of my sin and to kill my son?"

She did not think her son would be taken so abruptly. When bad things happen, we often try to use our reasoning to understand why they happen.

What could be some of the reasons that bad things happen to us? Here, the widow thought that because her son was so young, he could not have possibly committed a great sin, so she must have been the one that did something wrong and God was angry with her so He took her son away.

Elijah's Prayer

When Elijah saw this, he felt very sad, too.

Elijah said to the widow, "Give me your son."

He picked the boy up and carried him to the room upstairs. Then he laid the boy on the bed. Elijah knew that he alone did not have the power to do anything but he knew that he could pray to God about it.

So Elijah knelt down and prayed to God, saying, "O Lord, my God, let this child live again." As he said this, he stretched himself on top of the boy three times.

God Answers Elijah's Prayer
God heard Elijah's prayer and did something wonderful. God made the boy live again. The widow's son was resurrected! Elijah picked the boy up and carried him downstairs.

Elijah said to the widow, "Look, your son is alive."

When the mother saw this great miracle, she realized God's great power and mercy. In her amazement, she said to Elijah, "You really are a prophet of God. Everything He says through you is the truth!"

The widow learned from this experience that God truly hears and answers the prayers of His people.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False
1. **The widow's son became so sick that he** _____ (died)**.**
2. **God has the power to** _____ (raise) **the dead.**
3. **Elijah knew he could bring the boy back to life himself.** False; he knew only God could.
4. **God promised to hear and answer our prayers.** True.
5. **God sent Jesus, His only Son, to come and die for us so that we could be saved.** True.

Questions for Discussion
1. **Could the woman have prayed to God herself when her son died? What do you think would have happened?**
2. **Why do we always say that God is the greatest doctor?**
3. **When we pray to God and ask Him for something, He may answer us in one of three ways. He might say, "Yes," He might say, "No," or He might say, "Wait." Why do you think that God has different answers for us?**
4. **Why did Elijah have to pray three times? Could God have healed the widow's son after Elijah's first prayer? Why do you think God waited for him to pray three times?**

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Call to Me, and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 33:3a)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. Believe in God's power by praying to Him. God is all-powerful. What seems impossible to man is possible with God.

[Read the following testimony to or with your students. This is a good time to share testimonies of God's healing in your life or in the lives of those around you. Manna has many such testimonies that you can use if you do not have any personal testimonies. After the testimony, be sure to enforce the teaching that God hears and answers all of our prayers and that He is able to do things that we cannot imagine or do ourselves.]

TESTIMONY
In 1987, my wife and I were overjoyed with the birth of our firstborn. Our joy, however, was short-lived. When the nurse gave him his first feeding, he could not take in the milk. Every mouthful of it was thrown up. Upon thorough examination, the doctor discovered that certain parts of his internal digestive tract were not properly connected and the milk could not reach his stomach. We were told that he had to be operated upon immediately or he would die. He was less than 24 hours old! How could this tiny life survive this cruel ordeal? However, thank God, the Holy Spirit comforted me and gave me strength to entrust this little life into the hands of the Almighty, the Lord and Giver of Life. Medical science may be highly advanced, but a doctor still cannot give life to a dying patient. Only the Lord Jesus can do so. Having been strengthened by the Holy Spirit, my wife and I wholly entrusted the life of our child to the Lord.

The doctors operated on him the next day. When he was brought out from the operating theater, he was hardly the figure we knew. His little head was bandaged and numerous tubes of various sizes were protruding from his body—he was buried in a mass of entangled tubes. He looked more like an alien from outer space! It was a heart-wrenching sight and my heart bled with compassion for him. He was in the intensive care unit for a few days. He was fed through two tubes; one fixed to his neck and another to his abdomen—a pitiful sight to all who saw him.

Our neighbors advised us not to believe in Jesus any longer and to turn to idols instead for help—or he would surely die. However, we held fast to our trust in the Lord by praying to Him day and night. We did not waver in our faith by fully trusting in Him.

Praise the Lord for His mercy and bounteous grace that, through the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ, our baby gradually recovered after 28 days in the hospital. Now he is an active, adorable, and healthy eight-year-old boy. Praise and glory to the Almighty God!

From this testimony, we see that God is all-powerful. He is able to do something man is unable to do. What is it? [Let students answer.] To save a life! Nowadays, our doctors are very knowledgeable, and we have all kinds of medicine. However, none of them can guarantee that they can save a life. Who, then, is God to have the power and authority to make a person live? We learned from this testimony already—He's the Giver of Life; He's our Creator! His hands made us, and therefore He's able to control our lives. Many people around the mother in this testimony told her to be prepared for the worst to happen to her child. But God wanted this baby to live and it is His almighty words that counted. What happened next? The baby lived. We need to always remember that there is an ultimate and most promising answer from God. If we are willing to turn to Him for that answer in our times of need, God promises never to let us down!

Just like the woman in today's testimony, when the widow saw this great miracle, she realized God's great power and mercy. The widow learned from this experience that God truly hears and answers the prayers of His people.

2. Trust in God

Now, do you trust God? [Let students answer.] If you do, you're ready for a challenge. The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov 3:5). This Bible verse tells us that "trusting in God" has a deeper meaning—it means to trust Him more than we trust ourselves! "Trusting in God" means to trust Him, even when things seem impossible. "Trusting in God" means to trust Him, even when you think there's an easier or better way than God's way. Elijah knew that bringing a dead person to life is impossible, but he did not give up on trusting in God because of this reason. Instead, he placed his complete trust in God's power to bring the widow's son back to life. Students, God can work miracles in our lives only if we trust that He has almighty power. Many things seem impossible to us, but with God, everything is possible. Let me ask you again. Do you truly trust God? [Let students answer.]

Let's hear a testimony that demonstrates the true meaning of "trusting in God."

TESTIMONY

I was riding my bike one day last summer, and I got into an accident. I lost balance going downhill, and I fell from the bike while it was moving at full speed. My forearm got a very deep cut. My parents took me to the hospital afterwards, and I had to get several stitches for the cut. I was very upset because the doctor told me that there'd be a big scar. All my friends at school saw the stitches on my arm and commented on how bad the cut was. Some of my friends who had had stitches before told me that they still have a big scar from their wounds. Everything led me to believe that my wound would eventually leave a very bad-looking scar on my forearm. However, I didn't cease praying to God. I remembered that we need to trust in God completely, despite what others might say or think. I prayed that God would heal my forearm, as well as help me trust Him. A few weeks later, my wound was completely healed. I could still see a light scar, but it wasn't bad at all. I had seen my friends' scars, and they looked a lot worse than mine. I know that God helped me and didn't allow a deep, big scar to be left on my forearm. My prayers worked! Every time when I see my scar now, it reminds me to place my complete trust in God.

Activity: Trust Walk

Lead the students on a walk around the classroom or somewhere outdoors. Along the way, ask the students to do various things, such as sit on chairs, lean against the wall, or stand in the grass. When they are doing the action, ask them questions: "Do you trust the chair to hold you up?" or "Do you trust the wall to hold you up?" or "Do you trust the ground not to open beneath you?" Many different simple actions are possible, such as standing on one foot, or looking at the sky and asking them if they trust the colors they see—use your imagination. When the walk is finished, talk about how we can trust God in our lives every day. Start by asking them what things He does for us that we can trust Him with. They will probably talk about the air we breathe or the shining sun.

Remind the students that God loves all of us, so He provides all these things for us even when we don't ask for them. Guide the discussion and remind the students that we can trust that God will: listen to our prayers and answer them in His time; help us get through difficult times in our lives; look out for us in our lives; and make a plan for our lives that is better than anything we can imagine. Just as Elijah trusted in God to bring the widow's son back to life, we too can trust in Him to do great miracles if it is according to His will and if we ask Him earnestly through prayers.

3. God can use us to do marvelous things for Him.

One thing that we can learn from this story is that God uses ordinary people like you and me to make marvelous things happen. Elijah was a great man of God, but he didn't have any power on his own. He trusted in God and prayed in faith. God used Him, and specifically his prayer, to bring the widow's son back to life and show the widow what God can do. If you are willing to trust God, God will use you to do marvelous things too!

God can use you to do many things for Him and for the church. For example, God can use you to tell others about Him, to invite others to church, or to help a friend who is discouraged or sick to feel better. When you are older, God can use you as missionaries, as pastors, or as whatever God needs you to be.

Have the class work together to decorate a poster board titled, "I can be used by God to do marvelous things for Him!" On the poster board, ask them to write or draw the things that God can do through them. When they are finished, hang the poster board in your classroom so that it will remind them of what God can do through ordinary people. Challenge the students to pray for God to use them every day.

Homework Answer Key

1. flour, oil
2. very sick
3. the upstairs room
4. True
5. False; Elijah had to pray three times.
6. Bad things don't always happen to people because they have done something wrong. God often uses trials to test us and help us build our faith in Him.
7. To trust in God means to believe that He will listen to our prayers when we earnestly ask of Him and that He will get us through difficult times in our lives, just as long as we have faith.
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

Activities

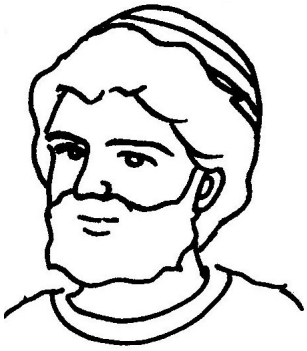
1 **God Answers Prayers**

Objective: To help students recall how God answered Elijah's prayer for the widow.

Instructions: Read each sentence and identify the person who said it. Write their names next to each sentence.

1. My son and I do not have anything to eat. _____
2. I let the prophet sleep in a room upstairs. _____
3. I was carried to the room upstairs by the prophet. _____
4. My mother was glad I came back to life! _____
5. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were looking for me. _____
6. God provided enough flour and oil for me to make bread for my family. _____
7. I was led by God to a safe place to hide. _____
8. Thank God, I came back to life! _____
9. God sent me to a widow's house far away. _____
10. I prayed to God to let the boy live again. _____
11. God sent a prophet to help me. _____
12. I did not have the power but I had prayers, and God heard my prayers and brought the boy back to life. _____

The Widow's Son



Elijah

The Widow

2 Did You Call God Today?

Objective: To remember the importance of praying to God for guidance every day.

Instructions: Talking to God is easier than calling someone on the phone. The secret is to pray! Use the numbers and letters below to decode the message. Then, write down what you want to say to God in your prayer.

1 = A	2 = B	3 = C
4 = D	5 = E	6 = H
7 = I	8 = K	9 = L
0 = M	# = N	* = O
~ = R	// = S	

"___ ___ ___ ___ the ___ ___ ___ ___ while ___ ___ may ___ ___ found;
// 5 5 8 9 * ~ 4 6 5 2 5

___ ___ ___ ___ on ___ ___ ___ while ___ ___ is ___ ___ ___ ___."
3 1 9 9 6 7 0 6 5 # 5 1 ~

(___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ 55:6)
7 // 1 7 1 6

Dear God,

Today, I want to tell You about . . .

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Write down the things you want to thank God for.)

Thank You, God, for answering my prayer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 3—God Answers Elijah's Prayer for the Widow's Son

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God hears and answers all of our prayers.

Lesson Objective: To follow God's way by praying to Him with faith.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Jeremiah 33:3a)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. When Elijah stayed with the widow, God provided them _____ and _____.
2. One day, the widow's son became _____.
3. Elijah picked up the boy and carried him to _____.

True or False

4. The widow thought that she must have did something wrong to cause her son to die. _____
5. Elijah only prayed once and then God raised the widow's son from the dead. _____

Short Anwer

6. Why does God allow bad things to happen to people?

_____

_____

7. What does it mean to trust in God?

_____

_____

8. What is the most difficult thing that you or your family has gone through? It doesn't have to be something that you remember yourself. You can ask your parents for help. What did you or your family learn from that experience? Why do you think God let that happen to you or your family?

_____

_____

_____

_____

9. Share a time when you prayed to God and He answered your prayers in a way that you knew was the best solution.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Lesson 4

Fire on Mount Carmel

Before You Teach

Drought
It was now the third year of the drought that God had inflicted upon the Israelites for their disobedience and for the wickedness of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Smaller bodies of water, like the brook Cherith, had dried up and the people became more and more desperate for water. King Ahab sent Obadiah, the governor of his house, to look for water and grass so that the animals would not perish (1 Kgs 18:5).

Today, God also sends us many different kinds of droughts to turn us back to Him. Sometimes, a shortage of money or food will remind us to rely on Him for all our needs. Other times, He sends us to places where there is no church to help us learn to treasure His word and draw near to Him. There are even times when the drought is a serious illness or a major problem in our lives.

Whenever we face these dry spells, we must learn to examine ourselves to see if we have sinned, ask Him to show us what we may have done wrong, and ask Him to correct us. We should not be stubborn, as Ahab and the Israelites were, insisting on their own ways and continuing to worship ineffective idols. Rather, we should turn to Him and repent as soon as we realize His message and our mistakes.

False Prophets
The false prophets during the time of Elijah were employed by King Ahab. Their sole purpose was to say what the king and queen wanted to hear; they often predicted a future filled with riches and power. They were also called priests because they were responsible for managing the heathen religious practices.

As a result, these false prophets led very wealthy lives. These so-called priests also engaged in many pagan rituals. In this particular story, they danced wildly, prophesied frantically, and even inflicted wounds upon themselves in attempts to get the attention of Baal. Contrast this with Elijah, who prayed earnestly to God.

Both Jezebel and Ahab despised God's prophets because His prophets rebuked their wickedness and sins. False prophets were widespread because they were needed to counter Elijah's words. By employing them, Jezebel and Ahab could feel some comfort in hearing their empty promises. It was also an appealing profession because these false prophets could indulge in their sinful pleasures and still be called "priests."

Interestingly, King Ahab believed his heathen prophets would be able to win the battle against Elijah. Elijah, on the other hand, was confident that God would provide and bravely challenged all those who had turned away from worshipping the true God.

Bible Text

1 Kings 18:16-40

Bible Truth

God is the one and only true, living God.

Lesson Objective

To learn to fear God and repent when we do something wrong.

Memory Verse

"Have mercy on me, and
hear my prayer."

(Psalm 4:1b)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know that You are the only true God. We know that You are always there to help us and look after us. We pray that You will lead us on the right path and teach us Your words so that we may follow in Your way. We praise You for Your mercy because we know that You are forgiving. Help us do what is right. Hallelujah! Amen.

The Twelve Stones and Water
Elijah used twelve stones when building the altar to represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

At that time, Israel had already separated into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. The kingdom of Judah consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, while the kingdom of Israel comprised the remaining ten tribes. Although the northern kingdom called itself Israel, the name was supposed to represent all twelve tribes.

By using twelve stones on Mount Carmel, Elijah was reminding the people that they were supposed to be one united people, the people of God, and that they had sinned by turning away from God.

Elijah also chose to drench the altar with water. Onlookers might have thought this was a foolish thing to do because the water would have only helped to extinguish the fire. Also, by this time, there had already been three years of drought and famine, and every bit of water was precious. But, Elijah did this to demonstrate that he was not using any tricks and that the Lord their God was in fact almighty.

In the end, it was the power of God that turned the hearts of His people back to Him. Only a true and living God could have unleashed such strength and authority. God's mighty miracle on Mount Carmel, and later, the gift of rain, showed the people how absurd they were to worship Baal.

Understanding Your Students

Often, whenever the word "idol" is mentioned, images such as wooden sculptures or other figurines come to mind. Indeed, many people attach great significance to these physical icons. However, it is important to be aware of other idols that exist in less obvious forms.

Briefly defined, idols are things or persons we depend on other than God that we hold as more important than Him. They can include money, power, education, worldly status, material possessions, or even another person. These can be the idols in our lives if we devote ourselves to them wholeheartedly.

For the students, they may not be at the stage where they will desire money or power. However, there are many other things that can replace the importance of God in their lives. Some examples may include video games, television, movie stars, and friends.

Particularly in this age of techno-paraphernalia, it is very easy for them to devote all their time and energy into material things. Sometimes, students may also feel that it is unfair that their school friends can enjoy their weekends while they need to observe Sabbath. At a later age, they may begin to grumble about why they can't join their friends for activities on Saturday.

Whatever the case may be, it is very important to let them know what idols are. They aren't simply the wooden or stone statues they see in other churches or homes. If they let things get in the way of worshipping God, then these things are their idols. Ask your students who they look to for true happiness and security. Who do they trust and who is in charge of their future? They should be able to answer that they depend on God. Encourage them to always pray and rely on God because He is the only Savior.

At this stage in their lives, your students are still dependent on their parents and look to their parents for all that they have, want, and need. Now is a good time to introduce that God is above their parents because He is the Father of us all.

Like their parents, God wants us to obey Him and do His will. And like their parents, He will sometimes punish us, like He punished the Israelites, to bring us back to Him. We should encourage our students not to be stubborn like the Israelites or King Ahab when they do something wrong, either against their parents or against God. Rather, we need to be humble and acknowledge our wrongdoings and return to Him as soon as we can, and He will accept us with open arms.

Vocabulary

idol: anything or anyone that we depend on that is not God that we hold dearer to us than God
false prophets: those who are not God's prophets; they speak for gods that are not real and they do not give the correct messages
trench: a ditch in the ground, usually made to hold water
Baal and Asherah: idols worshipped by the Canaanites

Review

Last week, we learned about a great miracle that God had performed. Elijah had been staying with a widow who had a son. Some time later, her son became very sick and suddenly died. She cried bitterly and asked Elijah why this had happened to her.

When Elijah heard this, he also became sad. He asked the widow to bring her son to him. What did Elijah do with the boy? (He took him upstairs and prayed to God to bring him back to life.)

God heard Elijah's prayer and He brought the boy back to life. When Elijah brought the boy back to his mother, what was her reaction? (She praised God for His mercy and glory.) We learned that if we faithfully pray to God, He will answer us.

Bible Story

Three Years of Famine and Drought

When Elijah first worked for God, he told King Ahab that there would be no rain until he said there would be. By now, it had been around three years since Elijah had delivered the message. Now, God told Elijah to go find King Ahab and said that after he did, He would send rain.

King Ahab had continued his idol worshipping during these three years and he had also relied on his false prophets who worshipped the idols, too. They did not speak the words of God and only said things to please the king. God knew that He had to show the people that worshipping idols was wrong.

Since it hadn't rained for three years, there was hardly any water left, and the people were both hungry and thirsty. Even King Ahab began to worry. He was afraid that his own mules and horses would soon perish. So, he took one of his servants, Obadiah, and went into the country to look for grass to feed his animals.

King Ahab said to his servant, "You go that way and I will go this way. Search every place you can think of where there might be grass growing." So the two men split up and went to look for grass.

Obadiah Meets Elijah

Meanwhile, Elijah had already left the widow's house on his journey to go see King Ahab.

On his way, he saw Obadiah searching for grass. Even though Obadiah worked for the king, he still worshipped God in his heart. He even secretly saved one hundred of God's prophets by hiding them in caves during the time when Queen Jezebel was gathering God's prophets and killing them.

When Obadiah saw Elijah, he fell on his face and greeted the prophet. After receiving Obadiah, Elijah gave him an important job. "Go and tell King Ahab that I want to see him," Elijah said.

Obadiah was worried about completing this task. He thought the king would get angry at him for mentioning Elijah's name. He knew the king hated Elijah. He also worried that Elijah would be gone when he returned with King Ahab and then Ahab would be even angrier and would kill him. Do you think you would have done what Elijah asked if you were Obadiah? Well, Obadiah was very brave and he agreed to do what Elijah asked him.

To comfort Obadiah's fears, Elijah said, "I will wait here while you get the king. It is God's will that I meet him today!" After hearing this, Obadiah left to get the king.

The Meeting on Mount Carmel

When Obadiah told the king, Ahab went immediately to meet Elijah. When he saw the prophet, he mocked him.

"Is that you, Elijah, you troublemaker?"

Why did King Ahab call Elijah that? Do you think he was right? Well, Elijah had other ideas. Elijah replied, "I have not made trouble, but you have. You have continued to sin and worship idols instead of the true God. Send for everyone from the land and tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. Also, gather the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who serve your idols." Who do you think was really the troublemaker of Israel?

The Challenge

King Ahab then sent word to all of Israel and to all the false prophets to gather at Mount Carmel. Can you imagine the people of an entire nation gathered together at one place? This was indeed a big moment.

When everyone had gathered at Mount Carmel, Elijah spoke in a very loud voice, "How long will you keep on sinning? If the Lord is God, you should follow Him. If Baal is god, then follow him." No one dared to speak.

Elijah continued, "I am the only true prophet of God left in the land. Your idol Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. We will see who serves the one true God. Let's make an offering on two different altars. But we won't set the wood on fire. Instead, we will pray. You can all call on your god and I will pray to the Lord. Whichever god answers with fire and burns up the offering is the true God."

The false prophets thought that this was a good idea and that it would demonstrate their power. Elijah let them go first since there were so many of them. So they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon.

"O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. Do you think that fire came down from the sky? No, there was no fire.

When Elijah saw this, he mocked them saying, "Cry louder! Maybe your god is busy or asleep."

And so they cried louder and danced harder around the altar until they became dizzy. They even cut themselves with spears and swords until they bled to show that they were sacrificing themselves to their god.

They kept this up for a long time, but did fire come down from the sky? No, there was no fire because their god did not exist.

God Sends Fire

Then Elijah called the people to come closer to him. As the people watched, Elijah repaired an altar of the Lord that had been taken apart. Then he took twelve stones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel and used them to build the altar. Afterwards, he dug a trench around it. He put wood on the altar and laid the offering on top of the wood. Then he gave some strange orders.

Elijah said, "Pour four jars of water on the offering and on the wood."

He told the people to pour the four jars of water three times so that in the end, twelve jars had been poured. The water soaked the altar and even filled the trench. How was fire going to burn now? Elijah did this because he wanted everyone to see how powerful God was.

After all this was done, Elijah prayed to God.

He said, "O Lord, let these people know today that You are the only true God. Let them know that I am Your prophet. Answer me, O Lord and turn their hearts back to You."

Suddenly, fire came down and burned up the offering, the wood, and even licked up the water in the trench! God had answered Elijah's prayer. When the people saw this, they fell to the ground. They realized that they had been wrong in worshipping idols. They felt very sorry and wanted to worship the only true God. They cried, "The Lord is God!"

After this, Elijah seized the 450 false prophets of Baal and had them killed because they had corrupted the entire land.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **Elijah used** _____ (twelve) **stones to build the altar.**
2. **God answered Elijah's prayer and sent down** _____ (fire)**.**
3. **Baal also answered the false prophets by sending down fire.** False; the false prophets' prayers were not answered.
4. **The people still did not turn back to God after seeing the sign from God.** False; they saw that God was the only true God.
5. **Elijah commanded people to pour jars of** _____ (water) **all over the offering and the wood.**

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer." (Psalm 4:1b)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. Renounce the idols in our hearts and have the courage to say "NO" to idols.

We know that God wants us to love Him only; He doesn't want our hearts to go astray by idol worshipping. From today's story, we can see that God got so mad at the Israelites for the idol worshipping led by King Ahab that He kept rain from falling onto the ground. As a result, the people suffered from a great drought for 3 years. "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word" (1 Kgs 17:1). In the end, on Mount Carmel, Prophet Elijah revealed to people the almighty power of God by praying to God to send fire on the altar.

Other false prophets, too, did the same to their gods but nothing happened. A psalm reads, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them" (Ps 115:4-8). Here, the Bible tells us that idols are merely the work of men's hands. They can't do anything even if someone makes them with four eyes and eight noses. But our God is different. He has the power to do anything, even to send fire that licks up water.

Sometimes, it may not be that we intend to worship idols ourselves, but we are put into situations where we need the courage to say "no" to worshipping idols. Have you ever been in a situation like that? What did you do? [Let students share.] Saying "no" is very difficult sometimes, especially when it comes to people that are older than you. But, God wants us to stand strong in our belief. He doesn't want us to give in to idols just because we are not brave enough to say "no." Read the following scenarios and learn how to have courageous conversations when saying "no" to idols.

[Emphasize the key words underlined. You may choose to use the provided image to tell your students what a physical idol may look like.]

SCENARIO #1

Grandma: Evan, these oranges are very sweet. Try some!

Evan: Thank you, Grandma! But I cannot eat them since they have been used for idol worship.

Grandma: What's wrong with using them for idol worship? The idols we worship protect us from danger and we should offer to them for their protection. Now, listen to grandma and eat some oranges!

Evan: No, grandma, but thank you. With all respect, I cannot eat these oranges because I believe in only one God. I believe that He is the only God who has the power to protect us from all dangers. Let me share a testimony with you: One time, I was very sick and I had a high fever. I couldn't fall asleep. My medication didn't seem to work, so my parents were thinking that if my situation persisted, they'd bring me to the ER early the next morning. That night, my parents called a few other church members to pray for me. We also prayed together to ask God to heal me so that I wouldn't have to go to the ER. I fell asleep soon after I prayed with my parents. The next day, I woke up without even remembering that I was very sick the night before! My parents told me that my fever had gone down since I fell asleep. God listened to our prayers and healed me overnight without any medication or doctors.

Grandma: Wow, that's amazing! So you're saying that your God is the only true God and that He can protect us? How do you worship Him? Guess what, let's forget about the oranges. Can you tell me more about your God? I want His protection, too!

Evan: Of course! My pleasure!

SCENARIO #2

Tommy: Do you want to go to the temple with me this weekend? Our temple just got a new Buddha. It's HUGE and my parents say that it can bless us with many things if we worship it. All you have to do is to go up to it and place a candle. It's really easy. I'm going to ask for a new video game!

Alex: No, Tommy, thank you. I cannot come with you. I'm a Christian, and I only believe in God.

Tommy: I know that. But there's no harm in trying! You have no clue how big this Buddha is! You should at least try once… Who knows if it'd bless you with your favorite shoes!

Alex: Well, no matter how big the Buddha is, isn't it still just "man-made"? The temple can make a "god" as big as they want. And if a "god" needs to be made with our hands, I don't see how much power it could have in its hands. On the contrary, my God is the Creator of the world. He has created everything around you, even you and me! His hands have almighty power. He doesn't need to be made. He has also made many promises to bless us if we worship and follow Him.

Tommy: I guess you're right… I never thought about that. The Buddha is merely a sculpture made by men. It can't talk or give any promises. Well, forget about going to the temple. Do you want to come to my house this weekend and tell me more about your God? I want to know more about His promises. I want His blessings, too!

Alex: Of course! My pleasure!

SCENARIO #3

Alan loves playing video games. He spends all his free time playing. He doesn't participate in any school activities or even family activities because all he cares about are his video games. He is spending so much time playing that his lifestyle has become very imbalanced. Several times each day, Alan's parents have to physically stop him from playing. Sometimes, his dad will just turn the TV off so that Alan cannot keep playing. Alan's relationship with his parents has worsened ever since Alan started playing video games.

One Saturday morning, Alan came to his mom and said, "Mom, is it OK if I stay home today instead of going to church? My RE teacher said that this week's lesson is about idol-worshipping. I don't think it applies to me... I don't even know anyone who worships idols! I'd rather not waste my time and instead play video games at home." Alan's mom, with great concern, sat down with Alan and said to him, "Alan, you're very wrong for saying that. Going to church is about worshipping God—the God who we put first in our lives. It's about giving yourself in wholeheartedness to God and resting from everything else in this world. How can you place your video games above God?" She continued, "As a matter of fact, your RE lesson today is very applicable to you. By not honoring the Lord's Day, you are worshipping an idol in your heart. Do you know what it is?" Alan thought for a few seconds and then answered, "...You mean my video games?" Alan's mom said, "Yes, Alan. Anything that we deem more important than God, or anything that we'd choose over God, is considered an idol. We let these idols take away what we must give to God—in your case, your time and your heart to worship Him! An idol in your heart is far scarier than a physical idol. Do you understand?" Alan nodded and agreed to go to church with his parents. That day, Alan learned that God dislikes idol-worshipping and had punished the Israelites in anger many times because of their idols. Alan prayed very hard in the final prayer, asking God to forgive him for making video games an idol in his heart. He promised God to start using more time every day to pray and read the Bible instead of playing video games.

2. Repent and turn back to God.

We all make mistakes and, sometimes, sin against God. But thank God for His mercy and grace, He is always ready to forgive us if we are willing to repent. 1 John 1:9 reads, "**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" Our mistakes and wrongdoings are like filth on our bodies; they're nasty. We shower every day to make sure our body is cleansed from filth. Likewise, our sins have to be cleansed. Here, the Bible tells us that in order for our sins to be taken away, we need to first confess our sins to God. In other words, we need to know what we did wrong and tell God about it. How can we tell God? [Let students think.] Pray! In our prayers, we can be honest with God. We should tell God that we know what we did was wrong, and ask God for forgiveness by promising Him that we won't do the same thing again. We need to remember not to make the same mistakes again, because God's forgiveness is very precious.

Let's read the following scenario. We will see how Charlie turned back to God after making a mistake and how he prayed to God for His forgiveness.

CHARLIE'S PRAYER

"Dear God, I have a secret to tell you. It's an embarrassing secret, but I want to tell You so You can see how much I regret it. Today, I lied to my mom. I lied to her about my science grade because I didn't want to disappoint her. I told her that I got an A as usual, but really, I got a C. I wasn't brave enough to tell her that I forgot about my test last week because of a new TV show. I was afraid that she wouldn't let me watch that show anymore. God, I feel so guilty. I feel so sorry to You because, ultimately, I disappointed You by being a dishonest child. I feel so bad that I wish I hadn't lied. God, I'm really sorry. Please forgive me. I promise You that I will never do this again. Please give me the strength to be an honest child. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Discussion Questions

1. **How did Charlie feel about his lie?** He felt embarrassed, guilty, and sorry.
2. **What did Charlie ask God for?** He asked God for forgiveness. He also asked God to give him the strength not to make the same mistake again.
3. **What promise did Charlie make to God?** He promised God never to make the same mistake again.

****

Activity: "No Idols" Sign-Making

Ask the students to identify some of the idols that exist in our lives today. Examples include money, education, material possessions, etc. Give the students each a large sheet of paper and tell them to draw a big circle with a slash over it, like the "No Smoking" signs. Then, inside the circle, have them draw representations of each idol that you have come up with as a class. When everyone has finished drawing, discuss how we can make sure that these things don't become our idols.

****

Optional Activity: Spin the Wheel!

[Note: The teacher needs to prepare the wheel in advance by cutting out a wheel and arrow out of construction paper. Attach the arrow to the wheel with a fastener. Give the arrow enough space to spin. Divide the wheel into several sections, with the name of a character written in each section. Include characters such as Jezebel, Ahab, Elijah, the widow, the widow's son, and the false prophets of Baal.]

Many characters were introduced in the past few lessons. Use a spinning wheel to reinforce some of the lessons learned. Have one student start by spinning the arrow. Whomever the arrow points to will be the character the student must speak about. The student can say one thing he remembers about the character. Once the student is done with his turn, the next student spins until everyone has had a turn at the wheel. Continue the game as needed.

Homework Answer Key

1. True
2. False; there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah, but Elijah was the sole prophet of God.
3. False; they worshipped God, and said, "The Lord, He is God!"
4. danced
5. water
6. fire
7. twelve
8. Answers may vary. Possible answers: Money, education, material possessions, etc.
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1 **Mount Carmel**

Objective: To help students recall God's triumph on Mount Carmel.

Instructions: Read the sentences and fill in the blanks by using the pictures as clues.

The name of the wicked k___ ___ ___ of Israel was A___ ___ ___. Queen Jezebel

and the king worshipped i___ ___ ___ ___ made of stone. Because the queen

had killed so many of God's prophets, the rest of the prophets ran and hid in

c___ ___ ___ ___. Finally, God told the prophet Elijah to go to the k___ ___ ___ and

announce that there would be no r___ ___ ___ for a long time. Without the water,

the crops dried up and the g___ ___ ___ ___ was almost gone. The

p___ ___ ___ ___ ___ and a___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ were starving.

After t___ ___ ___ ___ years, the prophet went back to the k___ ___ ___ and told him

to bring the false prophets up to Mount C___ ___ ___ ___ ___. There they would see who

was the true God, whom they should w___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ .

"If the L___ ___ ___ is God, f___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Him; but if B___ ___ ___,

f___ ___ ___ ___ ___ him." (1 Kgs 18:21)

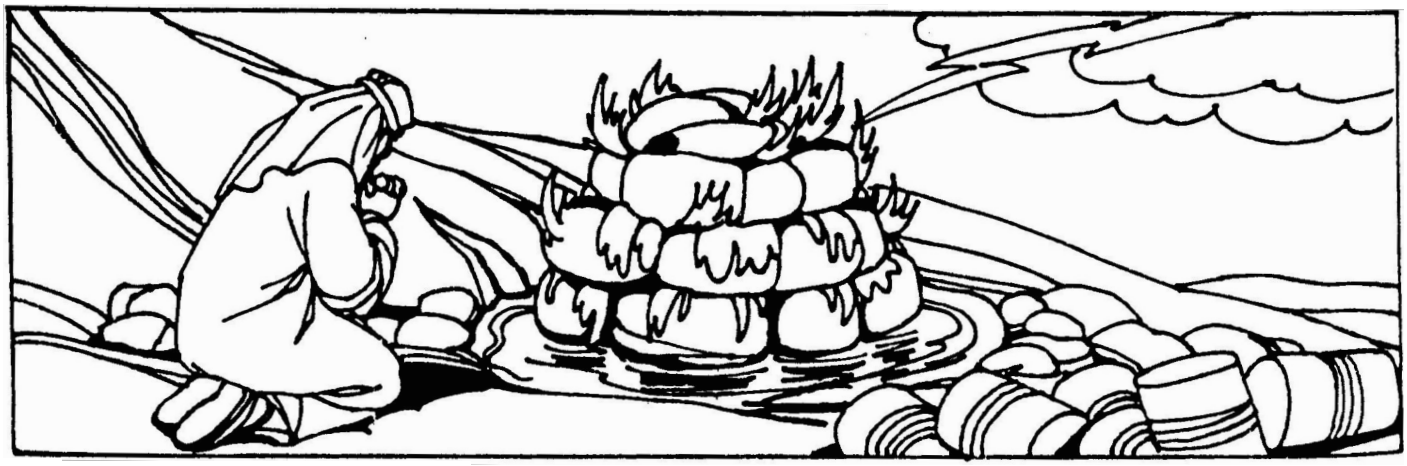
2

Elijah Match-Ups

Objective: To help students recall the characters and events at Mount Carmel.

Instructions: Read the first half of the sentences and find the correct ending for each one. Make sure the number is written in the blanks.

1. The false prophets prayed to Baal _____ it was Elijah's turn.
2. The false prophets danced around the altar _____ but their prayers were not answered.
3. Elijah mocked Baal's prophets, saying, _____ the water filled the trench.
4. Finally, Baal's prophets gave up and _____ and cut themselves with swords.
5. Twelve jars of water were poured on the sacrifice until _____ God, saying, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"
6. Then Elijah prayed, saying, "You are the God of Israel. _____ "Cry louder. Your god may be asleep."
7. God answered Elijah's prayer and fire came down and burnt up _____ the sacrifice, the wood, and the water in the trench.
8. When the people saw the miracle, they worshipped _____ May these people know You are the Lord God."



E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 4—Fire on Mount Carmel

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God is the one and only true, living God.

Lesson Objective: To learn to fear God and repent when we do something wrong.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 4:1b)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. The false prophets worshipped idols and preached the wrong message. _____
2. There were more true prophets than false prophets. _____
3. The people still did not turn back to God after He answered Elijah's prayer. _____

Fill In the Blank

4. The false prophets shouted loudly and _____ around the altar until they were dizzy.
5. When Elijah was building the altar, he commanded the people to pour _____ on top of the offering and wood.
6. God answered Elijah's prayer by sending _____ on the altar.
7. Elijah used _____ stones to build the altar.

Short Answer

8. What are some of the idols that people worship today?

_____

_____

_____

9. a. List two things or people in your life that are very important to you. For example, your grades at school, playing the piano well, or a school friend.

_____

_____

_____

b. Are you in danger of making these things more important to you than God? What are some things that you can do to help you keep God first?

_____

_____

_____

Lesson 5

A Little Cloud

Before You Teach

Mount Carmel
Mount Carmel was a coastal mountain range next to the Mediterranean Sea, approximately twenty miles from Jezreel. It was at this very place that Elijah triumphed over the false prophets and showed the nation who the true God was. It was here that the Lord revealed His awesome power and turned the hearts of everyone back to Him. In this story, Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel again, but for a very different purpose this time. Instead of speaking to a multitude, he was alone with his servant. Instead of a spectacular show, Elijah simply bowed down to pray. Now that the people had confessed that the Lord was the only God, it was time to lift the curse by praying for rain. Notice the contrast between the two events and Elijah's attitude. In the first event, God's fire descended and Elijah spoke bravely. Now, he humbled himself before God by bowing down to the ground and putting his face between his knees to earnestly pray to God.

Understanding Your Students

Through the stories of Elijah in the previous lessons, we have come to know him as a man of faith and prayer. We also know of many Bible characters that had close relationships with God because of their faith and prayers. Noah and Abraham are two examples of people who walked with God. They prayed to God often and their prayers were earnest.

Therefore, as RE teachers, we always need to emphasize the importance of prayer. The more we pray to God, the closer we are to God. Moreover, by always turning to God in prayer, God will always be there to listen to us whenever we are in need. God will answer our prayers if we pray with faith and with a humble and persistent heart.

However, it is common for E1 students to find praying difficult, especially if they do not have the Holy Spirit. Some of your students may not even like to pray, and therefore it may be hard for them to pray with a persistent heart. Your students may also find praying difficult because they feel that God is not listening to their prayers.

Through the example of Elijah, you can illustrate to your students how effective it is when one prays to God with a believing, humble, and persistent heart. Even before Elijah prayed to God, he knew that God would answer his prayers. This was faith. This was Elijah believing in God. When Elijah did pray to God, he bowed down to the ground and put his face between his knees. This demonstrated Elijah's humility. Elijah knew he couldn't make it rain by his own might. Elijah had to humble himself before God and pray for God's power to make it rain. Elijah was also persistent. Though at first it may have seemed like God did not answer his prayers, Elijah continued to ask his servant to look for a sign

Bible Text

1 Kings 18:41-46

Bible Truth

God listens to all prayers.

Lesson Objective

To pray to God with a believing, humble, and persistent heart.

Memory Verse

"The Lord will hear when I call to Him."

(Psalm 4:3b)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know that You are always faithful. You listen to our prayers and always give us the right answers. Please help us to always come to You in prayer. Also, when we pray to You, please help us to pray with a believing, humble, and persistent heart. May You lead us in our study today. Hallelujah! Amen.

that rain would come, eventually asking him to look for a total of seven times. Elijah did not give up on God. Emphasize to your students that God will hear their prayers if they pray with faith and with a humble and persistent heart.

The importance and effectiveness of prayer cannot be stressed enough. Prayer is something that all the students should be actively pursuing, no matter their age. As an RE teacher, you need to help your students cultivate a prayerful life. Find out how often your students pray each day. Do they pray in the morning, at each meal, and before bedtime? Also find out from your students why they do or do not pray. By having a better understanding of your students' prayer habits, you are better equipped to find ways to help them cultivate a more prayerful life. It is also crucial that you help your students understand that they can pray anytime they want to speak to God. Prayer is not confined to a place and time. Elijah had the heart to pray for rain after three years of drought. Your students can also pray to God for help during any times of difficulty. In Philippians 4:6, it records that no one should be "anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Vocabulary

faith: the belief, trust, and knowledge that something will happen
humble/humility: not proud; not to have pride
persistent: to never give up
confess: to admit to something
chariot: an ancient horse drawn cart, usually with two wheels

Review

Last week, we learned about the awesome power of God. Elijah asked Ahab to gather everyone, including the false prophets, on Mount Carmel. When all the people had arrived, Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal. What was the challenge? (To build two altars and sacrifice one bull on each; the false prophets would pray to their god Baal, while Elijah would pray to God. Whichever god set the sacrifice on fire was the true God.) Even though the false prophets prayed, danced, and cried out to Baal all morning and afternoon, there was no response. Why? (Their god was not real.) When it was Elijah's turn, he used twelve stones to create the altar and poured twelve jars of water on the sacrifice. When he prayed, what did God do? (God sent fire down on the altar, and it burned up everything, including the water.) When the people saw this display of power, they confessed that the Lord was the true God. It was easy for them to make their choice now. Because of the wickedness of the false prophets, all 450 were killed that day so that they could no longer corrupt God's people. From this event, the hearts of the people were turned back to God.

Bible Story

Elijah Prays to God for Rain

After the triumph on Mount Carmel, the Israelites turned their hearts back to God. Now that they had confessed that the Lord was the true God, it was time to end the drought. There had not been any rain for a long time so the land was very dry.

Do you remember how many years it had been since the last time it rained? [Have the students guess the number and as they guess, indicate whether the actual number is higher or lower than the number guessed. Do this until the correct number is guessed.] It was almost three and a half years since the last time there was any rain (1 Kgs 18:1; Lk 4:25; Jas 5:17). How would you feel if you did not have any water to drink for an entire day, for two days, or even for three days? [Let the students respond: weak, thirsty, dehydrated.] You would really, really want the rain to come as soon as possible right? So, after the people turned back to God, Elijah went back to the top of Mount Carmel to pray for rain. As there had been no rain for over three years, the dry land desperately needed rain to fall.

Elijah's Faith

Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel with his servant. When he reached the top of the mountain, Elijah prayed to God alone. However, before he went up to Mount Carmel, Elijah already told King Ahab to celebrate because he knew that once he prayed to God, rain would definitely fall. Therefore, even before Elijah prayed to God, he knew that God would listen to his prayers. What does

this tell us about Elijah? What did Elijah have? This thing Elijah had starts with the letter "F". [Allow the students to guess the word using the blank spaces: "f _ _ _ _."] Elijah had **faith**. Elijah knew God would make it rain even before he prayed to God. And so when we pray to God, we should be like Elijah. We need to believe that as long as we pray to God with our whole heart, God will listen to our prayers and make the impossible happen. Like Elijah, even before we begin to pray to God, we need to have faith that God will listen to our prayers.

Elijah's Humble Prayer

When Elijah reached the top of the mountain, he bowed down on the ground, put his face between his knees and prayed to God. [Demonstrate to your students how Elijah may have looked as he prayed to God. You can use drawings, your body, or other visual aids to illustrate this.] The way Elijah prayed to God showed that he was full of humility. Raise your hand if you know what humility or being humble means. [Allow the students to share what they think it means.] To be humble means that you do not think that you are better than others. For Christians, being humble means knowing that God is powerful and almighty and that we are nothing in comparison. Having humility is important when we pray to God. If we can pray to God with a humble heart, God will listen to our prayers. When Elijah prayed to God, he had a humble heart and wasn't proud; we can see that by the way Elijah prayed to God. This is the type of attitude we should have when we come before God to pray.

Elijah's Persistence in Prayer

Not only did Elijah pray with faith and a humble heart, Elijah also had a heart of persistence. After Elijah had prayed to God, he asked his servant to go and look toward the sea. [As you tell this part of the story, pretend that you are the servant looking out toward the sea. Walk from one side of the room to the other and pretend to look for something out in the distance.] Elijah wanted his servant to see if there was any sign of rain, which would show that God had answered his prayer. When the servant went to look toward the sea, guess what he saw? [Let the students guess.] Nothing! There was no sign of rain, and he reported this back to Elijah. Do you think Elijah gave up and thought that God had not listened to his prayer? No, Elijah didn't give up on God at all. Elijah had faith that God would listen to his prayer. Therefore, even though the servant reported that he saw nothing, Elijah asked his servant to go and look toward the sea for a second time. Do you think the servant saw something? The servant again saw nothing and reported this to Elijah. Do you think Elijah gave up after hearing for a second time that the servant saw nothing? Elijah still didn't give up on God. In total, how many times do you think Elijah sent his servant out to look for a sign from God that the rain would come? [Have the students guess the number and as they guess, indicate whether the actual number is higher or lower than the number guessed. Do this until the correct number is guessed.] Elijah asked his servant seven times. This shows us that Elijah never gave up on God. Elijah was persistent in his belief that God would answer his prayers.

A Little Cloud

When Elijah sent his servant to look out toward the sea, he didn't tell him what to look for. But when the servant went to look for the seventh time, he saw a small cloud the size of a man's hand rising from the sea. [As you tell this part of the story, take out a cloud that you have made before class and show it rising up from the "sea." Make sure your cloud is about the size of a man's hand.] A man's hand isn't very big, but the servant reported what he saw, hoping that it was what his master was expecting. When Elijah heard that there was a small cloud forming, he knew that God had answered his prayers. While it might be hard to think that a great storm could come from a very small cloud, Elijah knew that it was a sign that rain would come.

A Warning to Ahab

After learning about the cloud, Elijah immediately told his servant to go and warn Ahab. He wanted Ahab to ride his chariot quickly to Jezreel before the storm came and prevented him from traveling. Elijah wanted to make sure everyone was safely in the city before the rain came down.

Showers from the Sky

At first, there was only the small cloud that Elijah's servant saw rising from the sea. Then miraculously, within a short time, the sky became very dark and there were now many clouds. [As you tell this part of the story, you can bring out a mobile of clouds to represent the many clouds that had formed. Before class, cut out five to seven clouds from grey construction paper and then decorate them with grey cotton balls, attach a string to each cloud, and hang each cloud from a wire clothes hanger.] The wind picked up [shake the mobile to represent the wind] and it began to rain heavily. There was no longer just a small cloud the size of a man's hand. Instead, a great storm poured rain from the sky. It was finally raining! The people must have been overjoyed upon seeing this and they probably praised God for His mercy.

Meanwhile, King Ahab was likely racing to reach the city because he did not want to be soaked. It was a long way from Mount Carmel to Jezreel, but he had a chariot, which made the journey much easier and faster. However, Elijah did not have a chariot, and it was beginning to rain very hard. But God helped Elijah. He helped the prophet run really, really fast! In fact, Elijah ran so fast that he was ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. Elijah's strength and speed was from God, allowing him to outrun Ahab's chariot by foot. Raise your hand if you think you can run fast. Keep your hand up if you think you can run faster than a horse. You would need superhuman powers to run

faster than a horse, right? God provided the power for Elijah to run faster than Ahab's chariots. In the end, Elijah reached the city before Ahab. In a way, this was one last chance to show Ahab the greatness and power of God so that Ahab might repent for his sins.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **Elijah went up to Mount Carmel to** _____ (pray) **to God for rain.**
2. **Elijah bowed down on the** _____ (ground) **to show his humility.**
3. **Elijah asked his servant to go and look toward the sea** _____ (seven) **times.**
4. **Elijah's servant saw a small** _____ (cloud) **the size of a man's** _____ (hand) **rising from the** _____ (sea)**.**
5. **When Elijah did not give up on his prayer to God, this showed that Elijah was** _____ (persistent)**.**
6. **When we pray like Elijah, with** _____ (faith) **and a** _____ (humble) **and persistent heart, God will** _____ (hear) **our prayers and answer them.**
7. **Before Elijah even prayed to God, he had faith that God would answer his prayers.** True.
8. **Before Elijah prayed for rain, there had been no rain for 5 years.** False; there had been no rain for around 3 years.

Questions to Think About

1. **It seems that each time Elijah prayed to God, his prayers were always answered. Why do you think this happened?** Elijah had faith; he prayed with a humble and persistent heart, and God listens to such prayers.
2. **What do you think was going through the mind of King Ahab after he witnessed the victory on Mount Carmel, the end of the drought, and Elijah's display of speed?** Hopefully King Ahab realized that God was powerful and that He was the only true God.
3. **Think of three different things we can pray to God about.** Answers may vary.
4. **List all the different times in a day that we can pray to God.** Before we go to school, at meal times, before we go to bed, anytime during the day, etc.
5. **Was there a time when you prayed very sincerely for something and God answered your prayers?** Answers may vary.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"The Lord will hear when I call to Him." (Psalm 4:3b)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. We can pray to God anytime.

In today's story, Prophet Elijah prayed to God earnestly for rain. Seven times he asked his servant to look for any difference in the sky, and he did not give up until he finally saw a little cloud. Why was Elijah's prayer so important? He already knew that God would make the rain fall, sooner or later. Why did he still pray anyway?

Prayer is our primary tool to communicate with God. We must pray to draw closer to God. We feel closer to God—our heavenly Father—by having personal conversations with Him and sharing with Him what our hearts truly have to say. God enjoys hearing our prayers because they are sincerely from our hearts. Likewise, Elijah's close relationship with God was built upon prayer. God trained Elijah to trust Him at the brook of Cherith, and he needed to rely on God daily for the food and water.

We need to always pray to God to maintain a close relationship with Him. In fact, many people find God their closest and best friends because God has always been there for them in times of need, distress, or even happiness. We can pray to God anytime and He will always be there to listen! Every time we pray, our relationship with God just gets closer and closer. Let's read the following sample prayers and see how children at your age pray to God in different circumstances.

LISA'S PRAYER
"Dear God, thank You so, so much for this wonderful day at school. I finally caught up on what I missed from when I was absent for science class, and I had so much fun learning and doing the classwork with my friends. I'm going to share everything with my sister when I get home soon. Thank You, thank You, thank You! Amen."

1. **What was Lisa doing when she made this prayer?** She was on her way home from school.
2. **What was Lisa's prayer about?** She was thanking God for such a wonderful day.

LEO'S PRAYER
"Dear God, I'm really nervous about going to the doctor tomorrow. I can't fall asleep… Can You please help me? I'm really tired; I want to sleep. Please protect me and give me the strength to endure tomorrow so that I don't have to be scared. Hallelujah, Amen."

1. **What was Leo doing when he made this prayer?** He was in bed trying to fall asleep. He was nervous about his doctor appointment, so he couldn't fall asleep.
2. **What was Leo's prayer about?** He was praying for protection, strength, and comfort so that he could fall asleep with ease.

NICK'S PRAYER
"Dear God, my brother has the chicken pox. I just woke up and heard him crying in bed. He feels itchy all over his body but the doctor said he's not allowed to scratch. He's having trouble falling asleep at night, too. He can't go to school during the day, so he's been very bored and lonely at home. I don't know what I can do for him except pray. Lord, please help my brother. Help him feel better soon and take away his chicken pox. Thank You! Amen."

1. **What was Nick doing when he made this prayer?** He was in bed. He had just woken up when he heard his brother crying.
2. **What was Nick praying about?** He was praying for God to help his brother feel better soon.

As you can see, we can always turn to God in prayer when we are in need.

Activity: Write to God

Materials: Construction paper, colored pencils, and pens

Have the students write a letter to God in class. This is a good way for them to talk to God more. Students can write to God about what they are thankful for and what they would like God to help them with. To make the exercise more exciting, it would be good to have brightly colored construction paper, a variety of colored pencils, etc.

The aim of this activity is to help students understand that praying to God doesn't always require kneeling down to pray. We can pray to God at any time. We can pray to God by writing letters, by talking to Him in our hearts, by saying grace, etc.

2. We can pray to God about anything.

Have the students brainstorm in pairs all the different things that they can pray to God about. This exercise aims to help students understand that we can pray to God about anything.

Begin by asking your students two questions.

1) Is there anything too big to pray about?
2) Is there anything too small to pray about?

Ask students to write down a few things that they think are too big/small to pray about. If time permits, ask each of them to share what they wrote down with the rest of the class.

The Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7). There's nothing too big or too small to pray about. Elijah prayed for fire to come down and for rain to fall. Is that too big? No, God answered his prayers with rain. There's no request too big when it is in accordance with God's will. On the other hand, God is our heavenly Father and He loves us just as a father does. He cares about every little thing about us. You may think that God is very busy and that He has no time to care about our "little" problems, but this is not true! God puts a great amount of love and care into the smallest concerns we have, just as He would with anything else. Let's read the following scenarios and see how God listens to and answers both "big" and "small" prayers.

"BIG" PRAYER
A few years ago, Karen was very eager to learn how to play hymns on the piano. However, she never had any musical training and her parents didn't have any extra money to sign her up for piano lessons. At first, Karen was very disappointed. But then, she remembered from her RE class that she can pray to God about anything and that there's nothing too big to pray about. She thought to herself, "Would God mind having one more pianist at church to serve Him?" She wasn't very sure, but she began to pray about this in her daily prayers. She asks God to give her wisdom and perseverance to teach herself how to play hymns on the piano if this is His will. Slowly, Karen began to learn one hymn after another. She improved in time and started learning much faster after a while. After a few years of constant prayer and hard work, Karen is now a pianist at church! Every time when a brother or sister comments on how good she is as a self-taught pianist, she gives all the glory to God and shares her testimony about how God answered her "big" prayers.

"SMALL" PRAYER
Keith is very afraid of needles. One time, he had to go to a physical that required a few vaccinations and a blood test. When he found out about this one week before the physical, he got so nervous that he had a dream that very night about hundreds of needles in his arm. He woke up crying and his whole body was shaking. The next day, Keith told his parents about his dream. His parents laughed and said to Keith, "They're just needles! Don't be silly and stop worrying." Keith's parents didn't understand how terrified he felt. Keith also didn't want to talk to his friends because he knew that they'd just laugh at him like his parents did. That night, Keith remembered being told that he can pray to God about anything and that there's nothing too small to pray about. So he knelt down and told God everything he had to say: he was scared, and he needed help! After his prayer, Keith felt at ease. He felt that God was listening to his prayer, and he wasn't so nervous about the physical anymore. Keith knew that he could rely on God for strength and comfort. That week, Keith didn't have any problems falling asleep anymore. On the day of the physical, Keith prayed to God before going into the doctor's room. He was such a brave kid; he didn't cry or scream at all during the whole examination. His parents said to him, "See, I told you! Needles aren't that scary. Right?" Keith smiled back and told them that he had prayed to God. His parents were so glad to hear that. On the way back home, they all thanked God for helping Keith overcome his fear of needles.

3. God can make anything happen.

Last week, we learned that God sent fire to the altar on Mount Carmel where His power turned His people's hearts back to Him. Today, we also learned that God sent rain to the land after three years of drought. Do you know anyone who can send fire and rain? [Let students answer.] No, only God can. God can make anything happen.

The Bible says, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all" (1 Chr 29:11). God is the Master of this world. He has power over everything—anything you can think of! Can you name a few? [Let students share. Conclude that everything is under the power of God.]

Students, have you ever prayed for God's help and had doubts that God may not be able to help? [Let students share.] Before Elijah even started praying for the rain, he already had so much faith in God that He would make the rain fall. If he didn't have that faith, he'd probably have given up praying after his servant came back several times with no news. But Elijah didn't give up; he was so confident that God had the power to make anything happen. Likewise, doubts only hinder our prayers from reaching God. Oftentimes, doubts make us give up, and our prayers cannot reach God all the

way. But, if we have the same faith as Prophet Elijah, believing that God has almighty power to make anything happen, our prayers will always be heard and answered by God.

Let's listen to this testimony to see how powerful God is. He can make anything happen.

TESTIMONY

In early 1977, I was diagnosed with leukemia, which had progressed into its final stage, and was hospitalized immediately. Because of the seriousness of my disease, the doctor treated me with chemotherapy, which could lead to many side effects. Before the doctor gave me the injection, he told me that after 20 days, my hair would start to drop and I would be emotionally unstable. He also advised me to have some blood donors ready in case I needed a blood transfusion. After I heard what the doctor had said, a sense of hopelessness overshadowed me because I knew that I might die at any moment. That was a period of agony, pain, and bitterness. Even my family members did not place much hope in my recovery. After every injection, I vomited and lost my appetite. As a result, I became very thin and the thing that I dreaded most happened—I began to lose my hair.

At this moment, God drew me near, step by step. A colleague of mine came cross a flier from True Jesus Church that recorded a testimony of when our Lord Jesus Christ healed a brother who had suffered from leukemia. She realized that her sister, a member of the True Jesus Church, had left it in her house. She then told her sister of my plight and asked if she could help introduce me to the church. She came to visit me immediately. On that day, I remembered that two strangers approached me. They preached to me about God and His almighty power. Later, they asked me to pray together with them. While praying, I felt a shadow approaching me, and a gentle hand touched my face and shoulder. To me, the gesture soothed my pain and suffering. I was greatly moved and began to cry. The two sisters saw me cry and also started to cry. I then asked them why they had come to visit me when I did not know them at all. One of the sisters then answered that it was God who had asked them to come and visit me. They told me that God was merciful and that I should always pray to Him. The sister also told me that if I asked God persistently for healing, He would ultimately listen to my prayer.

Since then, members of the True Jesus Church came to the hospital every Sunday evening to evangelize to me. Whenever my health permitted, the church members would come and bring me to church for worship. They would use wheelchairs or help me walk to church. They also visited me often at the hospital. They always remembered me in their prayers. Thank God for their prayers; my health condition began to stabilize.

After a month's stay in the hospital, I was finally discharged. To ensure my full recovery, the hospital told me to come back for further treatment for the next three years. I began seeking the truth and attending Sabbath services. I always eagerly looked forward to every church service as if I was going out on a date. I also felt like the long lost prodigal son who yearned for a resting place. No matter how sick and tired I was, as long as I had some strength in me, I always rode on my motorcycle to church. In church, I felt as if I was in the arms of God. I also felt very close to Him and not only that, I could tell Him all my sorrows and pain in my prayers.

When I began seeking the truth, an internal battle arose inside me. Some of my friends told me that I should entrust my life in the hands of the doctor. In the beginning, I always had my treatment in the hospital. The treatment process was a very painful one. Every time I passed by the hospital corridors on my way to receive treatment, I had great fear in me. At that moment, I prayed to God to save me. I told Him that the path I was treading was a difficult one and that I no longer wished to walk further. So, I begged Him to lead me and to grant me wisdom and faith to know what to do. After about half a year of treatment, because of my many experiences and also because of the fact that the Words of God were gradually planted in my heart, I decided not to continue treatment. Thus, I became what the doctors called an uncooperative patient. Often, I threw away the medicine that the doctor prescribed to me and when it was time for treatment, I did not appear for the appointment. I was like an escaping soldier. When my relatives and friends heard of what I had been doing, they thought that I was not taking my life seriously, that I was turning my life into a joke. But in my heart, I wanted to prove to the people around me that God could heal me of my illness if I had the faith.

In the beginning, because of my own weakness, I had a great struggle within me for quite a while. Fortunately, due to the prayers and God's amazing grace, I was able to overcome the struggle. I was then able to stand up again and become a normal person. My hair also started to grow back, and I really thank God for restoring me to life by giving me this sign.

My health is now much better, and the church members never cease to love and encourage me. It is this love and encouragement that made it possible for me to maintain my faith in times of great despair. More importantly, their earnest and persistent prayers for me touched God and ultimately brought me to the mercy and healing of Christ. May all the glory be given to our Lord Jesus forever. Amen.

If time allows, lead the students to sing "Only Believe" from the hymn book.

Activity: God's Amazing Power

Materials: Grass seeds, small plant/flower pot, soil, water

To illustrate the power of God, the teacher and students can undertake a project together to grow some grass in a small pot. Each week, the students can see the grass grow: first from a small seed to green shoots, and then to mature grass (whether at home or at church).

Prior to planting the seeds, the teacher can show some pictures of how the small grass seeds will eventually grow into lush green mature grass.

By having the students witness the beauty of life in plants, they can actually witness the amazing power of God. It was this same power that caused the rain to fall again during Elijah's time. Hopefully, by experiencing the power of God first hand, the students will learn to rely on God and turn to Him in prayer whenever they need help, for they know God is an almighty God.

Homework Answer Key

1. False; Elijah prayed for rain alone.
2. True
3. True
4. faith, humility, persistence
5. Any time
6. Around 3 years
7. See Activity (4 things you can pray to God about)
8. See Activity (a short prayer to God)
9. See Activity (persistent prayer checklist)

Activities

1 **God Answers Elijah's Prayer**

Objective: To help the students remember how Elijah prayed sincerely for rain.

Instructions: Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with the appropriate words.

King A__ __ __ went to eat but Elijah went to the t__ __ of M__ __ __ __ C__ __ __ __ __ to pray. He sent his servant to look for a sign of rain s__ __ __ __ times. When the sign of rain came, it was a cloud that was the size of a m__ __'s h__ __ __. In 1 Kings 18:45, it says that it was a h__ __ __ __ rain.

2 A Prayer Reminder

Objective: To create a picture that will remind the students of the importance of prayer.

Materials

- Crayons/colored pencils
- Glue
- Gold or silver stickers

Instructions

1. Color the picture of Elijah praying.
2. There are ten crowns hidden in this picture.
3. Try to find them as you are coloring. When you find the crowns, put a gold or silver sticker on each one.
4. Hang this picture in your room to remind you to pray to God about the things that happen in your life. Can you think of five things to talk to God about?

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 5—A Little Cloud

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God listens to all prayers.

Lesson Objective: To pray to God with a believing, humble, and persistent heart.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 4:3b)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

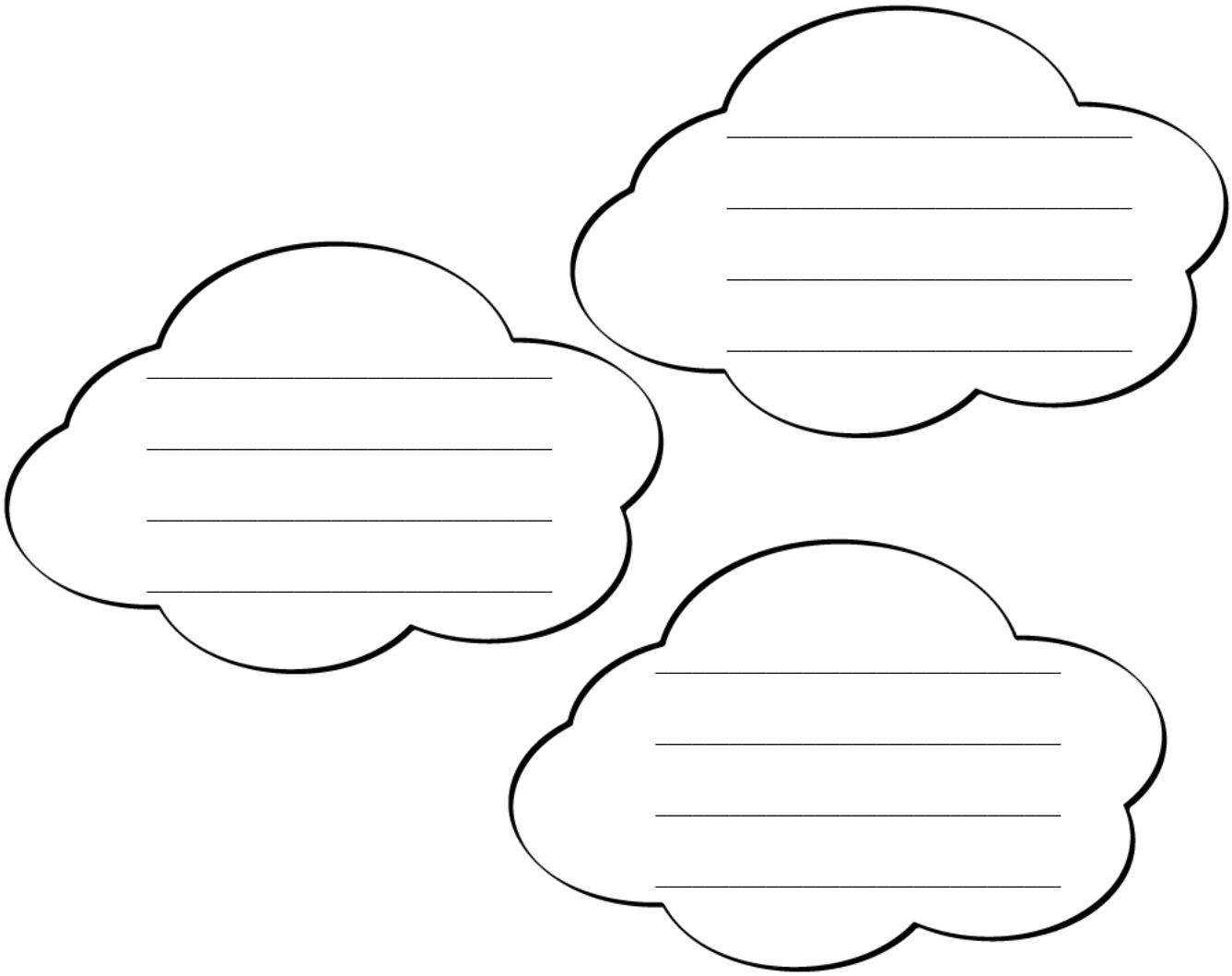
Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Elijah went to pray for rain with all the other prophets of Baal. _____
2. The heavy rain that Elijah had prayed for came from a cloud as small as a man's hand. _____
3. Even before Elijah prayed to God, Elijah knew that God would answer his prayer. _____

Short Answer

4. Elijah prayed with f___ ___ ___ ___ , h___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ and p___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ .
5. When can we pray to God? _____
6. How many years was the land without rain? _____
7. In each of the clouds below, write down four things you can pray to God about:



8. Write a short prayer to God:

   Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I pray.

   Dear God,

   _____

   _____

   _____

   Amen.

9. Think of something you really want to pray to God about and complete this sentence:

   "I would like to pray to God about..."

   Once you have thought about what you want to pray to God about, remember how Elijah prayed for rain and try to follow Elijah's example in prayer. To see if you can be as good as Elijah in prayer, check the boxes below on the days you prayed to God about your problem.

My Persistent Prayer Checklist

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prayer 1						
Prayer 2						
Prayer 3						

Lesson 6

God Comforts Elijah

Before You Teach

The Presence of God
In the Old Testament times, God often revealed Himself to the people in different ways. In the beginning, He showed Himself to Adam without inhibition. Later, Jacob wrestled with a Man and the experience was the equivalent of seeing God (Gen 32:24-29). With Moses, God spoke to him through a burning bush (Ex 3:2) and talked to him face to face in the tabernacle of meeting (Ex 33:11). Elijah looked for God in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire before God presented Himself in the form of a small voice.

Although God did not necessarily manifest Himself as a human figure, many times He would appear in some tangible, visible form.

In the New Testament, God came in the fleshly form of Jesus Christ. He also spoke and appeared before Paul in a flash of light.

Today, these experiences are not very common, but we can still experience God in many ways, such as through miracles, prayers, and in times of quiet meditation. God does not only reveal Himself through powerful and mighty phenomena. Often, He will show Himself in unexpected ways to those with a humble heart.

Mount Horeb
Some scholars say that Mount Horeb was probably an alternate name for Mount Sinai. The mountain stretched over two hundred miles from Beersheba, and in today's story, we find out that God had given special strength to the prophet Elijah to travel the long distance.

Elijah's life had many parallels to Moses' life. It was on Mount Sinai where God met Moses and gave His commandments and laws to the people centuries earlier. It was also at this sacred place that Elijah heard the voice of God.

Like Moses, Elijah went without food for forty days and forty nights during his journey. Much later, he would appear with Moses and Jesus together on a mountaintop.

Bible Text

1 Kings 19:1-18

Bible Truth

God is always there to strengthen, help, and guide us no matter how bad we feel or how difficult the problems we face.

Lesson Objective

To encourage the students to ask their almighty God for help with any and all of their problems.

Memory Verse

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."

(Jeremiah 29:12)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us through another week safely. We know that You are always there to take care of us, especially when we encounter problems. We know that we can pray to You and count on You to help us, even if we feel helpless, sad, or angry. Please help us grow even stronger in our prayers so that we can completely rely on You. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

Elijah had just experienced two great victories. With God's power, he triumphed over the false prophets when God sent down fire and answered his prayer for rain.

But instead of feeling on top of the world, Elijah suddenly felt tired and disheartened. The miracles that God performed through him required both physical and emotional strength. Furthermore, after receiving news of Jezebel's death threat, Elijah quickly became discouraged.

He probably thought that all he had done did not amount to much. He began to focus on himself and how lonely he felt. He might have been angry or sad when he claimed that he was the only one left in all Israel who served the Lord.

Ask your students whether they have ever felt this way. Most likely, they have never faced the threat of death, but everyone feels discouraged and lonely sometimes, especially when they encounter a situation in which they feel that they are being treated unfairly (e.g., being isolated by their friends).

Another common problem your students might face is the expectation to complete a task that they keep failing despite multiple attempts, leaving them discouraged and feeling alone.

When your students encounter these problems, they may feel frustrated and complain. But God promises us that He will listen to us when we pray (cf. memory verse), even when our prayers sound more like complaints.

Even though Elijah complained and even asked for death, God was still there to comfort him by providing food and giving him strength to travel to his next destination. God also showed Elijah that he was not alone in serving the Lord, revealing to him that there were seven thousand others who did not worship Baal.

Likewise, your students can find renewed courage and hope in knowing that God will always care for them, no matter what they feel. God promises to listen to our prayers, even if our prayers are weak with complaints like Elijah's.

Actually, when we kneel down and tell God our problems, we are acknowledging our weaknesses, and God has the power to help us. Remind your students that Jesus wants them to come to Him when they have problems (Mt 11:28) and that He will help them overcome their fears.

Also remind your students that they don't have to feel lonely because they can always find spiritual support in church among their peers, their RE teachers, and their parents, who are all able to support them in their desire to honor God.

Vocabulary

anoint: to put oil on the head of someone who is chosen to work for God; in the Bible, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed

threat: an indication of the intent to harm someone

Review

In our last lesson, we learned how Elijah prayed sincerely for rain to fall. After everyone left, he went back to the top of Mount Carmel and prayed to God. Then he asked his servant to look towards the sea, but his servant did not see anything.

Elijah continued to pray like this, asking his servant to check the sky each time. How many times did Elijah do this altogether? (Seven times.) On the seventh time, the servant saw something. What was it? (A cloud the size of a man's hand.)

Elijah knew that this was a sign of the rain to come. He instructed his servant to warn King Ahab to start traveling now or else he would be soaked in the storm. God also protected Elijah from the rain by allowing him to run very fast, even faster than King Ahab's chariot.

Who gave Elijah this kind of strength and speed? (God did.) What did we learn from this story? (We learned to pray sincerely to God; He will give us what we need.)

Bible Story

Queen Jezebel's Death Threat
After Elijah prayed to God for rain, everyone was very happy, except for the queen and king. Boys and girls, why do you think that the queen and king were unhappy?

When King Ahab returned to the palace, he told Jezebel everything that had happened on Mount Carmel. She became very angry at Elijah for proving that Baal was not real. She was even angrier that he had her false prophets killed.

She did not like the way Elijah was always creating trouble for her. She knew that if she wanted to keep practicing evil by worshipping idols, Elijah would have to get out of the way. The best idea she could come up with was to kill the prophet.

She quickly commanded a messenger to relay to Elijah her death threat: "If I don't have you killed by this time tomorrow, let the gods kill me or do worse to me."

Elijah Flees
When Elijah heard this, he became very scared. He knew that Jezebel was a powerful queen and she usually got her way. She had killed many others before and she would certainly do it again.

Elijah thought that the best thing to do was to run for his life. He was so afraid that he and his servant just ran and ran until he arrived at a place called Beersheba. When they arrived, he left the servant there and continued to travel alone for another day until he reached the desert.

He found a broom tree with some shade, sat down next to it and prayed, feeling discouraged, angry, and all alone.

"I've had enough! I wish the Lord would let me die, because I'm no better than my fathers."

Boys and girls, have you ever felt discouraged, angry, or alone when other people are being bad while you are being good? What did you do when that happened? How many of you prayed when that happened? How many of you complained?

God Sends an Angel
Elijah was very tired from all the traveling, and he soon fell asleep. Some time later, Elijah felt someone touch him and heard someone call him.

"Awake, Elijah, so you can eat."

Elijah looked around and saw that there was bread and water for him. Then he realized that God had sent an angel to help him. He ate quickly but he was so tired that he fell asleep again afterwards.

A short while later, the angel appeared again and told him to get up and eat. God knew that Elijah was in the middle of a difficult journey.

The angel said, "Elijah, you must eat for you are weak from hunger. The trip you are about to make will be too hard for you if you don't have enough strength."

Elijah ate all the food and he felt much stronger. Then he began his journey to Mount Horeb. He was given so much energy that he did not eat again for forty days and forty nights. After he arrived, he found a cave and decided to spend the night there.

God Appears
While Elijah rested in the cave, he remembered how frightened he was. He had run all this way because he was afraid Queen Jezebel would find him. Then suddenly, God spoke to him.

"Elijah, what are you doing here?" asked God.

Elijah replied, "I have worked very hard for the Lord. I am the only one who serves You and now Jezebel wants to kill me."

Then God said to Elijah, "Go out and stand on the side of the mountain. I will pass by there."

Soon, a strong wind started blowing. It blew so hard and wild that rocks were splitting into pieces. But God was not in the wind. Then an earthquake followed. It rumbled and the mountain shook but God was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. It burned and smoked but God wasn't in the fire.

Then came the sound of a small voice. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his cloak around his face and went out to the entrance of the cave.

God's voice came again, asking, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah gave the same reply, "I work hard for the Lord. I am the only one left who serves You and now Jezebel wants to kill me."

God Comforts Elijah
God knew that Elijah was scared so He comforted him, giving him new instructions.

"Go back, Elijah," said the Lord. "Go back to the desert where you came from. I want you to anoint Jehu as the new king to take the place of Ahab. Also, anoint a new king over Syria. Lastly, anoint Elisha to take your place as prophet. There are still seven thousand others whose knees have not bowed down to worship Baal."

Boys and girls, how do you think Elijah felt when he heard this from God? Perhaps when Elijah heard this, he felt much better. Talking to God might have helped him get rid of his fear. He may have been reminded of how God always took care of him.

In any case, Elijah knew he could trust God and felt assured that God was with him. Feeling ready again, he left the cave and went on his way.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **Queen** _____ (Jezebel) **was not happy because Elijah proved that Baal was not the true God.**
2. **When Elijah heard the queen's death threat, he became very** _____ (scared)**.**
3. **God sent an** _____ (angel) **to bring food to Elijah in the desert.**
4. **The angel brought bread and** _____ (water) **for Elijah.**
5. **Besides Elijah, there were many others who also served God and had never worshipped Baal.** True.

Questions to Think About

1. **God fed Elijah in different ways. Can you remember the other time when God provided him with food and water?** God made ravens bring Elijah bread and meat by the brook Cherith.
2. **It's pretty scary to know that someone wants to kill you. Do you think Elijah was not being brave when he ran away to hide?**
3. **What could Elijah have done, instead of running away?**
4. **Have you ever felt alone and sad? What can you do during those times?**

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:12)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. God is always there to guide, strengthen, and help us no matter how lonely we feel or how difficult the problems we face.

Give each student a small piece of scratch paper. Ask the students to write down one problem they recently encountered on the paper and fold it up. If your students are stuck and cannot think of any problems, ask them to think of a time when they felt they were being treated unfairly or when they tried really hard to do something but couldn't succeed.

Ask one student to collect all the pieces of paper and read them aloud as you write them on the board.

For each problem, ask the students to brainstorm:

1. How would they feel if they faced the same problem?
2. What would they do if they faced the same problem?

After going through all of the problems, ask the students:

1. How do you think God feels about your problems?
2. How do you think God can help you face these problems?

Read Psalm 121. Draw a big mountain on the board, or prepare a picture (e.g., a magazine clipping) of a mountain. Sometimes our problems are big like mountains, but God created heaven and earth. Mountains are big, but God is the one who made them, which means He is bigger. We might feel discouraged, angry, or sad, but God is willing to help us, no matter what problems we face. As long as we are willing to allow God to guide us, He will help us. We can show God that we want His help by praying to Him.

How should we pray to show God that we want His help? Firstly, we need to acknowledge that God has the power to help us. We need to show God that we have faith in His power and that we're confident that He can help us. The Bible says, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mk 11:24). Once we are able to place confidence in God, He will surely listen to our prayers and answer them in time. Let's read the following scenarios and see how other children at your age pray for God's help.

COMFORT IN PRAYER

Laura is being bullied by some of her classmates in her new school. Not only do they talk behind Laura's back, they also publicly insult Laura due to her appearance and skin color. Laura feels very disrespected and unwelcomed because of these bullies. She's afraid to tell her parents or teachers about it because she doesn't want everyone to know that she's being picked on in school. In desperate need for help, Laura prays to God:

"Lord, I need Your help! I'm being bullied in school. The things they say behind my back and to me are so insulting that I feel very disrespected and hated. Every day, I hold my tears until I come home because I don't want them to see me cry and say that I am weak. But Lord, I am so weak! I cannot stand this bullying anymore. I really need Your help. Please give me comfort and strength so that I can remain strong and continue to be a peacemaker in school. I don't want to have enemies in school. Please don't allow them to get in the way of my learning. Help me overcome this situation with Your wisdom. May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen."

Laura finds comfort and peace in her daily prayers that keep her strong every day. As time goes by, Laura makes some new friends in school and she is now very happy and excited about school again. The good news is that Laura's classmates no longer bully Laura or anybody in school. Laura's decision to remain friendly with them, despite their horrible treatment of her, moved them, and now they have determined not to bully anymore. They realized from Laura that being friends is better than being enemies.

Laura has not ceased praying to God. After this bullying incident, Laura continues to pray each day to thank God for giving her so many friends in school.

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH

Rachael's mom is suffering from cancer. Every week, Rachael goes with her mom to the doctor for chemotherapy. She feels hurt every time she sees her mom in pain. Rachael is very worried about her mom's health. Nevertheless, she's trying her best to be strong for her mom because she knows that her mom needs a lot of support and encouragement during this time. Sometimes, she feels as if she is putting on an act for her mom. Deep inside her heart, she's very distressed. She's tired of worrying, yet she cannot show it to anybody. Rachael turns to God for help… She knows that God is willing to help every weakness. So apart from praying for her mom, she says a little prayer for herself:

"Lord, I feel very tired and helpless. My burdens are so heavy that I don't know if I can carry them further. It's so difficult to act strong when I really am so weak and afraid. Lord, You're the only One who can give me strength. You're the only place where I can find comfort and peace. I know that my mom is in good hands—Your powerful, merciful, and miracle-working hands. Lord, please give me the strength to hold up my family's faith during this difficult time. May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen."

Rachael continues to pray every day for her mom, her family, and herself. At times, Rachael feels very worried and burdened all over again, but she always finds comfort and strength in the Lord. Her mom's health condition begins to get better. In the end, God gives Rachael enough strength to overcome this dreadful experience!

2. We can ask our almighty God for help with any and all of our problems.

Please read the memory verse: "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you" (Jer 29:12).

In today's story, did Elijah ask God to help him? (No, he was very discouraged and did not really ask for God's help. Instead, he complained to God in his prayer.) What did God do for Elijah even though he did not ask for His help? (God gave him food and water, strength, and encouragement.)

Our memory verse today is God's promise to us that He will listen to us when we call upon Him and pray to Him. This means that He wants to listen to our problems, even if we feel angry, discouraged, or sad. He does not mind if we

cannot ask Him directly for help but complain instead. He understands what we need and wants to help us in any and all of our problems. When we talk to God about our problems, He listens. He can and will help us. Tell your students about your own experience with a problem that you faced and how you prayed to God about the problem (even though you may only have complained to God and not explicitly asked God for help). What was God's answer? How did God comfort you?

"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). The God that we pray to is the same God that provided for Elijah when he was running away from Queen Jezebel. When Elijah felt lonely, afraid, and exhausted, God sent an angel to help and comfort him. Likewise, God will also help us today when we are in need. He may not send us an angel, but in one way or another, God will always provide. Let's hear a story!

TESTIMONY

Jordan and his mom are very active church members. They attend Sabbath every week and always enjoy it. However, Jordan's dad isn't a believer. For many years, Jordan and his mom have been trying to preach to him, but he's very stubborn. Oftentimes, Jordan's mom would get into arguments with him about their belief in God. Jordan, too, has had countless unhappy conversations with his dad about him going to church. This year, Jordan really wants to attend SSC (Student Spiritual Convocation) in the summer. He hasn't been able to attend it for the past years because of his dad's objections; subsequently, Jordan is afraid to ask his dad again this year. However, Jordan is particularly eager to attend SSC this time. He's very thirsty for God's wisdom after all the RE classes he's attended. Therefore, he's determined to convince his dad this time. Before talking to his dad, Jordan prayed to God:

"Lord, I'm about to talk to my dad about this year's SSC. I really want to go. I know that I missed out a lot from the past SSCs that I wasn't able to attend, and I don't want to miss out on any more of Your wisdom and knowledge! I really want to spend that time to pray to You, meditate on Your words, and fellowship with other brothers and sisters. But I'm very nervous… Every year, no matter how hard my mom and I try to convince him, his answer is always "no." He thinks that going to SSC is a waste of time, and he says he'd rather sign me up for a summer camp or other activity. Lord, please help me show him that I want to attend SSC for a good reason. Help me prove to him that Your knowledge is more precious than anything else I can learn in this world. I'm very tired and frustrated about constantly fighting with my dad about my faith in You. I feel so alone in this journey, and I'm tired of being worried because of my dad. I don't know what else I can do to change him, but Lord, I know that everything is possible in You. In Your wisdom, please guide my conversation with my dad. May Your will be done. Amen."

That night, Jordan bravely asked his dad for permission to attend SSC this summer. At first, he gave Jordan a very firm "no." But, Jordan didn't give up. He continued to speak confidently about learning invaluable knowledge from SSC. His dad marveled at how mature Jordan had become and finally agreed to let Jordan attend SSC this year. Jordan prayed and gave thanks to God for helping him and moving his dad's heart.

*****

Students, isn't this a wonderful testimony? Jordan has such simple faith in God. God really can do things beyond our understanding. Remember, when we pray, we talk to God about our problems. God is always there to listen to our prayers, even if we feel sad, frustrated, or angry. "I said to the LORD: 'You are my God; hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD'" (Ps 140:6). As long as we come to Him and ask Him for help, He will surely guide us.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. True
4. True
5. Jezebel
6. angel
7. 7,000
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1 God's Kings and Queens

Objective: To let students think of ways that they can serve and help God if they were a queen or king, and to remind them not to follow the bad examples set by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

Materials

- Long wooden sticks
- Cardboard or paper plates
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Tissue paper
- Markers
- Foil
- Sequins

Instructions

1. First, outline a crown on construction paper. Cut out the crown and decorate it. Lastly, glue the ends together so that it rests on your head securely.
2. To make the scepter, glue a paper plate or a round cardboard cutout to the end of a wooden stick. Decorate the paper plate with the available materials. You can write some words on it to praise God. Try to make the scepter match your crown.
3. When you have completed your crown and scepter, place the crown on your head and hold the scepter in your hand. Imagine that you are a king or queen.
4. Take turns sitting in a chair (or "throne") and tell one another what you would do for God if you were a king or queen. How would you help your people obey God?

2 I Will Lift My Eyes to the Mountains

Objective: To encourage students to see God's help when they face problems that are like mountains.

Materials

- 8"x11" scratch paper
- 8"x11" canvas
- Dark ink pen for each student
- Watercolor palettes
- Brushes
- Cup of water (for brushes)
- Pencils

Recommendation: Prior to the activity, make a sample painting to show the students what they are about to create.

Instructions

1. Distribute the scratch paper and pencils. Have the students draw a scene with a mountain using the pencil and scratch paper.
2. Distribute watercolors, brushes, cups of water, and canvases. Have students paint their mountain scenes.
3. Write out Psalm 121:1-2 (NASB) on the board:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.

4. Distribute dark ink pens. Have students copy the verse with dark ink somewhere on their mountain scene.

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 6—God Comforts Elijah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God is always there to strengthen, help, and guide us no matter how bad we feel or how difficult the problems we face.

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to ask their almighty God for help with any and all of their problems.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Jeremiah 29:12)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : When Elijah heard the queen's threat to kill him, he _____.
   a. Went to talk to the king and queen
   b. Felt afraid and ran away
   c. Went to Mount Carmel to pray

2. _____ : When Elijah was spending the night in a cave on Mount Horeb, God told him to stand on the mountainside because He was passing by. God appeared to Elijah in the _____.
   a. Strong wind
   b. Earthquake
   c. Fire
   d. Small voice

True or False

3. When he was under the broom tree in the desert, Elijah complained to God and wanted to die. _____
4. After eating the food twice, Elijah ran forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. _____

Fill In the Blank

5. Queen _____ was unhappy because Elijah proved that Baal was not the true God.
6. God sent an _____ to bring food to Elijah in the desert.
7. God told Elijah that there were still _____ people who served the Lord and had never worshipped Baal.

Life Application

8. Work with your mom or dad and ask one of them to share about a problem they faced when they were your age. (This problem could be a time when they were being treated unfairly or when they tried very hard but couldn't do something right.) What did they do? How would they face the problem now if they could do it over again?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

9. Write down one problem you faced this week. How did you face your problem? What happened in the end? If you face this problem again, what will you do differently?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

Lesson 7

Elijah Confronts Ahab's Wickedness

Before You Teach

Land Ownership
Land was considered a God-given inheritance that was given to each of the Israelite tribes. As such, it could only be sold temporarily and had to be returned to or redeemed by its original owner by the year of Jubilee.

These ordinances were clearly delineated in various passages of the Old Testament (cf. Lev 25:13-17, 23-28; Num 36:7, 9), and even rulers had to obey the laws of land ownership (Ezek 46:16-18).

Based on these laws, King Ahab had no right to take possession of Naboth's land, since it also belonged to his relatives and descendants.

King Ahab
Unlike great kings who led armies, headed reforms, promoted trade, and strengthened their nations, Ahab was indulgent, selfish, greedy, and more concerned with his own interests, such as taking possession of his neighbor's garden.

Also, unlike respectable husbands who set good examples for their families and led them on a godly path, Ahab easily gave in to Jezebel's wicked schemes.

When Elijah confronted Ahab, he held the king accountable for listening to his wife's evil counsel and participating in her wickedness, in the same way God held Adam accountable for letting Eve talk him into eating the fruit from the forbidden tree (Gen 3:17).

All the evil that Ahab had done incurred God's great wrath and brought harsh judgment on him and his family. When Ahab realized the severity of God's judgment, he sought mercy by humbling himself and repenting through fasting, wearing sackcloth, and mourning.

The Bible teaches us that God lifts up those who humble themselves before Him (Jas 4:10). In the same way, God showed mercy to Ahab because he humbled himself (1 Kgs 21:28-29).

Later, everything came to pass according to God's just prophecy against Ahab's household (2 Kgs 9:6-37).

Jezebel
Jezebel was a powerful queen who drove her husband to great wickedness and turned the nation to idolatry. Her influence was so strong that she could write up schemes in the king's name and use his seal without any interference.

Among her many wicked acts, she schemed to get Naboth's garden for her husband. She instructed the elders and nobles to hold a fast and to set up false witnesses who would accuse Naboth of cursing God and the king. Her scheme resulted in Naboth's death by stoning.

Jezebel's despicable actions incurred the great wrath of God, who delivered a prophecy through Elijah about how she would be punishable by death.

Bible Text

1 Kings 21

Bible Truth

God is merciful to the humble and just toward the wicked.

Lesson Objectives

To learn that God rewards or punishes us according to our hearts and actions.

Memory Verse

"The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground."

(Psalm 147:6)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for this week's blessings, for showing us mercy, and for helping us to obey You. We know that You act justly, love mercy, and reward those who are humble. We pray that You teach us how to be humble every day and how not to give into our pride, greediness, or selfishness. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

The media and modern society play a key role in shaping the students' perceptions about pride and humility. Music, television, movies, and magazines encourage youths to flaunt their skills and to highlight their achievements.

Pride is often mistaken for self-confidence and self-esteem. Humility is either viewed as a sign of weakness, or corrupted by a mask of false modesty. Pride can often lead to a sense of entitlement, greed, and apathy towards other people's needs.

As in the case of Ahab, your students may only think of humility as a last resort instead of a conscious, daily choice.

Micah 6:8 instructs us to act "justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Help students understand that true humility is not shown by giving lip service to God when they are praised for a job well done. We need to believe wholeheartedly that apart from God, we cannot have anything of value and cannot achieve lasting and satisfying success.

True humility means being content with the blessings we have received, and having the willingness to give up a benefit or reward out of consideration for our neighbors. Humility helps us win favor with God and brings our prayers to His ears.

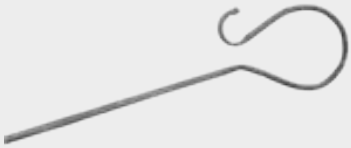
Vocabulary

forbid: to not allow; to ban or make impossible
inheritance: something valuable that is passed on from parents to children, such as money, land, jewelry, etc.
proclaim: to announce or declare
prominent: outstanding or important
scoundrel: an evil or wicked person; someone who deliberately acts wickedly

Teaching Ideas

Preparation
- Crown
- Cane or staff

1. Find or make a crown using colorful construction paper (refer to sample). Label the front "King Ahab" and label the back "Queen Jezebel."



2. Label the staff or cane "Elijah" (refer to sample).

Bible Story

Ahab Wants Naboth's Vineyard

A man named Naboth lived in Jezreel. He owned a vineyard that was close to King Ahab's palace. At that time, King Ahab ruled over the land of Samaria.

[Wear the crown with the side labeled "King Ahab" in the front.]

One day, Ahab had a talk with his neighbor Naboth. He said, "Let me have your vineyard. It is close to my palace and it would make a great vegetable garden. I can give you a better vineyard or I can buy the vineyard from you." [Take off the crown.]

This might have sounded like a good idea, but Naboth was horrified. He replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers!"

An inheritance is something important and valuable that parents pass on to their children. It can be money, land, jewelry, or anything else that is valuable. Naboth's vineyard was given to him by his parents, and one day he would give it to his children. If Naboth sold the land to King Ahab, his children might not have an inheritance.

[Wear the crown with the side labeled "King Ahab" in the front.]

Can you imagine how Ahab must have felt when Naboth wouldn't sell him the vineyard? He was sad.

Raise your hand if you have ever wanted something really badly but somebody didn't want to give it to you. Maybe it was a toy at the store or the last piece of cake, but it was something that you thought would make you happy if you could just have it. You may have felt angry, disappointed, or even sad like Ahab.

In fact, Ahab was so sad that he sulked in bed all day and wouldn't eat.

Jezebel's Evil Plan

[Turn the crown so that the side labeled "Queen Jezebel" faces the front.]

His wife Jezebel saw him and asked, "Why are you so sad? Why won't you eat?" Ahab told her that Naboth wouldn't sell his vineyard. Jezebel was surprised that he would be upset about this when he was the king over all the land.

She said, "You are the king over Israel! Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

It didn't matter to Jezebel that the vineyard belonged to Naboth and that he didn't want to sell it or give it up. She only cared about getting what she wanted no matter who it would hurt.

Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city. The king's seal showed the king's authority. By sealing the letters with Ahab's seal, Jezebel showed that the king agreed with what she had written.

In her letters, Jezebel wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels in front of him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

She wanted two evil men to accuse innocent Naboth of speaking out against God and the king. Jezebel knew that people who cursed God were punished by being stoned.

Naboth's Stoning

The letters were written in the king's name and sealed with his ring, so the elders in Naboth's city obeyed the instructions. They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people.

Then two scoundrels came and sat in front of him. They lied and told the people, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." The people took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent a message to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and go to Naboth's vineyard, which he didn't want to sell to you before. Make the vineyard yours, because he is dead." Ahab listened to his wife and went down to claim Naboth's vineyard.

[Turn the crown so the side labeled "King Ahab" faces the front.]

It looked like Jezebel got away with killing poor Naboth so that Ahab could take his vineyard.

Elijah Confronts Ahab

Then, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to make it his. Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and taken his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"

Elijah obeyed God and went to find Ahab. When Ahab saw him, he asked Elijah, "Have you found me, my enemy?"

[Take off the crown and pick up the cane labeled "Elijah."]

"I have found you," Elijah answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. The Lord has said, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will destroy your descendants, including every male in your family, whether they are slave or free. I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have made me angry and have caused Israel to sin. Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on on those who die in the field.'"

God was extremely angry with Ahab. There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord because he listened to his wicked wife Jezebel. Not only did Ahab allow Naboth to be falsely accused and stoned to death so he could steal the vineyard, but he also set a bad example for the people by worshipping idols.

Because of his sins, Ahab received the same prophecy as Jeroboam and Baasha, two rulers whose families were doomed for destruction (1 Kgs 14:7-11; 16:1-13).

From looking at God's response to Ahab and Jezebel's wickedness, we can learn that when someone does evil without repenting, everyone is hurt. The punishment comes to them, their parents, their siblings, and their children.

We need to be obedient children of God and avoid doing evil. And, like Elijah, we should also warn those who do evil to repent.

Ahab's Humble Response

Can anybody guess what Ahab did when he heard Elijah's prophecy? Was he proud, not caring what God had to say, or was he humble, looking for God's mercy?

When Ahab heard about God's punishment, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around humbly. What a great change!

Fasting showed that he was humbling himself before God. Tearing his clothing and wearing sackcloth showed how sad he was for what had happened.

Ahab didn't try to defend or argue about what he had done, even though he was the king. He knew that God was the Almighty, and that his life and the life of his descendants were in God's hands.

Psalm 147:6 teaches us that "the Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground." When God saw Ahab's repentance, He spoke to Elijah, "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

God showed His justice by judging the evil done by Ahab and Jezebel. He also showed His mercy by putting off the punishment in Ahab's case.

A Humble Heart

Sometimes, when we have received many blessings from God, we may become proud like Ahab and Jezebel. Their pride made them greedy and mean towards their neighbors. We may feel like we deserve certain things, and be willing to do anything to get them.

In these situations, we should remember Ahab's story and understand that God shows mercy to the humble but punishes the proud. We should not repent only when we are going to be punished. Instead, we should live in a way that is pleasing to God, serving others with humility and love.

Check for Understanding

1. **Where was Naboth's vineyard?** Close to King Ahab's palace.
2. **Why did Ahab want Naboth's vineyard?** To make it into a vegetable garden near his palace.
3. **What was Ahab willing to give Naboth in exchange for his vineyard?** Money or a better vineyard.
4. **Why didn't Naboth want to sell or exchange his vineyard?** Because it was an inheritance from his ancestors.
5. **What did Jezebel do to get Naboth's vineyard?** She wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders in Naboth's city.
6. **What happened to Naboth after the elders received Jezebel's letter?** A fast was proclaimed, he was seated in a prominent place, two scoundrels accused him of cursing God and the king, and he was stoned to death.
7. **What did Jezebel do when she heard that Naboth was dead?** She told Ahab to go and claim Naboth's vineyard.
8. **God told Elijah about Ahab's punishment. What was the punishment?** His household would be destroyed, he and his wife would be killed, and their blood would be licked by dogs.
9. **How did Ahab react when Elijah told him of God's punishment?** He tore his clothing, fasted, wore sackcloth, and went around humbly.
10. **What was God's response to Ahab's humility?** He said the punishment would not come in Ahab's time, but in his son's time.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground." (Psalm 147:6)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

"*The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.*" (Ps 147:6)

Today, we learned that God was furious with Ahab because he had done evil. However, God later had mercy on him after he humbled himself. From this, we can see that God very much delights in people who are humble. But what exactly does it mean to be humble? Let's see what the Bible says.

1. "*If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin.*" (2 Chr 7:14)

Our God is merciful and forgiving. But, for Him to forgive our wrongdoings, it always requires us to first humble ourselves, pray to seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. By humbling ourselves, we show God that we recognize that we did something wrong and that He has the power to forgive us. We pray to Him on our knees, in a lowly position, to humble ourselves. Then, we turn away from our old wicked ways. This is again to humble ourselves by honoring God's ways, which we failed to follow, and acknowledging that they are better than our own ways. If we are able to put away our own pride, God will surely accept our repentance and forgive our sins, just as He forgave King Ahab when he humbled himself before the Lord.

2. "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*." (Jas 4:6)
   "*Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished*." (Prov 16:5)

God strongly dislikes people who are arrogant because they esteem themselves so highly that they often disregard God. The Bible tells us that the proud will not go unpunished. In contrast, God gives grace to and blesses the humble. Those are the people who give glory and honor to God instead of themselves.

3. "*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others*." (Phil 2:3-4)

Apart from humbling ourselves before the Lord, we also need to be humble towards people around us. A humble heart is not self-seeking; therefore, for us to humble ourselves, we must look out for the interests of others. We have to esteem others with love. That way, we are giving glory to our heavenly Father and He will, as promised, shower us with grace because of our humble hearts.

In Ahab's story, we learned that God is merciful to the humble and just toward the wicked. In the next two stories, think about how Fiona and Jeffrey can put this lesson into practice.

Choosing a Toy or a Humble Heart
Mom and Dad took Fiona and Ricky to the store. They told them that they could use their allowance to buy anything they'd like. Because Fiona was older, they handed her an allowance of $15. Ricky was younger, so they gave him an allowance of $5. Fiona put her money in her jacket pocket. Ricky followed her example and put away his money in his own jacket, too. Dad and Mom told them to be careful with their money and not to take it out before they were ready to check out. Fiona got permission from her parents to take Ricky to browse the toy section while they bought groceries. The kids were so excited to see so many toys, they ran up and down the three aisles staring at everything and trying them out.

Ricky was very hot from all the running, so he took off his jacket and left it on the floor while he played with some robots. Fiona chose her toy and saw that Ricky was still not ready. She noticed his jacket on the floor and picked it up. While she waited for Ricky, Fiona pulled out the money from her pocket and realized that she needed $3 more to buy her toy.

She was starting to feel disappointed when she spotted a $5 bill on the floor. She picked it up excitedly, and looked around to see if anyone had dropped it. Fiona didn't see any other adults close by, so she put all the money back into her pocket just as Ricky came over with the toy he had chosen. Together, they went to find their parents.

At the cash register, Ricky reached into his pocket but couldn't find his $5. Fiona realized that the $5 she had found probably fell out of Ricky's jacket when she picked it up from the floor. If she told her parents she had it, she could get into trouble for keeping it. If she returned it to Ricky, she wouldn't have enough money to buy her toy, and it would be at least another month before she could come back to the store.

If anybody asked, she could pretend that Ricky had lost his money somewhere. After all, he did leave his jacket on the floor and hadn't been careful with his money, so maybe he didn't deserve a toy. Nobody would have to know.

What should Fiona do?

_____

_____

_____

Suggested Answer:
Fiona should not be greedy and selfish. Instead, she should be honest and humble. She should think of her brother Ricky who would get in trouble for losing his money, instead of her own desire to buy her toy at his expense. Even though nobody else knew that she had found the money Ricky had lost, God knew.

James 4:17 teaches us that "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." If Fiona doesn't speak up, and even if she doesn't lie, God will still see the evil intention in her heart (in the same way He knew the evil that Ahab and Jezebel had committed). If she does what is right, God will remember her good deeds and consider her needs.

Pride and Laziness
Dad and Mom told Jimmy and Jeffrey to clean their room and do their chores. If they finished everything by the time Dad and Mom came back from visiting Grandpa, they would get a special treat.

After Dad and Mom left, Jimmy started cleaning the room they shared. Jeffrey was feeling a little lazy so he told his older brother that he wasn't feeling very well. He said he was going downstairs to the living room to rest on the couch. While Jimmy put away their clothing, books, and toys, Jeffrey was busy playing video games on the computer in the living room. Jimmy organized their things and swept the floor.

Everything looked sparkling clean. When Jimmy finished cleaning the room by himself, he headed downstairs. When Jeffrey heard his brother's footsteps on the stairs, he quickly turned off the monitor and pretended to be sleeping on the couch. Jimmy saw his little brother sleeping and thought, "Jeffrey must be really sick. I don't want to wake him up. I still have some time, so I can help him do his chore of wiping the dining table and kitchen counters." Jeffrey took a nap while Jimmy kept cleaning.

Dad and Mom came home. Jeffrey woke up when he heard the front door open and got up quickly. Jimmy had finished Jeffrey's chore and was playing in the backyard, so he didn't hear his parents come in. Dad went upstairs to get a jacket. Mom went into the kitchen and said, "Jeffrey, you did a great job wiping the table and the counters. I'm so proud of you!" Dad came into the kitchen beaming and gave Jeffrey a pat on the back. He said, "I passed by their room when I went to get my jacket, and they did a good job cleaning their room, too."

"Where's Jimmy?" Mom asked.
"He's been playing in the backyard for a while," Jeffrey replied.
"Does that mean you cleaned everything by yourself?" Dad asked.
"Then you deserve the bigger treat!" Mom said happily.

Dad and Mom didn't know that Jimmy had done all the chores. Jimmy wasn't even in the room, so he wouldn't know that their parents thought that Jeffrey had done everything. They looked so proud of what they thought he had done, Jeffrey wasn't sure of what to say. At that moment, Jimmy came in from the backyard and smiled at his parents and brother.

What should Jeffrey do?

_____

_____

_____

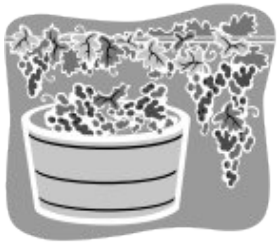
Suggested Answer:
Jeffrey should tell the truth, instead of taking credit for what his brother Jimmy had done all by himself. Jimmy had been so kind; he had even done Jeffrey's chores without complaining. The person who really deserved the praise and the bigger treat was Jimmy. Jeffrey should keep a humble heart and not take advantage of his brother and his parents. After all, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Jas 4:6).

ACTIVITIES

1 Naboth's Vineyard Mosaic

Materials
- Purple, brown, and white construction paper (1 sheet of each per student)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Fresh green leaves

Instructions



1. If there is a nearby tree that is accessible to the students, ask them to pick three or four leaves each from it. Otherwise, distribute three or four leaves (collected beforehand) to each student.
2. Distribute one piece each of white, brown, and purple construction paper to each student. The white construction paper will be the background. The brown construction paper will be the vine branches. The purple construction paper will be the grapes.
3. First, have the students tear the brown construction paper into squares of approximately 1 inch. Then, have them glue the brown squares on the white construction paper, in the shape of a vine branch of their own design.
4. Next, ask students to cut or tear the purple construction paper lengthwise into thin strips (as wide as their index fingers). Have them roll the strip somewhat loosely into a cylindrical shape. Then glue the end of the strip to the rolled part of the strip so it retains its round shape. Then, the students can finish rolling and gluing all of the remaining strips. The rolled strips are then laid flat on the white construction paper (in a design of the student's choice), and glued in place.
5. Finally, students glue the green leaves on the white construction paper.

2 "Elijah Confronts Ahab's Wickedness" Scavenger Hunt

Materials

- List of scavenger hunt items (1 per group)
- Digital camera (1 per group of 4)

Preparation

1. Use the sample list below or design your own scavenger list.

Sample Scavenger Hunt List

- Crown
- writing a letter
- vineyard or garden
- dog
- sackcloth
- seating in a prominent place
- grapes
- staff or cane
- stones
- two scoundrels
- fasting
- king's seal
- palace
- idols

2. Ask the students to bring their own cameras from home or borrow cameras beforehand.

Instructions

1. Divide the class into groups of 4.
2. Ask each team to select a team leader.
3. Distribute a scavenger hunt list and camera to each team leader.
4. Students have twenty minutes to find, make, or act out the items on the list, and take a picture of the group with each item. [Encourage students to be creative.]
5. When a group has found and photographed all the items on their list, they must return to the classroom and show the teacher. The group that finds, makes, or acts out the greatest number of items and completes the scavenger hunt in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Jezebel
2. Jezebel
3. Ahab
4. Jezebel
5. Ahab
6. Ahab
7. Jezebel
8. Ahab
9. Jezebel
10. Ahab and/or Jezebel
11. "The Lord **lifts** up the **humble**; He **casts** the **wicked** down to the **ground**." **Psalm** 147:6

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 7—Elijah Confronts Ahab's Wickedness

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God is merciful to the humble and just toward the wicked.

Lesson Objective: To learn that God rewards or punishes us according to our hearts and actions.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 147:6)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Who Said It? Who Did It?

Draw a line to match the quote or action to the correct figure.

King Ahab

1. "I'll get you the vineyard."
2. Wrote letters to the elders.
3. Tore clothing and fasted.
4. "Get up and eat. Cheer up!"
5. "I can give you a better vineyard."
6. Sold to do evil before the Lord.
7. Used the king's seal.
8. Called Elijah an enemy.
9. Ordered Naboth to be stoned.
10. Worshipped idols.

Queen Jezebel

Vineyard Search

Find the missing words in the vineyard and complete the memory verse.

"The Lord _____ up the _____;

He _____ the _____ down to the _____."

_____ 147:6

Lesson 8

Elisha Works for God

Before You Teach

Elisha
The name Elisha means "God is salvation." This meaning is similar to that of Moses' successor Joshua, whose name means "the Lord saves." Elisha was the successor to Elijah as God's prophet for Israel.

During his ministry, Elijah exposed the transgressions of the nation and took a stand against their great sins, often living away from the people.

Elisha lived among the people and cared for their needs. Other notable events relate to how he helped the Israelite army. He was a prophet for the people, both the poor and the powerful. Elisha also traveled extensively.

In asking for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, Elisha was expressing his desire to be like a firstborn son (see Deut 21:17). According to custom, the firstborn son received a double share of the father's inheritance. Elisha wanted to inherit Elijah's ministry, which he received when he took up Elijah's cloak.

The Cloak
A cloak was a large cloth that men wore over their clothes. It served the function of a coat but it was also the most important piece of clothing a person had on because it served many other functions.

For Elijah, his cloak was a symbol of his authority because it was a tool through which God demonstrated His power.

Both Elijah and Elisha used the cloak to part the waters. When Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha was acknowledged as his successor because he now wore the same cloak.

Bible Text

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15

Bible Truth

God will remember the work of all of His workers.

Lesson Objective

To teach the students the importance of doing God's work and learning from other workers of God.

Memory Verse

"For God is not unjust to forget your work."

(Hebrews 6:10a)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely here today to learn Your words. Let us learn from Elijah and Elisha and how they became Your good workers so that we can also do the same. We know that You will always remember and take care of everyone who walks in Your way. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

At this age, children like to help out whenever they can. In fact, they often want to participate in events that may be a bit too overwhelming for them. However, their desire to help should be acknowledged.

Sometimes, they are brushed off because it is assumed that they are still too young. However, as teachers, we need to seize these opportunities to nurture their attitudes towards serving God and His church.

It is also necessary to stress the importance of prayer and being obedient to God's will. They must understand that they are here to serve and should always humble themselves.

Whenever we serve God, there should be harmony among all members. This kind of attitude is evident through the study of the lives of Elijah and Elisha. Point out how these two prophets were remembered and led by God at all times because they knew how to do God's work the right way.

The students can also be nurtured by being given chances to help out, especially in the classroom. They can clean up the room and assist the teacher when it is needed. Teachers should recognize their correct attitudes by praising their efforts and constantly reminding and showing them the joy and rewards of serving God.

Vocabulary

cloak: a loose outer garment usually worn over a person's clothes
whirlwind: a rapid moving column of air, like a tornado
fiery: burning, like fire, and very hot
plow: a tool used for turning over soil, like a huge rake; usually attached to oxen to help drag it across the field

Elisha Strikes the Water with a Cloak

Elisha Plowing with a Pair of Oxen

Review

In the previous lessons, we reviewed some of the events that occurred during Elijah's ministry. He performed miracles, such as helping the widow and her son so that they would not starve and praying to God for rain to come. These things happened in order to show the power and grace of God.

Elijah also defeated the false prophets on Mount Carmel so that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel could no longer rely on them to worship idols.

During times of need, God was always there to help and comfort Elijah, such as when he ran away from the evil king and queen. When Elijah was hiding from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, God asked him to do three things. What were those three things? (To anoint new kings over Israel and Syria, and to find and anoint a person named Elisha to take his place as prophet.)

We learned from these stories that Elijah always prayed and trusted the one true God. Likewise, we can also count on God to be there for us.

Bible Story

Elijah Calls Elisha
After God instructed Elijah to find Elisha, he set off right away. Elijah came to a farm and saw his future helper plowing the fields. Elisha's parents owned a farm and there were twelve pairs of oxen plowing in the field. Elisha was plowing with the twelfth pair. Elijah walked across the field towards God's new helper.

As Elisha worked the fields, he suddenly felt something on his shoulders. The old prophet Elijah had thrown his cloak around Elisha's shoulders and walked away. Elijah did not even say a word, but Elisha knew that it was Elijah's way of telling him that he needed someone to help him with God's work.

When Elisha realized what was happening, he left his oxen and ran after Elijah. He was happy to become Elijah's helper, but he knew that he would have to leave his family.

"Please let me go back and kiss my mother and father goodbye and then I will follow you," said Elisha.

Elijah replied, "Go back! What have I done to you?"

Elisha Prepares to Work for God
Elisha went home to say goodbye to his family, but before doing so, he killed a pair of oxen and prepared a great feast for all the farmers. After the meal, he left his family and the farm and became Elijah's helper.

Bethel and Jericho
From then on, Elisha went everywhere with Elijah. He learned many things from him, especially how to work for God. In fact, the two of them became very good friends.

One day, as the two of them were walking, Elisha knew that God would take Elijah to heaven that very same day. Because of that, he decided to stay by his master's side all day.

When they were leaving Gilgal, Elijah told Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Bethel," but Elisha refused to leave Elijah. So, they went to Bethel. When they arrived, some of the prophets came out to meet Elisha because they knew that he was in the area. They pulled him aside and spoke to him.

"Do you know that God is going to take Elijah away from you today?" they asked.

Elisha answered them by saying, "Yes, I know. Now please keep silent!"

Just then Elijah turned to him and said, "Please stay here, Elisha. The Lord has told me to travel to Jericho."

But Elisha replied, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them continued their journey and traveled to Jericho. When they got to the city, some prophets came out to talk to Elisha. Again, they asked Elisha quietly, "Do you know that God is going to take your master away from you today?"

Elisha gave them the same reply.

"Yes, I know. Now please keep silent!"

Elijah spoke to Elisha again, saying, "Stay here, please, because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan River now."

Elisha was determined to stay with Elijah so he said, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them set out for the Jordan River, but this time, fifty prophets also joined them for the journey.

Crossing the Jordan
Elisha stayed close to his teacher all day. They traveled with the other fifty prophets until they reached the Jordan River. The fifty men watched at a distance as Elijah and Elisha stood by the edge of the river.

Elijah took off his cloak and rolled it up. Then he struck the water with it. Suddenly, the waters parted and the two of them walked across the river on dry ground. When they reached the other side, Elijah asked Elisha a very important question. The older prophet also knew that God was about to take him away.

"What can I do for you before I leave, Elisha?"

Elisha decided to ask Elijah for something very special.

"May I have a double portion of your spirit?" Elisha wanted to work for God in the same way as Elijah had.

When Elijah heard this request, he knew that he could not grant it to Elisha. Only God had the power to give something like that. But he was happy to hear that Elisha was so eager to work for God.

Elijah replied, "You have asked for a difficult thing. But if you see me when I am taken up, then you will know that God has given you what you have asked for."

Elijah Is Taken Up by a Whirlwind
After this conversation, the two of them continued to walk.

Suddenly, a chariot of fire and horses of fire came down from heaven and separated the two of them. Elisha saw Elijah being taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. When he realized that his teacher was gone, he became sad. But he saw that Elijah's cloak had fallen from him.

Elisha picked up the cloak and walked back to the river. He took it, rolled it up, and struck the waters, just as Elijah had done earlier. The waters parted and Elisha was able to cross the river on dry ground. He knew that God was with him in his work! God would lead him just like He had led Elijah.

When Elisha returned, the fifty prophets knew that the spirit of Elijah was with him. From then on, Elisha began to work very hard for God.

Learning from Elisha's Servant Attitude
From this lesson, we can learn much about Elisha's attitude as a servant, and we should try our best to follow the example he set for us.

When Elijah first called him, he willingly and quickly left everything to follow God, showing us that he valued

serving God more than anything else, even more than his family. This is also the kind of love we should have towards God.

Elisha also learned like a sponge! He soaked up everything Elijah taught him along the way, not only by listening to what Elijah said, but also by observing how Elijah lived and the way he served.

Similarly for us, we can look upon other servants of God, such as our teachers, our parents, and our brothers and sisters, and see the positive attitudes that they have when serving God and try to have the same attitude. We, too, can ask for a double portion of the Holy Spirit's power to help us serve God effectively and bravely.

Being open and willing to learn from other good workers of God is a great attitude to have when we do His work. This is one way we can show respect for others and see other servants as better than us.

There is always something good we can learn from other workers. The more we are willing to learn, the more we are joyful when serving with others.

Check for Understanding

1. **What did Elijah put on the shoulder of Elisha? What did it mean?** His cloak; it was Elijah's way of telling Elisha that he needed someone to help him in God's work.
2. **What did Elisha do to show that he really wanted to follow Elijah?** He killed a pair of oxen and prepared a great feast for all the farmers.
3. **Which three places did Elijah and Elisha travel to together?** Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River.
4. **How many prophets followed Elisha and Elijah to the Jordan?** Fifty.
5. **How did they cross the Jordan River? Where else in the Bible does it record a similar way of crossing?** Elijah struck the water with his cloak and the water parted; Moses parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross.
6. **How was Elijah taken up to heaven?** By a whirlwind.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"For God is not unjust to forget your work." (Hebrews 6:10a)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. Serving Others

We are called to do God's work, and God remembers the work that we do throughout our lives. The Bible tells us that it is by grace that we have been saved through faith, which is not from ourselves but the gift of God, and not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:8-10).

As Christians, deep inside of us is a voice calling us to glorify God through good works. We need to let our light shine before men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

To serve God is to serve others, which is the greatest form of love. Jesus Christ said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn 13:34).

Here are some ways we can serve God by serving others:

1. Help our family.

If we lovingly give of ourselves to our family members, and serve our parents with a heart of love, our acts will also be counted as service to God. Ask the students to make a list of things that they can do to help their family.

SCENARIO
Mary and her family have an agreement—every night, they take turns to wash the dishes. Tonight, it's Mary's father's turn. However, Mary knows that her father is especially tired from work today. He came home a little later than usual and looked wearied. Mary thinks to herself, "Dad had a long, busy day. He needs more rest. Since I'm free, I should help him clean the dishes tonight." In the end, Mary offers to clean the dishes for her father. Even though Mary could have used her time this evening to play with her sister, out of love for her family members, she helped her father instead.

2. Share our talents.
Each of us has been given talents from the Lord that we should develop and use to serve God and others. Examine yourself and see what talents you have. What are you good at? How can you use your talents to help those around you? Do you enjoy making cards? You could make a set of cards for someone who is sick. Are you good with tasks that use your hands, such as gardening, building, or organizing? You can help others with your skills to further develop your talents.

SCENARIO
Stephen is very gifted in art. He's naturally talented and creative. This Saturday, all of his RE teachers are staying after Sabbath service to redecorate the RE classroom. Stephen really wants to help them—to offer his ideas and also to serve God. Stephen has come up with many ideas to redecorate the RE classroom and wants to share them with his teachers. The night before Sabbath, Stephen asks his mom for permission to stay after church to help his teachers. His mom agrees and is elated and proud of him for his heart to serve God with his talents. On the Sabbath, Stephen works with his teachers to redecorate the RE classroom beautifully. Everyone is grateful that Stephen helped and gave lots of creative ideas.

3. Give tithe and offering.
Money from offerings is used to build God's kingdom on earth. Contributing financially to God's work is a great way to serve God. Your offering will help the hungry, thirsty, naked, stranger, sick, and afflicted (see Mt 25:34-36).

SCENARIO
Tina is only in E1, and she doesn't have any money except for her weekly allowance. Usually, Tina spends her allowance on snacks and toys that she likes. She's been saving up for a book that she really wants, too. Last Sabbath, the church made an announcement that they are raising money for a new chapel. Tina knows that this is a good chance to serve God by offering her money. The church is in need of financial support. Even though Tina really wants her book soon, she decides to offer all of her savings towards the new chapel and start saving for the book from the beginning again. She's very happy that the house of God is expanding, and she is excited for when she can visit the new chapel and observe the Sabbath there.

Even though Tina knew that what she offered was only a little, she felt very joyful that she did her best to help the church. God delights in a sincere heart and will remember Tina's generous contribution to the new chapel.

4. Be the salt and the light.
Let your actions and deeds shine through every day at school and with your friends! Always show your Christian character and give God the credit. We can start in our own church. For example, we already do our part to keep the classroom clean, but what about the rest of the church? We need to treat it as our own home. If you see trash on the ground, pick it up and throw it away. God will remember that. Always watch and see if there's anything you can do to help. No matter how small the task, God will remember your deed. Remember, it is the little things in life that matter!

SCENARIO
Christine loves to help others. Everyone knows her as a good Christian. Her friends respect her because of her honesty and trustworthiness. Sometimes, her friends will even ask Christine to help settle their disputes because everyone trusts Christine and her opinions.

One time, Christine's friend Amy was being bullied in school. Christine saw it and stood up for Amy. Later that week, Amy wanted to report this bullying to the school, but she was too scared to tell her teachers about it. She didn't know if her teachers would trust her or not. Therefore, Amy asked Christine for help. Amy knew that Christine always helps others. Also, Amy knew that the teachers viewed Christine as reliable. Finally, Christine went with Amy to their

teachers and reported the bullying. After that, Amy started going to church with Christine. Amy enjoyed learning about God and applying Christian principals to her own life. When Amy's mom saw the good behavior Amy had begun to exhibit, she marveled and also wanted to go to church with Christine's family. After a period of truth-seeking, both Amy and her mom got baptized into the True Jesus Church. Amy and Christine are now best friends and sisters-in-Christ. They always encourage each other to shine the light of Jesus through their actions and deeds. Together, they enjoy helping others even more. They also set a goal together to bring all of their mutual friends to church one day!

5. Pray for ourselves.

Prayer is a conversation with God. Even though you're young, you can tell God anything. Ask God for wisdom and maturity. Tell God your problems. Only God knows your heart and He will listen. As you pray more and seek Him more, you will become more like Him. Remember, God listens even at times when it seems like He's not. You can talk to God in your mind, on your knees, on the ride home, at school, at church, or anywhere else.

SCENARIO

Almost every other day, Alex would come home from school in a bad mood. He didn't even realize this himself until his little sister said to him, "I want a happy brother…" He realized that the reason he's always in a bad mood is because he's very easily angered. For example, he gets angry when someone accidentally steps on his foot, when the teacher doesn't end class on time, or when the school bus comes late. At home, he gets angry when his parents ask him to stop playing video games or to help clean up, and when his little sister takes a long time to understand what he's saying to her. Alex tends to remember these things for a long time, which puts him in a bad mood all the time. Alex recognizes that this is a problem. He wants to change this aspect of himself to make himself a better brother, a better person, and a better Christian! Therefore, Alex has kept this matter in his prayers every day. He prays to God:

"Dear God, I feel so disappointed with myself. You teach us not to hold grudges against others, but I often get angry over little things. I want to change that about myself. I want to be a better and happier brother for my little sister. I want people around me to see Jesus in me, rather than an easily angered person. Last, but not least, I want to be a better Christian for You. I know that You want to see that change in me—to see me become more loving and forgiving towards others. Lord, please help me make that change. I don't like the feeling of being angry, and I want to have control over the anger that dishonors Your name. May Your peace and love fill my heart, and Your Spirit move me to change. May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen.

6. Pray for others.

The Bible has many cases of people praying for others. The most striking example is Abraham's. He took the initiative to step forward before God on behalf of his neighbors in Sodom and Gomorrah. He cared enough to do it, even though he knew how thoroughly wicked they were and how furious God was with their behavior. Moses also stepped in when God was angry, praying for God's people and offering his own life to save theirs. Isaiah prayed with King Hezekiah to save the nation from being defeated and destroyed by the Assyrians, and the armies suddenly turned back. Nehemiah prayed to God to bring about the rebuilding of Jerusalem and of His people. As each of these prayerful men took their concerns to God, what they all had in common was compassion. They loved the people with God's love, and it burned in them so much that they dared to approach God for their sake. Do you have this kind of heart to pray for others?

SCENARIO

Last week, Kevin's cousin passed away in a tragic car accident. Henry, Kevin's best friend, has tried so many times to cheer Kevin up, but Kevin still seems very sad. Kevin has been very quiet, and he doesn't want to talk to anybody. Not knowing what more he can do, Henry offers a prayer to God for Kevin:

"Dear heavenly Father, the God of comfort! Kevin, my best friend, has been very sad lately because his cousin died. It must be very difficult for him. There is nothing I can do to bring his cousin back, but I know that You are able to comfort Kevin and his family, and give them the strength to overcome this immense loss. I can only imagine what it feels like to lose someone who is so close to you. Lord, please give Kevin's family the peace and strength to move forward. Kevin is my best friend and it really makes me feel sad to see him unhappy all the time. Kevin needs a lot of help and comfort to become happy again. Please watch over him and help him feel better soon. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

Henry is a true friend of Kevin. Even though Henry didn't know what he could do to help Kevin, he sought God's help for him by praying. God loves listening to prayers of intercession. In this case, God will surely listen to Henry's prayer and help strengthen Kevin during this difficult time. After all, Henry did help Kevin!

Teachers, here are some ways to actively involve your students in prayer:

1. Ask students to lead the class in prayer.
   - Have your students make individual prayer journals in class. Then, provide time each week for them to record their personal prayer requests and answered prayers. The journals can be sent home at the end of the quarter and serve as a permanent reminder of God working in their lives.
   - Keep a class record of prayer requests and answered prayers.
2. Challenge your class to memorize key prayers in Scripture. Make sure the students understand the meaning of the passage. Use these verses during prayer time as a way to apply them.
3. Use a globe or world map to locate worldwide missionary trips and events as a way to increase the students' awareness of church work. Regularly pray for these events as a class to develop their compassion and love for believers in other parts of the world.

2. Learning from Others

Today's lesson is a prime opportunity to teach students about learning how to serve God by learning from others. It is important for your students to realize that learning from others actually makes us better servants, and it also builds up our relationship with our brothers and sisters. One of the ways to do this is to always see the good in others—to focus on their strengths and good attitudes rather than their weaknesses and shortcomings. And this takes lots of practice!

Everyone needs encouragement. By practicing seeing the good in others, slowly over time, we will learn to enjoy other servants of God by enjoying the ways others serve. And the more we enjoy the way others serve, the more we enjoy serving together. This attitude of positivity is encouraging and beneficial for everyone. The more we practice observing the good points in other servants, the more we build up our own good habits of serving God—thus, the more serving God becomes joyful and satisfying.

As a group exercise, have the students sit in a circle and have each student share one good point about the other students—good servant habits or attitudes that they have noticed about their friends around church. For example, one student may always come to church on time, one student may always have an offering ready for class, while another student may always help the teacher to put things away at the end of class.

If you do not have a large class, the students can practice observing other church members outside of their classroom to learn good servant attitudes. For example, they can observe the pastor who comes to visit their house to show care and love, the brother who always quietly takes out the garbage, or the sister who always washes dishes in the kitchen, and so on and so forth.

You can ask the students what they think when they see such workers in action in and around the church, and encourage them to follow in their good examples and to learn to enjoy and give thanks to God for such wonderful workers.

Encourage the students to practice seeing good around the church and in other brothers and sisters. This can become a lifelong gift you can give to your students.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

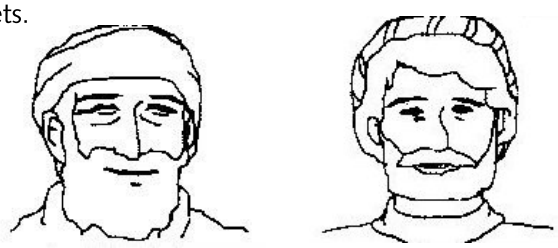
1. False; Elisha was a farmer.
2. False; Elisha used Elijah's cloak to part the waters.
3. True
4. False; Elisha also saw a whirlwind and horses of fire.
5. Elijah
6. Bethel, Jericho
7. Fifty
8. horses
9. Answers may vary.

Activities

1 **Elijah or Elisha?**

Objective: To help the students review the two different prophets.

Instructions: Read each statement carefully. Then circle the prophet that the statement is talking about. Some of the statements apply to both prophets.



I was the older prophet.	Elijah	Elisha
I was a young farmer before God called me.	Elijah	Elisha
Someone put a cloak around my shoulders.	Elijah	Elisha
God chose me to be His worker.	Elijah	Elisha
I left my family to learn to be a prophet.	Elijah	Elisha
I said, "I will not leave you."	Elijah	Elisha
I traveled to the town of Jericho.	Elijah	Elisha
I struck the water with a cloak so that I could cross the Jordan River on dry ground.	Elijah	Elisha
I once said, "Is there something I can do for you before I leave?"	Elijah	Elisha
I went up to heaven by a whirlwind.	Elijah	Elisha
I saw a chariot of fire and horses of fire.	Elijah	Elisha
I asked God for His power so that I could become His prophet.	Elijah	Elisha

2 Elisha Prays for Power

Objective: To create a sun catcher that will remind the students of the importance of praying to God for strength and power.

Materials

- Colored tissue paper
- Construction paper
- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Glue
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Markers

Instructions

1. Using the paper plate, trace circles on both the tissue and construction paper and then cut them out.
2. Take the construction paper circle cutout and mark another circle inside it with a pencil. Ensure that there is about 1 inch from the edge of the outer circle to the edge of inner circle. Cut out the smaller circle without damaging the 1-inch rim or the inner circle. You will end up with a small circle and a rim.
3. Write "Pray to the Lord" on the rim.
4. On the smaller circle cutout, have the students trace one of their hands with a pencil. Then cut out the handprint.
5. Glue the tissue paper circle onto the back of the rim.
6. Glue the handprint on the front of the rim onto the tissue paper. You should now be able to see the handprint on the side of the rim that says "Pray to the Lord."
7. Punch a hole at the top of the rim and tie a piece of yarn through it.
8. Hang the sun catcher to remind you to pray to the Lord.

Note: The teacher may want to create a variation of this craft. The tissue paper could show the image of the handprint. Instead of cutting out an inner circle from the large circle, simply cut the handprint from the large circle. Now glue the tissue paper onto the back of the large circle, and the hand should be accented by the tissue paper. Students can still write "Pray to the Lord" on the circle on the front.

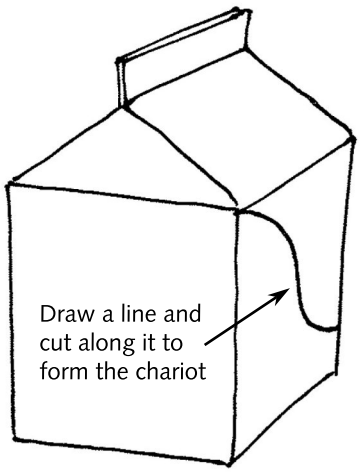
3 Chariot of Fire

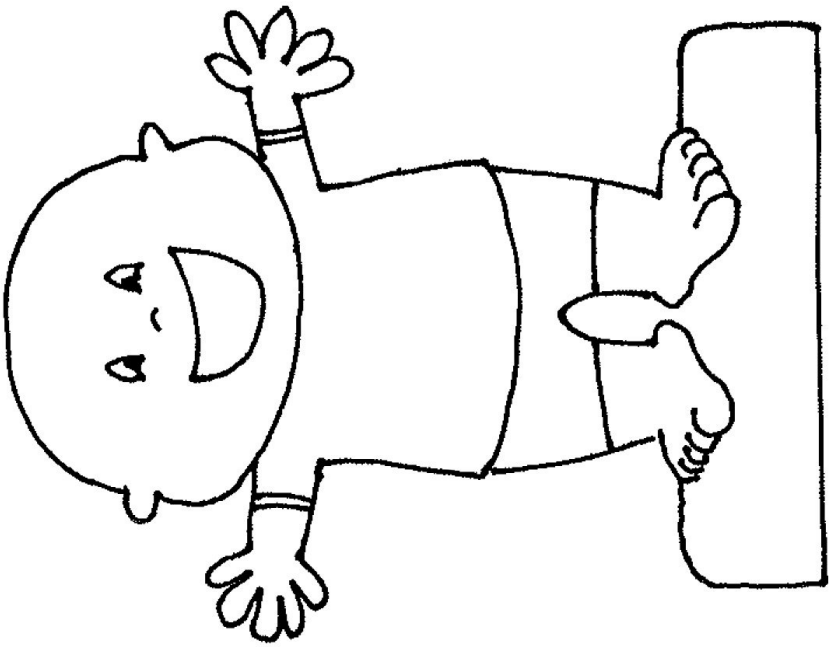
Materials

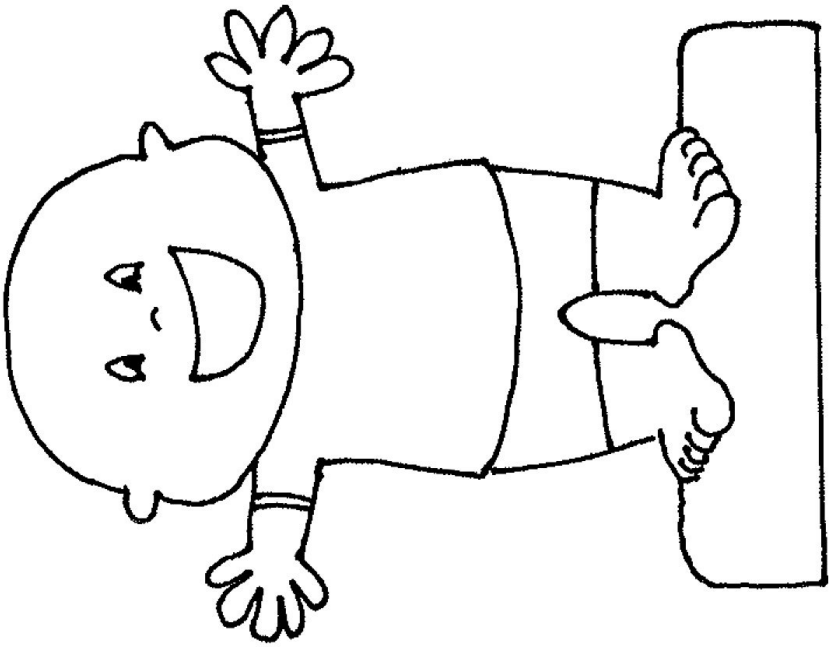
- One small milk carton (300 mL)
- Plastic bottle tops or stiff cardboard
- Character cutouts
- Red or orange cellophane (optional)
- Straws or pipe cleaners
- Paint and decorations for the chariot
- Horse cutouts
- Glue
- String (optional)
- Clothing cutouts

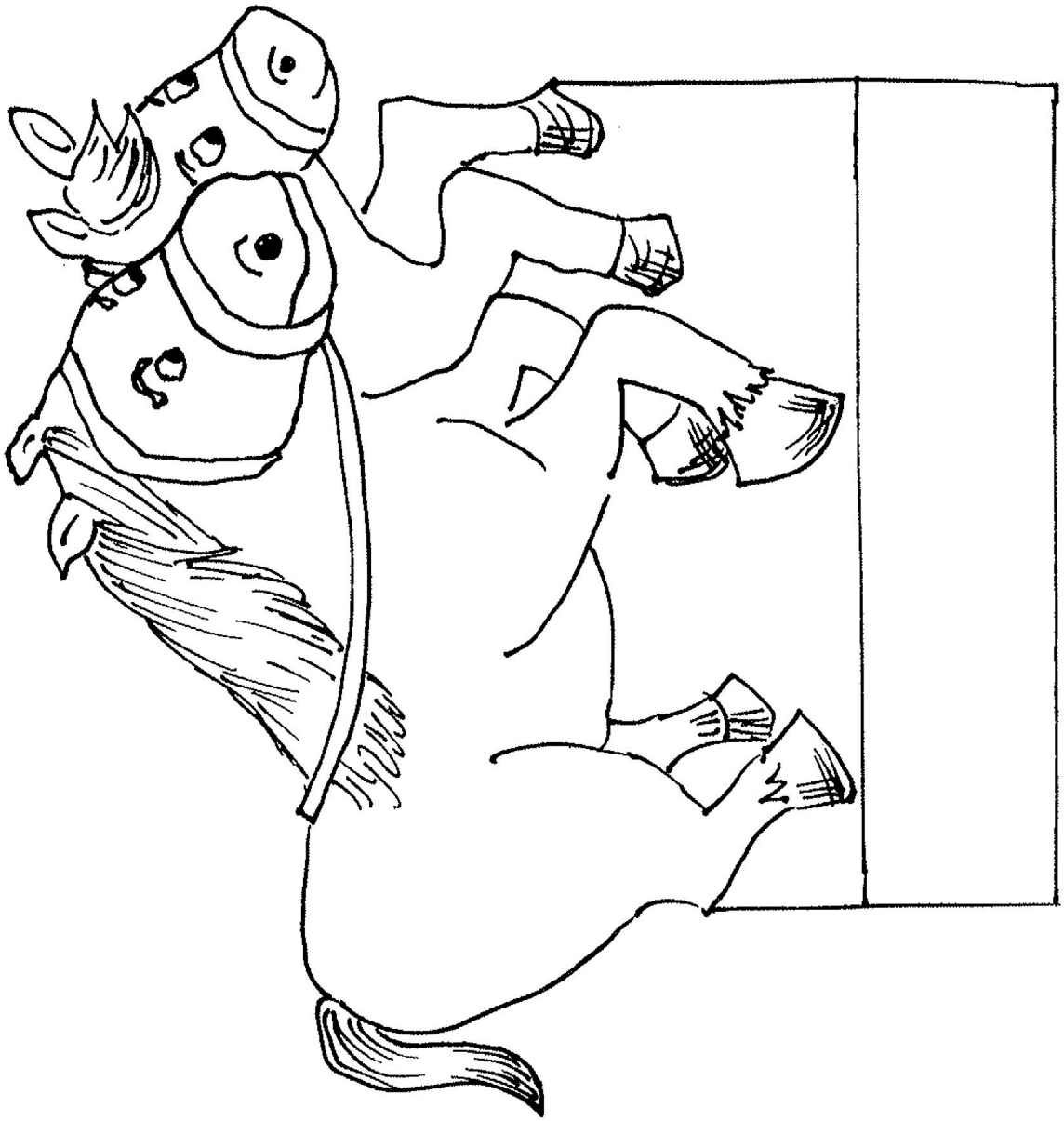
Instructions

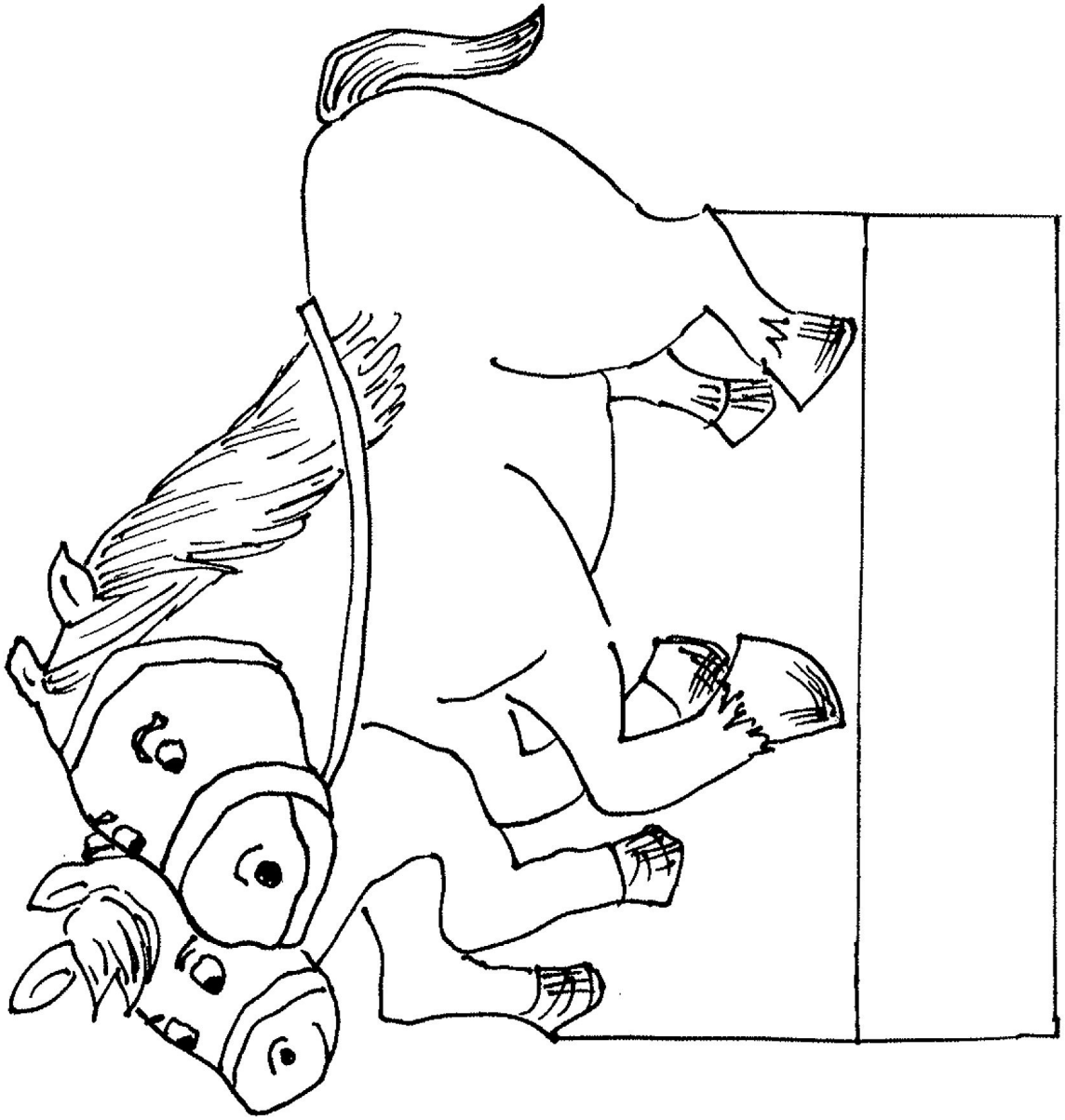
1. Cut the top and one side off the milk carton. Draw a curved shape along the left and right sides to create chariot sides. See diagram.
2. Paint and decorate as desired.
3. Print out both horse templates on stiff cardboard. Cut them out and color as desired. Fold the bottom rectangles out to form a stand. Glue the two sides of the horses together.
4. Attach two straws or pipe cleaners between the horses and either side of the chariot. Attach a string for reins, as desired.
5. Use two plastic bottle tops as wheels and glue to the sides. Alternatively, cut two circles out of stiff cardboard and glue them to the sides.
6. You can add red or orange cellophane for flames of fire.
7. Cut out the two characters (Elijah and Elisha) along with the clothes. Color the clothes and glue them onto the characters.

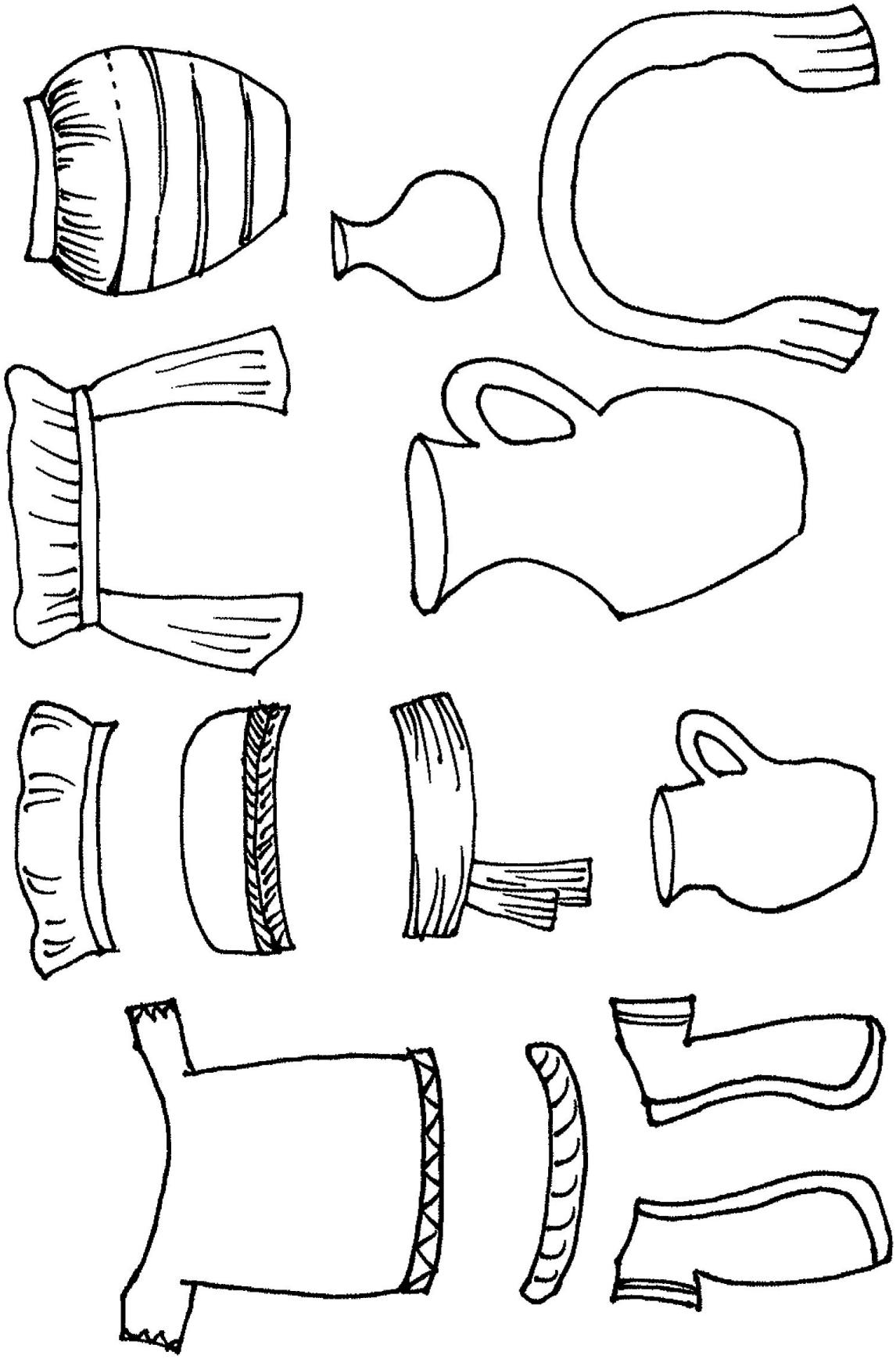












E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 8—Elisha Works for God

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God will remember the work of all of His workers.

Lesson Objective: To teach the students the importance of doing God's work and learning from other workers of God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 6:10a)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Elisha was a carpenter. _____
2. Elisha parted the waters of the Jordan River using his own cloak. _____
3. Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's spirit because he saw Elijah being taken up to heaven. _____
4. Elisha only saw a chariot of fire come down from heaven. _____

Fill In the Blank

5. The other prophets knew that _____ was going to be taken up to heaven by God that day.
6. Elijah and Elisha traveled together to _____ and _____.
7. _____ other prophets also witnessed what had happened.
8. Elisha witnessed a chariot of fire and _____ of fire from heaven.

Life Application

9. There are many things that you can do to help God. Write a letter to God explaining some of the things you can do to serve Him and His church—how would you do them and why would you do them?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Lesson 9

The Never-Ending Oil

Before You Teach

Debts in the Old Testament
Debtors could repay their debts by selling themselves or their sons as slaves. In this story, the woman incurred some debt through her dead husband. As a widow, she did not have the means to support herself. It was possible that her children were young and could not work to earn money. If they were taken away, she would have trouble supporting herself in the future because her sons would not be available to support her.

In Deuteronomy, God gave specific instructions to lenders. He instructed them to be sensitive to the poor and to debtors by forgiving their debts every seven years (Deut 15:1-18). God had also instructed the Israelites to care and provide for widows and orphans. They could not oppress or abuse them. Anyone that professed to have a pure and undefiled religion had to care for the widows and orphans (Jas 1:27).

In this story, the creditor failed to show compassion to the poor as God had commanded. The kindness Elisha showed reminded the Israelites that God wanted them to care for those in need.

Oil in the Bible
In Palestine during Elisha's time, oil was both a luxury and a necessity. The Israelites used olive oil daily. The Egyptians used oil extracted from vegetables and animals.

The most common type of oil was olive oil. To extract the oil, the Israelites would press (Lev 24:2) or step on (Mic 6:15) the olives. More commonly, the Israelites crushed the olives in an olive mill to extract the oil. This process was very time-consuming, leading to the high cost of olive oil. One olive tree yielded about ten gallons of oil a year.

There were many purposes for the oil. Israelites used oil in oil lamps, medicine, cooking, cosmetics, and soaps. In the tabernacle, pure olive oil was used in the golden lamp stand. Injuries to animals and humans were rubbed with olive oil to help them heal. Priests, prophets, and kings were anointed with the finest of olive oils. Queens would also apply oil to their bodies.

Bible Text

2 Kings 4:1-7

Bible Truth

God always helps those in need.

Lesson Objective

To encourage the students to rely on God and to help people in need.

Memory Verse

"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble."

(Psalm 46:1)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us faith in You. We know that You are always here to help us. Sometimes, we do not have enough faith to ask for Your help. Please increase our faith and strength. We know that You love and care for us deeply and will give us all that we need. Help us to trust You more and to glorify Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

In this story and many others, people trusted God with a simple faith.

For example, Noah built the ark well before there was rain; Abraham and Sarah waited patiently for the heir promised by God; Joshua and the Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days and with a blow of the trumpet, the walls of Jericho fell; the widow of Zarephath followed Elijah's instructions, and she never ran out of oil and flour. And in today's story, the woman collected jars without questioning Elisha's motives. Because these characters had a simple faith and believed without question, they received God's grace.

At their current age, your students likely have a simple faith, the innocence of which Jesus often spoke. They believe that they can ask God for anything in prayer and that by asking for it, they will receive it. However, the students must learn that God answers in His own way. He might say "Yes," "No," or "Maybe later."

Sometimes, God responds in a manner they may not anticipate. It may not make a lot of sense at that time, but they need to believe that God will be there.

Other times, God's instructions may come in the form of parental guidance. The students might find that they disagree with their parents many times, but their parents work to the best of their abilities to prepare the best for them, just as God prepares the best for everyone.

When placing her trust in Elisha, the widow also placed her trust in God, even though she did not know what the results would be. Your students need to have faith, because God will always provide. "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Mt 21:22).

Vocabulary

debt: something that is owed to another person, usually money
compassion: to understand others' problems and to show love by helping them
widow: a woman who has lost her husband by death and has not remarried
trust: to firmly believe in someone or something
prophet: a person who declares the word of God and can tell what is to happen in the future
refuge: a safe place where people can hide from danger

Teaching Ideas/Review

Teaching Ideas
To illustrate how the widow collected empty jars from her neighbors and friends, hide empty cups around the classroom. Have the students search for them during the lesson. Fill a small jar with water in preparation for the demonstration of the widow pouring the oil (refer to the Bible Story section "Elisha Instructs the Woman").

Review
Last week, we learned how God chose Elisha to be His worker. Elisha learned how to serve God through his master, Elijah. God planned to take Elijah to heaven. Before God took Elijah, Elijah asked Elisha if there was anything he could do for him.

What did Elisha ask for? (A double portion of Elijah's spirit because he wanted to work for God with power.) Elijah said that only God could grant this request, but if Elisha saw him when he was being taken up to heaven, God would grant his request.

Just then, a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. Elisha saw Elijah being taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha took the cloak his master had dropped and used it to part the Jordan River so he could cross to the other side. He then began his work for God with great power.

Bible Story

Prepare a bag containing items that represent difficulties your students may face: death of a friend or family member (framed picture), death of a pet (stuffed animal), moving away from friends, friends moving away, sickness, bullies, and bad grades.

Have the students take an item from the bag and ask the students, "How do you feel when this happens to you? Who do you ask for help when you feel sad, angry, or alone?"

God is always ready to help us solve our problems. He will use many different methods to help us. Today, we will see how God helped a widow and her two sons when they encountered a difficult problem.

A Woman's Debt

Immediately after God took Elijah to heaven, Elisha took up Elijah's cloak and began his service to God.

One day, a widow met Elisha and told him of her distressful situation. Her husband recently passed away, leaving her and her two sons with a large debt. Because she was a woman and her sons were young, she could not earn money to repay the debt.

She told Elisha, "The creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." This caused the woman great distress. If the creditor took away her sons, she would have nothing left. Imagine if someone took something you loved away from you. How would you feel? The woman felt sad and helpless.

Elisha Instructs the Woman

After hearing the widow's story, Elisha had compassion on her and said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "We are very poor. All we have left is a little jar of oil."

Elisha said. "Go to your neighbors' and friends' houses. Ask them if you may borrow their empty jars. Try to get as many jars as you can. When you have collected them, take the jars home and shut the door so that only you and your two sons are in the house."

After hearing Elisha's instructions, the widow believed that God would help her. She knew Elisha was God's prophet and that God spoke through him. If she followed his instructions, God would help her. So she went with her sons to all her neighbors' and friends' houses and asked them for empty jars. She got many, many jars: tall jars, small jars, fat jars, and skinny jars. When they had collected as many jars as they could, she and her sons went home and shut the door behind them, just as Elisha had instructed them to do.

Now, I want you to pretend that you are the widow. I want you to go around the room and find and collect as many cups as you can.

[Give the students one minute to collect as many cups as they can, and then have them return to their seats and sit down.]

Wow! Look at all of the cups you all found! Now, let's find out what happens next in our story. Elisha told the widow to start pouring the oil from her little jar of oil into all the other jars that she had borrowed. Let's do the same.

[Take your jar of "oil" and start filling the cups.]

What do you notice? That's right! We weren't able to fill all of our cups. Our jar of oil became less and less. Let's find out if that's what happened to the widow.

The Never Ending Oil

The woman remembered that Elisha had told her to pour the oil from her little jar into all the other jars. So she asked her son to bring her one jar. She poured the oil slowly into the empty jar until it filled to the top. She and her sons continued filling the jars for a while. All this time, her jar of oil never ran out, even after filling up many jars.

When she had filled up the jars in front of her, she told one of her sons, "Bring me another jar." Her son replied, saying that there were no more jars left. After hearing that, she looked into her own little jar. It was empty and there was no more oil left!

The Woman

The woman hurried off to find Elisha the prophet and said to him, "Every jar in my house is full of oil!"

"Good!" said Elisha. "Now you can go and sell the oil. You will have enough money to pay your bills."

Just as Elisha had told her, when the woman sold all the jars of oil, she had enough money to pay her debt. She even had some money left over! Now she didn't have to worry about people taking her sons away from her.

This story tells us that God watches and cares for the widows and those in need. Just like the widow, we should thank and praise God deeply with all our heart.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **The poor widow only had a small jar of** _____ (oil) **left in her house.**
2. **The widow's sons were going to be taken as** _____ (slaves) **if she could not pay her bills.**
3. **The first person that the widow went to for help was** _____ (Elisha).
4. **Elisha instructed the widow to gather as many jars full of oil from her friends and neighbors as she could.** False; Elisha asked her to get as many empty jars as possible.
5. **When the widow heard Elisha's instructions, she believed and followed exactly as he told her.** True.
6. **When the widow poured the oil from the jar, she had enough oil to fill most, but not all, of the jars.** False; she had enough oil to fill all of the jars.
7. **When the widow sold the oil, she had enough money to pay off her debt and to pay for her family's daily needs.** True.
8. **This miracle was a demonstration of Elisha's power.** False; it was a demonstration of God's power.

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. God is our helper.

The widow faced a problem she could not solve. After her husband died, she was left with a large debt. If she did not pay that debt, the creditor would take her sons and sell them as slaves. The widow went to the only person who she thought could help her: Elisha. She went to Elisha because he was God's prophet; he would ask God to help her.

Just as this widow asked God for help, we can also ask God for help. We often encounter many problems that make us feel sad, hurt, or alone. These problems can be so large and numerous that we do not know how we can solve them. There is one Person we can always go to for help. Who is He? [Let students answer.] That is correct; we can always ask God for help.

Although we cannot see God, He watches over and protects us from harm. When we encounter problems, God will send His angels to help us. He uses different ways to help us. God may use our parents, grandparents, teachers, or friends to help us, just like how God used Elisha to help the widow. Have you ever prayed about a problem that God helped take away soon after your prayer? Here is a story of a young girl who prayed sincerely to God about a problem, a problem that God helped her with after hearing her prayer.

When Paulina started third grade, she was getting ready to attend the Student Spiritual Convocation (SSC) along with her sister and her mom. Even though Paulina's dad was an unbeliever, it seemed that he did not mind if they went. However, when he saw them all packing their suitcases to get ready to attend the SSC, he suddenly changed his mind and refused to let them go.

As hard as they tried to make their dad change his mind, he still refused. Paulina's sister cried and rushed to her room, and then slammed her door shut. Paulina's mom also said that maybe they could try again next year. Everyone was upset. Seeing that everyone was upset, Paulina's dad said, "If any of you can guess the exact number of coins I have in my pocket, you can all go to the SSC."

Paulina decided to try. She said a quick prayer in her heart, asking God to help her because she was really looking forward to attending the SSC. Then she made a guess. "Fourteen?" Paulina's dad counted all the coins in his pocket and miraculously, they added up to exactly fourteen. Paulina's dad could not believe that Paulina had guessed right. He began to count the money again and again to make sure. There were definitely fourteen coins, and, in the end, they were all allowed to go.

Thank God that Paulina had a great time at her first SSC and that she also received the Holy Spirit. Paulina knew that it was God who had helped her guess correctly and who had allowed her to attend the SSC.

(Adapted from "Fourteen Coins," Manna, Issue 59, April-June, 2009)

What a powerful testimony that demonstrates the power of God's help! The Bible says, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 Jn 4:4). We are God's children and our heavenly Father will always watch over us. Here, He reminds us that He is the God of heaven and the earth. There's no problem too big for Him! Remember that problems are bound to come; no one in this world is without problems. The key is: where do we find a helper? As children of God, we are very lucky that God, the ruler of EVERYTHING, has promised to be our helper. Whatever our problems are, submit them to God and He will never turn us down. What is there to fear about when we have God as our big helper?

"*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*." (Isa 41:10)

This is God's promise!

2. Be a good helper.

"*And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward*." (Mt 10:42)

God wants us to be good helpers. He wants us to love one another just as He loves all of us. The Bible tells us that if we offer a little help to someone, even if it's just giving a cup of cold water, God will remember that and reward us in due time. This person may be a little child, a stranger, or a poor person who doesn't have anything to pay you back for your help. God doesn't reward us because of what we do but because of our desire to help. Remember that we are Christians and everything we do affects others' perceptions of Christians. When we are good helpers, other people can see that God's children are good and that His instructions are favorable to all. We can glorify God's name by helping others!

In today's story, Elisha helped the widow who had a big problem. Have we ever helped someone who has had a problem? Everything that God has made can help us and help others. I will share an example with you. Have you ever seen a ladybug?

Although ladybugs are small, they are very helpful insects. Most people don't mind having them around, especially people who like to grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers. These people are glad to see the ladybugs because ladybugs help eat the insects that hurt and kill the plants and vegetables.

A long time ago, the farmers in California had a big problem. Some very harmful insects called cottony-cushion scales were eating and killing all their orange trees. They found out that the bug had been brought over from Australia by mistake on some ships. The insects weren't so bad in Australia because Australia had ladybugs that ate the cottony-cushion scales.

These farmers knew that they needed the Australian ladybugs to help them save their trees. So, 500 ladybugs were sent to California. When they arrived, they started eating the cottony-cushion scales, and within two years, the trees were saved. Yes, those ladybugs were very helpful! The trees didn't have to die and were able to live to produce sweet oranges.

If something as small as a ladybug could be helpful to the orange trees that were in trouble, we can be helpful to others, too. Have we comforted a friend who had been upset? When our mom or dad became sick, did we pray for them, bring them a glass of water, or make them a card to help them feel better? Next time you see a ladybug in your garden, you can remember to be helpful and kind like Elisha.

Have we given someone a nice gift? Have we hugged a friend who felt lonely?

What are some ways that we can be helpful and kind to others?

Here are three scenarios. In each scenario, we can see the love and kindness that was shown by others to those who were in need.

1. Alicia was bullied in school. In her deepest sadness, she called Jennifer, her best friend. Here's their phone conversation:

   Alicia: Hi, Jennifer. Do you have a second?
   Jennifer: Of course! Is something wrong? You sound kind of sad.
   Alicia: ...I was bullied in school today. A group of older students came to me during lunch today as I was pulling out my lunch money and took my money. I asked them to give it back, but they gave me an evil look and walked away.
   Jennifer: Really? How could they do that to you? First of all, are you OK? How do you feel?
   Alicia: I feel horrible...! This is so unfair. They took my money, and even threatened me. I'm so scared that they'll come take my money again.
   Jennifer: I'm sorry this happened, Alicia, but don't worry. We can go to the teacher together and report them. These bullies should apologize for what they did.
   Alicia: Thanks, Jennifer. I'd really appreciate it if you could go with me. I really want to tell the teacher about this, but I'm so afraid to go to the teacher by myself.
   Jennifer: Don't worry about it, Alicia. There's no reason to be afraid. You didn't do anything wrong.
   Alicia: That's great! I feel so much better. Thanks again, Jennifer!

   Jennifer kept her promise and went with Alicia to their teacher to tell them everything that had happened. The teacher then found the bullies and had them apologize to Alicia and return the money. Without Jennifer, Alicia would not have had the courage to go to their teacher by herself. She trusted Jennifer's words and was greatly comforted.

2. Shawn's dad is suffering from stomach cancer. Ever since his diagnosis, Shawn and his mom have been preaching to him since he is not yet a believer of Christ. Sometimes, Shawn can see that his mom is very exhausted and wearied. As a housewife, she's always been very busy. Now, she even has to take care of his dad who is sick in bed. On top of everything, she spends so much time to pray and study the Bible in order to preach to his dad. Shawn realizes that he needs to do something to help his family. Here's what he did to be a good helper:

   1) *He prayed for his dad.* Shawn has been praying for God to heal his dad. He knows that stomach cancer is a scary thing and that only God can comfort and heal a person with such illness. Shawn prays that his dad will come to believe in Christ, and be comforted and healed.
   2) *He studied the Bible and preached to his dad with his mom.* Shawn really wants his dad to come to know God and His healing power. Therefore, he stays up every night to join his mom in prayer for his dad. Moreover, Shawn prepares many testimonies to share with his dad.
   3) *He comforted his mom.* Shawn knows that his mom is both physically and emotionally drained. Even though God has comforted her greatly, Shawn knows that being positive and encouraging will help his mom a lot. Therefore, Shawn always shares Bible verses with his mom to comfort her.
   4) *He helped his mom with chores around the house.* Since his mom has to take care of his dad, Shawn has been helping his mom with chores so that his mom can take more time to rest and take care of his dad.

   A few months later, Shawn's dad received baptism, and his health has only gotten better since then. Shawn's dad later testified that during his battle with cancer, God sent his family a wonderful helper who demonstrated the love of Christ through his help—he was, of course, talking about Shawn, his 8-year-old son!

3. Emily's family is moving away to another state. Emily is very sad because she has so many good friends in church that she's going to miss very much. She's afraid that she won't fit in at the new church and will feel lonely. Emily's friends at church, too, are bummed out that Emily is leaving. However, they know that Emily faces the most challenges as she moves forward with a new chapter of her life and that she needs her friends to be happy and strong for her. In this regard, they agree to help Emily together by writing a card to her every week to encourage her. Emily, on the other hand, is starting her new life in a new state. Even though she's busy moving in and starting at her new school, she often misses her friends back home. Nevertheless, she doesn't feel lonely at all because she receives a card from her church friends back home every week. She still feels that she belongs with her friends back home, and she's reassured that her friends haven't forgotten about her. Emily always looks forward to receiving her card every week and writing back to her fellow brothers and sisters!

   When you help someone, Jesus will see your kindness and remember what you have done.

Homework Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. She was able to pay off her debts.
5. She was probably very thankful and happy.
6. We should turn to God and believe that He will help us.
7. oil
8. slaves
9. God is our **refuge** and **strength**, a very present **help** in **trouble**. (Psalm 46:1)
10. Whenever I am **afraid**, **I** will **trust** in **You**. (Psalm 56:3)

Activities

1 Olive Oil Sample Tasting

For the activity, prepare small cubes of bread, olives (deseeded and cut into small pieces), and a small bowl of olive oil. Before the lesson, find out from parents if students have certain allergies or food intolerances to olives, olive oil, or white bread.

Today, we learned about a poor widow, whom God blessed with a jar that flowed endlessly with oil. For this activity, we will learn about the oil that the widow used.

During Elisha's time, the people used oil daily. The oil came from vegetables or animals. In Israel, the most common type of oil was olive oil.

Olive oil comes from olives, which grow on olive trees. Today, we use olives in different ways. We add olives as toppings on our pizzas or salads. We use olive oil to cook or to dress our salads. [Show the students an olive; have them pick it up and smell it.]

An olive tree lives for hundreds of years and every year it produces a crop of olives. The olive farmers harvest the olives from the trees. To make olive oil, the farmers commonly crush the olives in an olive mill to extract the oil from the olives. The oil is then sold to different people who use it for many purposes.

There are many uses for olive oil. The oil is used in lamps to light a room. It is also used for cooking. Additionally, the oil may serve as a balm to help injuries. Some people will rub the olive oil on their skin to help make their skin soft. It can also be used to make soap. Because olive oil has many uses, it can be expensive.

Today, we can get bottles of olive oil at the supermarket. We cook with it, dress our salads with it, or dip bread in it. Would you like to find out what olives and olive oil taste like?

Prepare small, bite-size pieces of bread and place them on a plate. Have the students dip a piece of bread into a small bowl of olive oil and eat the bread. Additionally, cut up some olives into small pieces for the students to sample.

After the tasting, have the students dab the olive oil on their skin. Ask them how the oil makes their skin feel.

2 How Many Jars?

How many jars did the widow fill from her own small jar of oil? The Bible doesn't say, but it was probably a lot! How many jars of oil can you find hidden in the picture? Four? Five? Maybe six or more? Find the jars in the picture and color them in.

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 9—The Never-Ending Oil

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God always helps those in need.

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to rely on God and to help people in need.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 46:1)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : The first person that the widow asked for help was _____.
   a. Her neighbor
   b. The prophet Elijah
   c. Elisha the prophet

2. _____ : Elisha told the widow to go to her neighbors' and friends' house to borrow _____.
   a. Ten jars of oil
   b. As many jars of oil as she could
   c. As many empty jars as she could

3. _____ : When the widow heard Elisha's instructions, she _____.
   a. Asked Elisha why she had to do that
   b. Believed and followed exactly as he told her
   c. Could not believe what he said and walked away

Short Answer

4. What was the widow able to do after she sold all the jars of oil?

   _____

   _____

5. After the widow saw the miracle, how do you think she felt?

   _____

   _____

6. When we face a problem, what should we do?

   _____

   _____

Fill In the Blank

7. The poor widow only had a small jar of _____ left in her house.

8. The widow's sons were going to be taken as _____ if she did not pay the creditor.

9. *(trouble, strength, refuge, help)*

   "God is our _____ and _____, a very present _____ in _____." (Psalm 46:1)

10. *(You, trust, afraid, I)*

    "Whenever I am _____, _____ will _____ in _____." (Psalm 56:3)

Lesson 10

The Shunammite Woman's Son

Before You Teach

The Shunammite Woman
Shunem was a city located in central Israel. Whenever Elisha traveled south to the towns of Samaria or Gilgal, he would pass through Shunem. And when he headed north to Mount Carmel, he would pass through Shunem again.

The Shunammite woman knew that Elisha was a man of God. She demonstrated her love for God and her hospitality by preparing a room for Elisha on the house's flat roof. During the summer, families used these rooms for sleeping.

God rewarded her love and hospitality toward Elisha by giving her a son.

Raised from the Dead
God is omnipotent. Everything is under His control, including death.

Previously, we studied how Elijah resurrected a boy through prayer, demonstrating God's power. Today's lesson also demonstrates God's control over death through Elisha's resurrection of the Shunammite woman's son. Elijah and Elisha performed these miracles by praying to God and then lying on top of the dead boys.

The New Testament also records numerous episodes of people being resurrected. Jesus resurrected three people: a boy (Lk 7:14-15), a girl (Lk 8:52-56), and Lazarus (Jn 11:38-44). Peter also resurrected a woman (Acts 9:40-41), and Paul resurrected Eutychus (Acts 20:9-12).

To perform these miracles, Jesus, Peter, and Paul prayed to God and had faith in His power over death. This shows us that prayer and faith were essential components in performing these miracles.

Showing Hospitality
The Bible emphasizes the importance of hospitality. It gives many examples of hospitable people, such as Abraham, Lydia, Gaius, Aquila, and Priscilla.

God commanded the Israelites to be hospitable, too: "Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut 10:19). Thus, welcoming strangers into one's home and offering them food was a common practice. Strangers were treated as honored guests.

In the early years of the church, the believers welcomed and fed traveling prophets, evangelists, and teachers, but nowadays, this custom is becoming uncommon. Today's society is increasingly individualistic and self-centered. As a result, society is less hospitable.

We must resist this trend and practice the welcoming and receiving of others. We do not need an extravagant house or wealth to be hospitable. Even if we only have a table and two chairs, people will still appreciate our kindness.

The Bible tells us that God will reward us for our hospitality.

Bible Text

2 Kings 4:8-37

Bible Truth

God loves and blesses those who share willingly.

Lesson Objectives

1. To emphasize the importance of demonstrating hospitality.
2. To strengthen the students' understanding of God's power over life and death.

Memory Verse

"My little children, let us not love
in word or in tongue,
but in deed and in truth."

(1 John 3:18)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely through another week so that we can come to church and listen to Your words and to pray. Lord Jesus, You love us very much because You died on the cross for our sins. The Bible tells us that we should love others just as You love us. Help us to obey Your commands because sometimes we find it difficult to love and share. Give us the strength to be like You, so we can also love everyone around us. We praise and thank You, Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

In Matthew 10:40-42, the Lord Jesus assures us:

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Hebrews 13:2 also reminds us not to "forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unknowingly entertained angels."

Understanding Your Students

Love is a very abstract word. It cannot easily be defined. It is not something concrete that can be touched.

For your students, it can be hard for them to understand what love is. They may associate love with hugging and wanting to be with that person. But it is important to share with them some of the ways they can show love because it is one of God's most important commandments. In 1 John 3:18, it records that we should not "love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Sometimes, it is hard to think of ways to help people. Life often becomes so busy that helping people is not a priority anymore. Remind your students that Jesus wants them to be His helpers. They can show their love by sharing with others, just like the Shunammite woman who shared her home and her food.

Your students can share their love in other ways, too. They can help do simple chores around the house to show that they love their family. They can also pray to God and ask Him to guide all of His children.

Vocabulary

wealthy: to be very rich; to have a lot of money and material possessions
reapers: people who work in the fields and gather the harvest
staff: a shepherd's walking stick
hospitality: kind and loving treatment of guests and strangers who come to your house
resurrect: to raise from the dead

Review

Last week, we learned about how Elisha the prophet helped a widow who was in debt. A man came to her house to collect the money she owed but she had nothing to give him. So, he said that he would take her sons away to be slaves.

She was very sad and she rushed to Elisha to ask for help. What did Elisha ask her to do? (To go to her neighbors' houses and borrow as many empty jars as she could.)

After gathering the jars, Elisha told her to go into her room with her sons and pour oil from her little jar into the borrowed ones. What happened as the woman poured the oil? (The oil did not run out until she had filled the very last jar.)

Elisha then instructed her to sell the jars and use the money to pay her bills. She even had some money left over to support her family.

This miracle happened because the woman trusted in God and had faith that things would work out. We learned that we should rely on God at all times and help others the way Elisha helped the widow.

Today, we are going to learn about a woman who helped Elisha and received God's blessing in return.

Bible Story

A Room for Elisha
Elisha traveled to many different towns speaking God's message to the people. He often passed through a city called Shunem in his travels. [Show the location of Shunem on a map.]

There was a loving and hospitable woman in Shunem. When she saw Elisha, she would invite him to dine with her family and spend the evening in her home. She did this so often that it became Elisha's custom to stay with her family whenever he was in that city.

One day, the woman said to her husband, "I know the man who often comes through this town is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room for him on the roof. We can put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp in there for him and he can stay with us whenever he comes."

Her husband thought this was a good idea, so they built a room for Elisha in their home. Elisha was very thankful because now he had a place to stay and rest whenever he was in Shunem, and he was deeply touched by the woman's hospitality and kindness.

A Son for the Shunammite Woman
One day, Elisha was resting in the room the Shunammite woman had built for him. He was thinking of how he could repay this woman's generosity.

He asked his servant Gehazi to suggest what he could do for her. Gehazi told Elisha that the woman had no son, and her husband was old. So Elisha asked Gehazi to call for the woman.

Elisha said to the woman, "About this time next year, you will have a son to hold in your arms."

At first the woman was very surprised. She thought Elisha was joking with her. But she knew that a prophet of God would not lie to her so she believed and waited patiently. Sure enough, around the same time the following year, she gave birth to a son. It was exactly as Elisha had promised. The woman was overjoyed and loved her son very much.

A Sudden Death
The boy grew up, and the woman and her husband loved their son very much. They were a very happy family, but something terrible was to happen to the family.

One morning, the boy went into the fields with his father to watch the reapers harvest the crops. Suddenly the boy felt something was not right. Holding his head, the boy cried, "My head! My head! My head really hurts!"

His father became frightened because he did not know what to do. He said to one of his servants, "Carry the boy back to his mother." When the Shunammite woman saw her son in pain, she was very worried. She held him in her arms as he sat on her lap. But, around noon time, he died.

The Shunammite woman did not know why something this terrible had happened to her family, but she knew what she had to do. She laid her dead son in Elisha's room and went to find Elisha. She knew Elisha was a great prophet to whom God listened, and she could ask for God's help through him.

She asked her husband for a donkey to carry her to Mount Carmel, where Elisha was staying. Her husband asked, "Why do you need to see Elisha? It's not Sabbath or a special day." She did not want her husband to know that their son was dead, so she replied, "Everything is fine."

She took a donkey and a servant and quickly traveled to Mount Carmel.

Elisha's Staff
The Shunammite woman wanted to find Elisha quickly. She refused to allow her servant to slow the donkey without her permission. When she arrived at Mount Carmel, she found Elisha and then collapsed before the great prophet, grabbed his feet, and wept loudly.

She told Elisha how happy she and her husband had been with their son, and how grateful they were to God for blessing them with something they thought they could never have. But now God had taken him away and her spirit was broken.

Elisha knew he had to fix this. He told Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand and be on your way. Do not greet anyone along the way and when you get there, lay my staff on the face of the child."

Gehazi left immediately, and they followed after.

Elisha Resurrects the Boy
Gehazi raced to the Shunammite woman's house. When he got there, he immediately went to Elisha's room and placed the staff on the boy, but nothing happened. Gehazi was stunned and did not know what to do. So he ran to Elisha and told him that the boy was still dead.

When Elisha arrived at the house, he went upstairs to the room where the boy lay. He shut the door and prayed to God and asked Him to bring the boy back to life. After the prayer, he got up and stretched himself on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, and hands to hands. He felt the boy's body grow warmer.

After a while, he got up and walked around the house. Then he went back to the room and stretched himself on the boy a second time. Suddenly, the boy began to sneeze. In fact, he sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes.

Elisha called his servant Gehazi to summon the woman. She went to the room and Elisha told her to pick up her son. Her son had been brought back to life and given back to her. She then fell at Elisha's feet and thanked him and thanked God. She knew it was through God's power that her son had been resurrected. She then picked up her son and carried him out of the room.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **God blessed the Shunammite woman's kindness by giving her a _____** (son)**.**
2. **The Shunammite woman wanted to build a _____** (room) **for Elisha because she knew that he was a man of God.**
3. **Elisha prayed to God and the boy sneezed _____** (seven) **times before he woke up.**
4. **When Elisha's servant Gehazi put the staff on the boy, the boy came back to life.** False; nothing happened when he put the staff on the boy.
5. **The woman believed that only God had the power to make her son live again.** True.
6. **God is pleased when we show hospitality to our guests.** True.

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. It is important to show hospitality.

Whenever Elisha passed by Shunem, the woman knew that Elisha must have been hungry and tired from his travels, so she would welcome Elisha into her home. She and her family showed love and kindness by feeding Elisha and giving him a place to lodge. This type of love is called hospitality.

God gives us many good things to enjoy. We should share God's grace and blessing with others by being hospitable. When God sees how we show care and concern to others, He will bless and reward us. How did God bless the woman's kindness? He gave her a son.

There are many examples in the Bible of people who showed hospitality to visitors. For example, there was a man who welcomed three visitors to his tent. What was his name? That's right, it was Abraham.

One day, Abraham saw three strangers coming towards him. He realized that they must have been tired, hot, and hungry, so he invited them to rest and eat in his tent. Abraham prepared the best food he had for the strangers. The Bible also tells us something amazing about these strangers. Let's read Hebrews 13:2. Who were these guests really? Yes, these guests were God and two angels. During that visit, God told Abraham that he would have a son.

When Jesus was traveling and preaching at different places, he visited a family who loved and welcomed Him. The family had two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. Later on when Lazarus got sick and died, the Lord Jesus raised him up from the dead.

How can we welcome our guests when they come to our house? Suppose our friends, relatives, or even people who we do not know visit us. What can we do to make them feel welcome? [Have students come up with ideas.] We need to make sure we tidy up our toys and make our homes neat and comfortable for our guests. We can offer up our rooms for them to stay in, or place our favorite books or toys by their beds. We can also serve them foods that they will enjoy, such as ice cream, cake, or fruit. Moreover, many people enjoy having fresh flowers in the room. Instead of hiding in our rooms, or doing our own things, we can help entertain and attend to the guests.

Now, let's read a few scenarios and practice together as a class to show hospitality.

1. At Church

Today, there's a truth-seeker in your RE class. Her name is Amy. Your friend who brought Amy to church said that Amy has never learned about God before and is a little nervous about coming to church. What can you do to show hospitality to Amy?

Suggested Answers

a) Prepare a Bible and hymn book for her
b) Try to strike up a conversation with her
c) Introduce her to other church members
d) Show her around the church
e) Preach to her and share your testimonies

2. At School

Eddie just moved from another state, and this is his first day at your school. He doesn't have any friends in this school, or even in this state. No one has really talked to him all day since nobody knows him, and he seems very quiet. What can you do to show hospitality to Eddie?

Suggested Answers

a) Initiate a conversation with him
b) Become friends with him
c) Introduce him to your friends
d) Show him around school
e) Tell him about your school activities and invite him to participate
f) Share about the town you live in

3. At Home

Your mom told you that one of her childhood friends, Lily, is coming to visit your home this evening to have dinner with your family. She's not from here and will be coming straight to your home from the airport after a long flight. What can you do to show hospitality to Lily?

Suggested Answers

a) Help clean up the house so that your house looks presentable
b) Prepare snacks and drinks for Lily
c) Welcome her with smiles
d) Be polite and respectful with her
e) Be patient, even though it may be boring, during dinner
f) Help your mom clean up after dinner so that she can spend more time catching up with Lily

By welcoming others and showing kindness to others, the Bible says that not only are we doing something for men, but we are doing something for God, too. God sees this and will remember what we have done (Mk 9:41; Mt 10:41-42).

2. God has the power to raise the dead.

Tell your students to hold their breath for different counts: 5, 10, 15… Holding our breaths for a short time is quite easy, but what happens when we don't breathe for a very long time?

We feel very uncomfortable and feel the need to take in air. In fact, when we don't breathe or breathe too little, we will die. When we are dead, our bodies become very cold and stiff. We cannot do anything.

When the woman's son died, she knew that no other person, not even her husband, could make him live again. However, there was one Person who could. Who was that? Yes, God.

In your mind, picture the sea. It's so wide that you can't see where it ends. Now, can you believe that someone has the ability to open up this sea and reveal the dry ground? [Let students answer.] No, of course there is no one in this world who can do that. It is impossible! But we know that God can achieve the impossible. Remember the story of the Red Sea? By the power of God, Moses parted the Red Sea and the Israelites crossed the sea on dry ground. This isn't a fairy tale. God isn't imaginary. Nothing in the Bible is magic. Every story that we've shared with you is a real historical event. They happened! Do you believe them? Do you truly believe that God has power over nature, over all living things, and even over the dead? Is your answer to these questions an absolute "yes" or just a "maybe"?

The Bible says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6). If we want to experience the power of God, we must first take away all the doubts we have. God rewards us for being good children, just as He rewarded the Shunammite woman with her son's life because of her hospitality and love. Any doubts we have are stumbling blocks for us to receive God's rewards.

The Shunammite woman knew that God could do anything. Even though her son was dead, God had the power to make her son live and breathe again. God could do that with the help of the prophet Elisha.

In our church, we have testimonies where God brought the dead back to life. One such testimony is about a little girl called Fei-Wa, who was only two years old.

> *One day, little Fei-Wa, her five-year-old sister, and another girl were playing by the pool behind their house. They were scooping up water to feed a cricket that they had just caught. Suddenly, Fei-Wa fell into the pool.*
>
> *Fei-Wa was younger than all of us here. She couldn't swim so she sank beneath the water. There was no air. Every time she tried to breathe, water would enter her lungs. She was underwater too long, and she drowned and died. Her five-year-old sister was too scared to tell her parents that her little sister had drowned. But the little girl who was playing with them quickly ran to Fei-Wa's house to tell her parents.*
>
> *Fei-Wa's father ran to the pool, but Fei-Wa had been underwater for a long time. She had stopped breathing, and her body was cold and pale. Fei-Wa's father was a doctor and he knew that it was impossible for his daughter to live again. It seemed like there was no hope. But because he loved his daughter, he would not give up. He tried many ways to help her breathe again, but nothing helped.*
>
> *Just when it seemed as if there was nothing else they could do, Fei-Wa's parents turned to God for mercy and help. When other church members heard the tragic news, they came and, together with Fei-Wa's parents, they knelt down to cry out to God to make their daughter live again.*

The Lord Jesus heard and answered their prayers. God showed His great power by causing Fei-Wa to breathe again and come back to life.

The Bible says, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up" (Jas 5:14-15a).

Once again, do you believe that God has the power to raise the dead? Do you have faith that God answers every prayer, even when we ask for the impossible? Here's a Bible verse for you to bring home and meditate on: "Have faith in God. […] Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mk 11:22, 24).

Activities

1 Welcome, My Friends!

Objective: To teach the students how to display hospitality and kindness to guests and strangers, and to let them know that God will bless them by doing so.

In this activity, the students will learn how to be hospitable by preparing light refreshments and serving them to the teacher and their classmates.

Materials

- Snacks (students or teacher can bring them)
- Paper plates and cups
- Napkins
- Plastic utensils

The students will need to bring snacks from home to serve their classmates and the teacher. The teacher may allow the students to bring snacks of their choice or assign students to bring certain snacks to avoid students bringing the same snacks. The teacher will need to speak to the parents in advance and will need to remind the students a week prior to the lesson. Alternatively, the teacher may bring the snacks and have the students arrange and serve the snacks.

The teacher is to assign each student a task in preparing the snacks. Some students can be responsible for folding the napkins and distributing them to the other students and the teacher. Other students can be responsible for arranging the utensils, cups, and plates. (If possible, to provide a nice touch, try to get plates and cups with a nice design.)

Have each student prepare one snack. Some students can wash the fruits and arrange them on a plate. Other students can arrange cookies, chips, and the drinks.

After the snacks are arranged properly, have the students sit at their desks. The students are to take turns serving the snacks that they have prepared. Remind the students how to serve their guests properly and how to socialize with their guests.

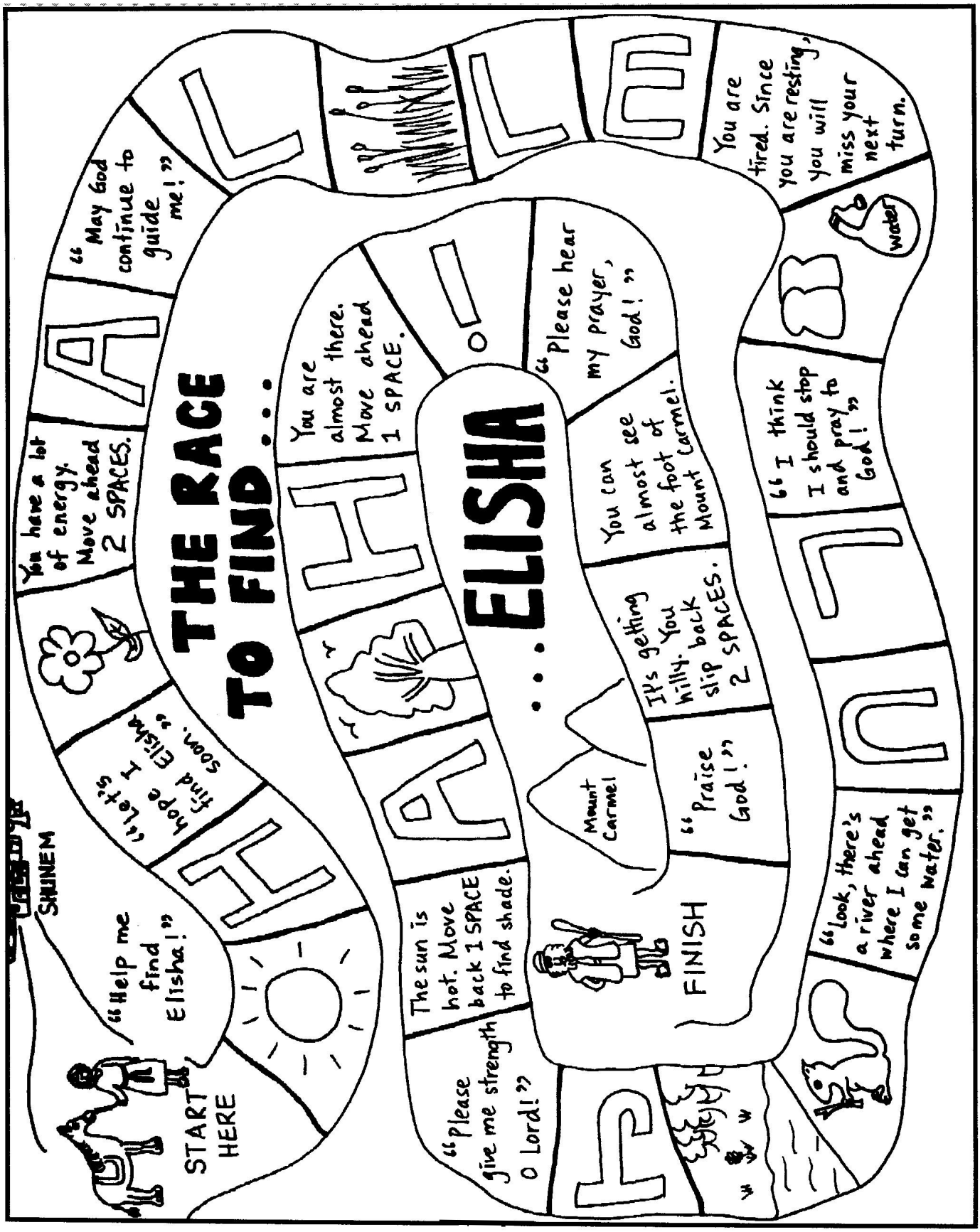
2 The Race / *Optional Activity*

The Shunammite woman was eager to reach Elisha. She was overjoyed when she had a son, but tragedy struck and the son died. She knew that only Elisha, the man of God, could help her. Help the Shunammite woman reach Elisha at Mount Carmel.

Instructions: [Please refer to the game board on the following page.] Have each student take a playing piece, representing the Shunammite woman. They are to help her reach Elisha at Mount Carmel. The students are to roll one die and move their piece accordingly. The students must follow the instructions that are on the space that they land on. The first student to reach Mount Carmel and Elisha wins. Two or three students may share one game board.

Homework Answer Key

1. False; she built a room.
2. True
3. False; nothing happened when Gehazi put Elisha's staff on the boy.
4. C
5. B
6. She was very sad.
7. God has given us many good things to enjoy, and He wants us to share them with others.
8. Circle the bed, table, chair, and lamp.
9. Answers may vary.


THE RACE TO FIND ...
... ELISHA!
START HERE
"Help me find Elisha!"
SHUNEM
"Let's hope I find Elisha soon."
You have a lot of energy. Move ahead 2 SPACES.
"May God continue to guide me!"
The sun is hot. Move back 1 SPACE to find shade.
"Please give me strength O Lord!"
You are almost there. Move ahead 1 SPACE.
Mount Carmel
"Please hear my prayer, God!"
You can almost see the foot of Mount Carmel.
It's getting hilly. You slip back 2 SPACES.
"Praise God!"
FINISH
"I think I should stop and pray to God!"
You are tired. Since you are resting, you will miss your next turn.
water
"Look, there's a river ahead where I can get some water."

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 10—The Shunammite Woman's Son

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God loves and blesses those who share willingly.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To emphasize the importance of demonstrating hospitality.
2. To strengthen the students' understanding of God's power over life and death.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 John 3:18)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. The Shunammite woman built a house for Elisha because she knew he was a man of God. _____
2. The Shunammite woman did not tell anyone that her son had died because she knew that only God could make her son live. _____
3. When Elisha's servant Gehazi put the staff on the boy, the boy came back to life. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : After Elisha prayed to God, the boy _____.
   a. Coughed seven times
   b. Blinked seven times
   c. Sneezed seven times

5. _____ : After Elisha lay on the child, the boy's body became _____.
   a. Itchy
   b. Warm
   c. Cold

Short Answer

6. How did the Shunammite woman feel when she found out that her son had died?

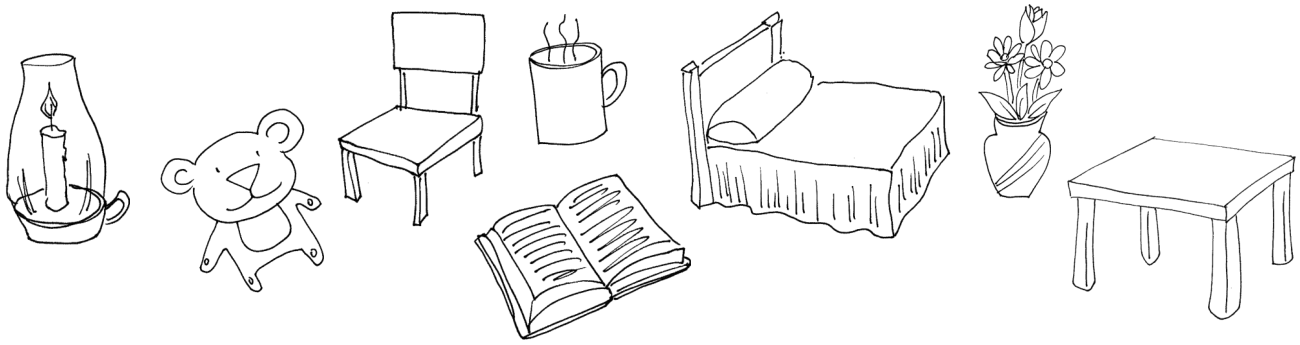
   _____

7. Why does God want us to welcome others and show hospitality to them?

   _____

   _____

8. Circle the things that the Shunammite woman put in the room for Elisha.



9. The next time that you have a guest at your house, how will you show hospitality to that guest?

   _____

   _____

Lesson 11

Naaman and the Israelite Girl

Before You Teach

Leprosy
Leprosy, much like AIDS today, was one of the most feared diseases in biblical times. It probably referred to more than one type or form of the disease. Some forms of leprosy were highly contagious and many were incurable at the time. At its worst, leprosy led to death.

A person with leprosy was often covered in sores. Lepers were usually forced to reside in camps outside of the city and lived as outcasts. If they were lucky, the disease might go away.

Only after a priest deemed them cured could they then enter the city to live among the people again. In the New Testament, the Bible also mentioned that Jesus healed many lepers.

Since Naaman still held his post as commander of the Syrian army and still lived with his family, he may have only had a mild form of leprosy or been in the early stages of leprosy. In either case, he was probably afraid that it would worsen and shorten his life.

Humbleness
In this story, both the Israelite girl and Naaman displayed humility before God. On one hand, even though the Israelite girl was a slave, instead of lamenting and complaining about her unfortunate situation, she seized the opportunity to tell others about her almighty God.

It took a lot of courage and reliance on God for her to speak up. God also put her in that position because of her simple and great faith. By humbling herself before God, she was able to bring much glory to the Lord.

Naaman, on the other hand, was a proud person with a strong character. He was usually the one giving orders and was used to people obeying without questioning, not the other way around.

Even when he was looking for a cure, he expected something elaborate and grand that was fitting of a man in his position. But he didn't receive what he expected; instead, he had to learn to humble himself in order to be healed.

It was not easy for him to dip himself in the Jordan River because he felt that his homeland's rivers were far better. But he was shown that in order to receive God's blessing, it was necessary for him to humble himself before God and to accept His mercy.

Bible Text

2 Kings 5:1-19

Bible Truth

God helps all those who come to Him with a humble heart.

Lesson Objective

To learn to help anyone in need with a humble heart.

Memory Verse

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

(James 4:10)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know You are almighty. There is nothing in this world that You cannot do. We can do all things if we rely on Your power. Please give us a humble heart and teach us to help those in need, just as the Israelite girl helped Naaman. May all glory be unto Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

Students can learn much from this story because it contains themes of compassion, humility, and obedience.

The Israelite girl met with great misfortune when she was captured by the Syrians. It was not uncommon for Israelites to be captured and enslaved during these raids from the northeast. The girl could have easily turned against God and lost her faith in such a predicament, but she did not. Instead, she used her reliance on God to help someone.

Naaman, who was a high commanding officer for the king of Syria, also met with misfortune when he was struck with leprosy. While he struggled with Elisha's instructions for a cure at first, he turned around in time to receive God's grace.

Your students may encounter difficult times in their lives, too. Certainly, their problems are likely not as serious as what the Israelite girl endured. For them, a difficulty could be something that they feel interferes with their own schedule.

Maybe they have been asked to clean up their room when their favorite show is on. Perhaps while they are playing video games, their parents ask them to help set up the table for dinner. In school, they may be asked by a teacher to help a student who is not their friend.

Most of them will usually complain: "I'm doing something else right now, can I do it later?" or "Do I have to?" But they must learn to be obedient and humble. By helping their parents or another person, they are seizing the opportunity to serve God because God wants them to help and obey.

It is important to teach your students not to murmur or complain, no matter how inopportune the time or situation may be. God will be pleased when they learn to help others.

Vocabulary

leprosy: a serious skin disease, often in the form of sores all over the body
humble: not proud; gentle and lowly
disease: illness; something that makes your body sick

Review

Last week, we learned about another miracle. Whenever Elisha passed through the town of Shunem, he would always stay in the house of a Shunammite woman who had built a room on the roof of her house just to accommodate him.

Elisha was very thankful and wanted to repay the woman's kindness. He told her that she would have a son in about a year's time. Sure enough, the woman gave birth the following year to a baby boy.

But her son became sick one day and, not long after, he died in his mother's arms. She was very sad but she knew that Elisha could help her. She rode a donkey with a servant to Mount Carmel to find the prophet.

After Elisha heard what had happened, he gave Gehazi his staff and told Gehazi to rush to her house and lay his staff on the boy. Did the boy wake up? (No, nothing happened.) Then Elisha went into the room himself, prayed to God, and lay on the boy twice. Then the boy sneezed seven times and woke up. God had raised the woman's son!

She was very happy and thankful to God. We learned from this story that God always helps those who are loving and kind to others.

Bible Story

An Israelite Girl Is Captured
During Elisha's time, there were many battles between the Israelite army and their enemies. Sometimes the Israelites won and sometimes they lost.

One of the battles they lost was to the Syrian army, which resulted in the capture of some of the Israelites, one of them being a young Israelite girl who was taken away to be a slave.

In fact, she became a servant to the wife of the commander of the Syrian army! The commander's name was Naaman.

Naaman's Disease
The young girl noticed that Naaman and his wife were always sad. She wondered why, since Naaman was a high-ranking and well-respected commander who lived a comfortable life with his wife. The girl didn't think this couple had a reason to be unhappy, until she found out why.

She learned that Naaman had a terrible disease called leprosy. His body was covered in sores that hurt a lot! But no one in the whole world knew how to cure it. The girl felt sad for her master, too. But she knew someone who could help him!

The Girl's Advice Brings Hope
One day, the girl decided to tell Naaman's wife about Elisha. She knew that God's prophet would be able to help the commander.

"My master Naaman should go and see Elisha, who lives in Samaria. I know he would cure him of the terrible disease!" The young girl was this confident because she had faith in God and His power.

When Naaman's wife heard this, she was overjoyed! She ran quickly to find Naaman to tell him of this good news. When Naaman heard about this, he became excited, too!

He had never thought that his disease could be cured. But since the prophet lived in Israel, he would first have to ask the king for permission to visit Elisha. He wanted the Israelites to know that he was coming in peace.

Thankfully, the king thought highly of Naaman and readily gave him permission. The king also said, "You go first and I will write you a letter to give to the Israelite king."

Naaman was very happy that things were looking up! He went home to pack for his big trip, taking with him gold, silver, and a lot of clothing.

Elisha's Orders
Naaman traveled until he reached the king of Israel's palace. When he entered, he handed the letter to the king. The letter read: "I am sending you my servant Naaman so that you may cure him of his leprosy." The king became very nervous after reading it.

He thought to himself, "I am not God. How can I cure Naaman? If I don't cure him, then the Syrians will attack me!"

While he was worrying about what to do, Elisha heard about Naaman's problem. So, Elisha sent a messenger to the king's palace to tell Naaman to come see him. The king felt relieved and immediately sent Naaman to Elisha.

Naaman arrived at the prophet's house, but Elisha was not there to greet him. Instead, Elisha sent a messenger out to meet the commander.

The messenger said to Naaman, "My master said to tell you to wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and then you will be well."

Naaman became very angry when he heard this.

He thought to himself, "I believed that Elisha himself was going to come out, call on the name of his God, wave his hand over me and cure me! The rivers back home are better than the ones here in Israel! Couldn't I just have washed in those rivers and been cleansed?"

Naaman Is Cleansed
Just as Naaman was about to leave and go home, his servants stopped him.

"Master," said the servants, "If the prophet had told you to do something very hard, we are sure you would have done it already. How much harder can it be to wash and be clean?"

Naaman thought about it for a while and it began to make sense. So he listened to the prophet's orders and went to the Jordan River. He dipped himself in the waters and when he got up after the seventh time, he looked at his body and realized that the leprosy was gone! He was cured from this terrible disease at last!

Naaman Thanks Elisha
Naaman was very happy that he was healed. Now he knew that there was no other God in this world except for the true God of Israel.

He went immediately to Elisha's house to thank him. He took out the gold and silver, hoping to present them as gifts for the prophet. But Elisha would not accept any gifts. He knew that it was God who cured Naaman and he wanted Naaman to know it, too. Naaman also said that he would only offer sacrifices to the true God from then on.

Elisha praised God and told Naaman to go home in peace.

Check for Understanding

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **The young girl was from the land of** _____ (Israel)**.**
2. **She served the wife of** _____ (Naaman)**, who was the commander of the Syrian army.**
3. **Elisha's messenger told the commander to wash himself in the Jordan River to cure his leprosy.** True.
4. **Naaman was told to wash himself in the Jordan River** _____ (seven) **times.**
5. **Naaman praised God after he was healed.** True.

Questions to Think About

1. **In this story, Naaman took the advice of his wife's servant girl and his own servants. They all urged him to listen to the prophet. What do you think would have happened if he had not listened to them?**
2. **Even though we do not know very much about the girl, what do you think she was like?**
3. **How do you think Naaman felt about having an incurable disease?**
4. **What can we do for those people who are sick?**

Memory Verse Practice

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

Help those in need and have a humble heart when doing so.

In today's lesson, we learned about an Israelite girl who was very caring. What did she do? [Let students answer.] She knew that her master was suffering from leprosy, so she called on all her courage and introduced God to her master's wife. Even though the Israelite girl was a slave to her master, she cared about him because she had a compassionate heart. She knew that leprosy could lead to death, and she didn't want her master to die without a chance to know that there was a God who could heal him. Not only was she faithful to her master, she was also very faithful to God. She knew that God was giving her a chance to help her master, and she didn't let the chance slip away. She helped someone in need and had a humble heart when doing so.

What does it mean to have a humble heart? The Bible teaches us to "be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility" (1 Pet 5:5). We must be able to put ourselves in other people's shoes, especially those who are in need, and serve them with humility. God has given us so much that we don't deserve, and He wants us to serve others without asking for anything in return (Lk 17:10). That way, we can fulfill the greatest commandment—to honor God's love by loving one another. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. His promise will always stand true. We can practice being humble by helping others with a genuine heart and asking for nothing in return!

Now, take a minute to think about the people you see every day. Are any of them in need? In need of what? [Let students think.] In your daily lives, you may find people who are poor, sick, in need a friend, distressed, or spiritually weak. For example, people who sell bottles of water on the road, those who are in the hospital right now, or maybe a friend of yours who's going through family problems. When you think about it, there are many people who are in need! Among them, many are far less fortunate than we are. Wouldn't you agree? How can we help them? How can we be the "Israelite girl" in our daily lives? Let's read a few examples.

1. It was Thanksgiving Day. Sara's family had a great time and a huge dinner together with a few other close families and friends. Since everyone prepared a few dishes for this dinner, they had a lot of leftovers. Sara knew that there were so many leftovers that her family would probably end up throwing a lot of them away. She thought of an idea. In the town where she lived, there were many homeless people. Sara thought that since most people were home celebrating Thanksgiving Day and all the stores were closed, these homeless people must be lonely and hungry. She suggested her family to drive around the town and give their leftover food to the homeless people. That night, they gave away all their leftovers and felt very happy doing so. They knew that God had given them so much and that they should do likewise to others.

2. Sean went to a carnival with his friend, Raymond. They had lots of fun together. At the end of the day, they won many tickets and they were both very excited to exchange these tickets for their favorite prizes. However, Sean knew that Raymond's family is very poor. He had been to Raymond's house and he knew that Raymond has barely any toys. Thinking about how much he has compared to Raymond, he knew that Raymond could use more toys. Sean decided to give Raymond all of his tickets. Raymond asked Sean why he gave him all his tickets, and Sean answered, "Because God has given me so much already!"

3. Rob was a new student in Ian's class who had just moved to this town. Rob appeared very stressed and tired every day when he came to school. Out of concern, Ian talked to Rob during lunch one day. He asked Rob if everything was OK. In their conversation, Ian found out that Rob's stress was caused by the moving company accidentally losing some of his packages, a few of which had all of his school supplies inside. His parents had been so busy with their new jobs that Rob didn't want to worry or trouble them further with his problems. On the other hand, Rob felt that the academic standards of this school were higher than his previous school, and therefore he was having a hard time adjusting and catching up. The next day, Ian brought his extra school supplies to Rob. He said that Rob could use them until he received his lost packages. Also, Ian offered to help Rob with his homework whenever Rob needed it. Ian remembered that God wants His children to be good helpers. Even though Ian had always been one of the best students in class, he never boasted about himself or looked down on Rob. He was very patient and considerate when helping Rob with his homework. Every time Rob asked Ian for help, he would answer, "Sure, I'm most happy to help!"

4. Hugh had just started his senior year in high school. A new year meant new classmates, and Hugh noticed that one of his classmates always sat in the corner and seldom talked to others. He decided to reach out to him and soon enough, Hugh had made a new friend. Over the year, Hugh and Brent became better friends as they spent more time studying and hanging out. Hugh realized that God had brought Brent into his life so that he could share the good news with him. After their study sessions, Hugh would ask Brent if he was interested in reading the Bible with him to learn more about God. At first, Brent politely declined and said he was not interested in religion. However, Hugh did not give up and he continued to invite Brent to study the Bible with him. Thanks to Hugh's persistence and determination, Brent started studying the Bible with him and eventually started coming to church to attend service. Thank God that, in the end, Brent also came to believe and was baptized in the Lord!

Students, how much have you already received from God? Remember, everything we have is from God. Our families, friends, home, clothes, food, health, etc., are all from God. But, many people in this world aren't as fortunate as we are. This is not because they're not as worthy as we are, but because God has a different plan for them. God's plan for us is to learn how to help others with humility. We can make a difference in many people's lives if only we are willing to make an effort. The Israelite girl didn't have to help her master. She didn't have to say anything to her master's wife. Even if her master eventually died, no one would point at her and say that it was her fault for not telling her master about Elisha. But the Israelite girl felt responsible to help. Why? Because she acknowledged that God had always been there for her, to love and protect her, and she owed God for that. Likewise, we owe God a lot for what we have. We must help others and do so with a humble heart. Ask for nothing in return. Sara, Sean, Ian, and Hugh poured their time, money, and energy into other people's lives. They felt joyful when helping others. What can you learn from them? Can you think of a person or persons in your life that you can help in this coming week? How will you help and in what manner will you help? [Let students share.]

Materials

- White cardstock
- Tape
- Markers
- Star stickers (or any sticker with encouraging words)

Instructions

1. Pass out one piece of cardstock to each student.
2. Ask each student to draw a scene that shows a time when they need help, without letting the other students see.
3. Gather all the pictures; you will be using them as flashcards.
4. Now we will play charades. Ask a student to come up and show that student one picture without letting the other students see it.
5. That student will act out the scene in the picture.
6. Other students will need to: a) guess what is happening in the scene; and b) suggest a way to help the person in the scene.
7. Each student that volunteers a way to help will come up and act out the suggestion.
8. Once the volunteer is done acting, give that student a sticker. Ask that student to stick it somewhere on his clothing where no one can see it (inside the shirt, under the jacket/sweater, etc.).
9. Repeat the activity for all the students, or until the flashcards have all been acted out. Tell the students that we always need to be observant and look around to see who we can help. It is also important to remember not to boast about how we have helped someone, just like how we do not let other people see our stickers. Even though other people won't see our many stickers, God will.

Homework Answer Key

1. humble
2. leprosy
3. disease
4. False; the Israelite girl was captured during a raid.
5. False; Elisha neither asked for nor accepted any money in return for healing Naaman.
6. True
7. C
8. A
9. B

Activities

1 **I Believe!**

Objective: To allow students to identify people who showed that they believed in the power of God.

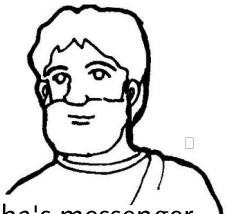
Instructions: Read each of the following statements and circle the person who made that statement.

1. "Naaman should go and talk to the prophet Elisha. I am sure God will help him."

Naaman's wife

The Israelite girl

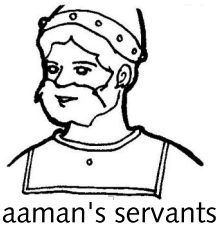
2. "Elisha says that you must wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times in order for you to be well."


Elisha's messenger

Naaman's servants

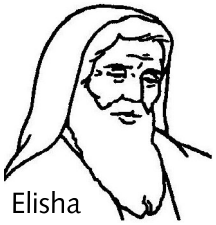
3. "My master, I think you should listen to what the prophet says and wash yourself in the Jordan River."

The Israelite girl


Naaman's servants

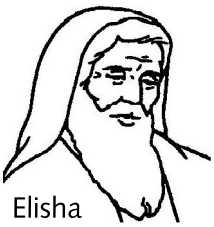
4. "Thank you, Lord! Now I know there is only one true God. I am so thankful."

Naaman


Elisha

5. "I did not heal you. It was by the power and grace of God."

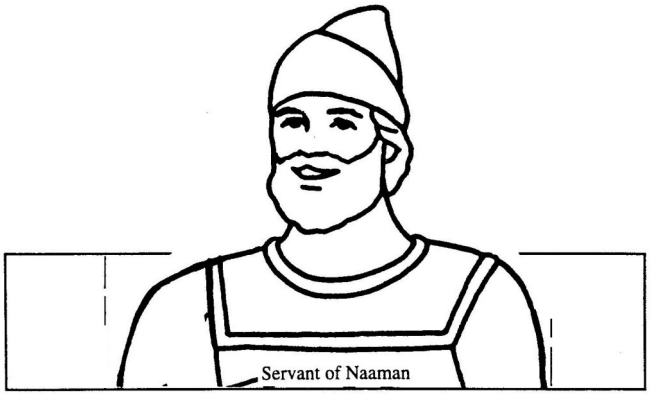
Gehazi, Elisha's servant

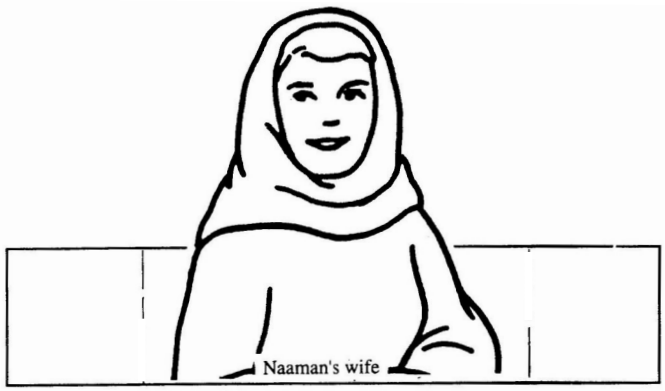

Elisha

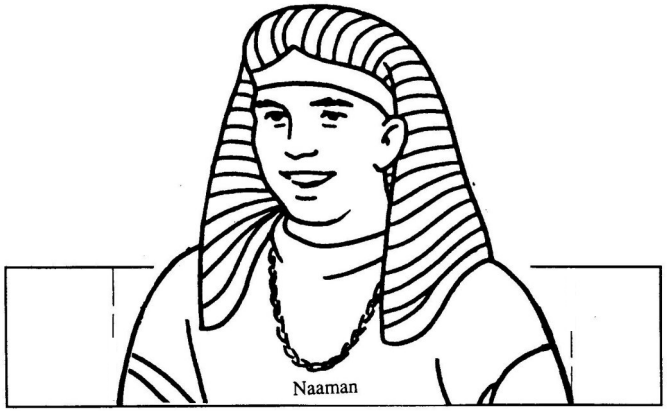
2 **Know Your Bible People**

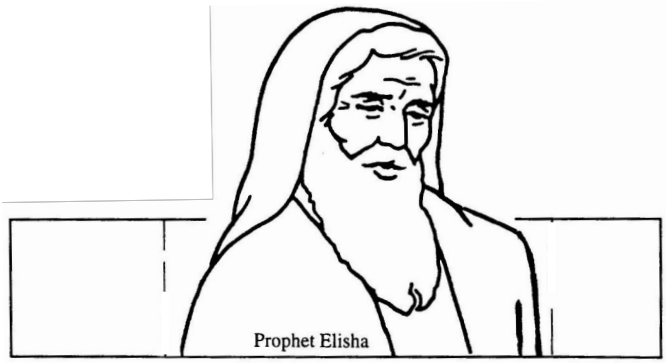
Objective: To review the story of Naaman.

Instructions: Cut out the finger puppets. The students may want to color them in first. Bring the tabs together and insert the lower slit into the upper slit until the tabs are even. Let students review the story by using these finger puppets. The students can each play one role and the teacher may want to role-play the remaining characters.









E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 11—Naaman and the Israelite Girl

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God helps all those who come to Him with a humble heart.

Lesson Objective: To learn to help anyone in need with a humble heart.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 4:10)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

leprosy	humble	disease

Fill In the Blank

1. When I get a perfect score on a test, I should thank God and be _____. I don't need to brag to everybody about how smart I am.

2. _____ was a common disease in biblical times that gave people painful sores all over their bodies.

3. When a person is very sick, that person has a _____.

True or False

4. The Israelite girl became a servant because she wanted to become one. _____

5. Elisha charged Naaman a fee for the cure. _____

6. Naaman was thankful after being cured. _____

Multiple Choice

7. _____ : Naaman and his wife were sad because _____.
   a. Naaman was a high-ranking commander
   b. Naaman and his wife lived comfortably
   c. Naaman had a terrible disease

8. _____ : The Israelite girl told Naaman that his disease would be cured if he _____.
   a. Went to look for the prophet Elisha for help
   b. Spent a lot of money to pay for the best doctors
   c. Went and washed in the river

9. _____ : Elisha told Naaman to do the following to be cured: _____.
   a. Take a lot of medicine
   b. Wash in the Jordan River seven times
   c. Wash in any river as many times as he wanted

Lesson 12

Greedy Gehazi

Before You Teach

Talents
During Elisha's time, there were no coins or paper money. Money came in the form of gold, silver, or bartered goods. In those days, a talent of silver weighed about 75 pounds. That might be worth $7,000 to $8,000 today.

The two talents that Gehazi received were likely double this amount. That was a significant amount because the average person earned only a few cents each day. Two talents added up to many years' wages.

Punishment
Gehazi and his descendants were all punished for his sins.

God clearly stated in Exodus 20:5 that those who sinned against Him would bring judgment on themselves and their households, a judgment that usually extended to the third and fourth generations.

During that time, one member of a family could represent the whole community. Achan's punishment was similar in that his entire family and all that he owned had to be destroyed.

Understanding Your Students

At this age, your students may tell innocent lies. When they are asked whether they have completed their work, they may answer with a "yes" even though they have a little more to do. When confronted, they may say that they didn't know how to do it.

Sometimes, they lie because they are afraid of getting in trouble, or simply because they don't want to do something that you asked.

Today's lesson is a good opportunity to teach them about dishonesty so that as they grow up, they can learn to differentiate between right and wrong.

Gehazi's tragic outcome began with his greed. He thought that Elisha was foolish for not accepting Naaman's generous gifts. So he lied to Naaman and took some of the money that had been offered to Elisha. When he returned to Elisha, he had to make up another lie to cover up the first one.

When people tell lies, they don't think about the consequences. And they often have to continue lying in order to cover up the old lies. When we tell the truth, there is no need to go through all this trouble.

Gehazi thought that he could get away with his lies because no one would know. But God is omniscient! He sees everything that people think and do. Being greedy does not please God. Lying about it is even worse!

Remind your students that God is always watching. They can feel proud when they tell the truth because God will be proud of them!

Bible Text

2 Kings 5:19-27

Bible Truth

God will punish those who commit sin.

Lesson Objectives

1. To differentiate between honesty and dishonesty.
2. To learn to be honest children of God.

Memory Verse

"Be holy in all your conduct."

(1 Peter 1:15b)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Dear Lord, thank You for peacefully taking us through another week. We have come here to worship and praise You. In today's lesson, we will learn about someone who was very greedy and dishonest. Let us learn not to be dishonest but to follow in Your way. May You help and guide us. Hallelujah! Amen.

Review

Last week, we learned about the story of Naaman. He had a terrible disease called leprosy that no one could cure. But his wife's servant girl told him about Elisha. So, after he received permission from his king, he went on a journey to Israel to find Elisha.

When Naaman got to Elisha's house, Elisha sent a messenger out to tell him something. What was it? (To wash himself seven times in the Jordan River and then he would be well.) When Naaman heard this, he became very angry. Why? (He thought Elisha would come out and cure him personally; he thought the rivers at his homeland were better.) He was about to leave but his servants encouraged him, saying that he had been asked to do something simple. So he went to the Jordan River to wash himself. When he got up the seventh time, his leprosy was cured!

He praised God and went to thank Elisha. He wanted to give the prophet some gifts but Elisha refused, saying that it was God's power, not his own.

Vocabulary

dishonest: not truthful

greedy: selfish, wanting more

Bible Story

Gehazi's Greed

After Naaman was cured, everyone was happy.

Naaman was happy because he was no longer sick. His servants were happy because their master had been healed and their journey was a success. Elisha was happy because God's power and grace was shown.

But one person was not too pleased: Gehazi, Elisha's servant.

When Naaman offered the gifts to Elisha to thank him, Gehazi thought that Elisha would definitely accept the generous gesture. There was a lot of money and plenty of nice clothes.

Gehazi was disappointed when Elisha refused. He didn't think Elisha was being very smart. The more he thought about it, the more he wanted the gifts for himself. He thought, "Elisha saved Naaman, but didn't accept his gifts! I will go after Naaman myself and get something from him!"

But he couldn't just go after Naaman without thinking of a good excuse. So he carefully thought up some lies to convince the commander to give him the money!

Gehazi Lies to Naaman

Gehazi wasted no time to run and catch up with the commander and his chariot. Naaman saw Gehazi running after him and stopped his chariot to meet Gehazi.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Is Elisha all right?"

"Oh yes," Gehazi answered, "Everything is all right, but two young prophets have just come to our house. They need some money and clothes. Elisha has sent me here to tell you that. Please give them a talent of silver and some clothes."

Gehazi was telling lie after lie. There were no prophets at their house, and Elisha never asked Gehazi to chase after Naaman. But when Naaman heard this, he was very willing to help.

"Please take these two talents of silver and some clothes."

Gehazi was very happy to hear this. Naaman asked his servants to put the money and clothes into bags. He even told his servants to carry the bags for Gehazi part of the way.

When Gehazi reached Elisha's house, he thanked the servants and took the bags. Then he went and hid them so that Elisha would not find out.

Gehazi Lies to Elisha

After he carefully put away the money and clothes, he went to see Elisha so that the prophet would not become suspicious.

When Elisha saw him come in, he asked, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

Gehazi had to tell another lie.

"I haven't gone anywhere, my master."

He thought that answer was good enough, but little did he know that God had revealed to Elisha what he had done and that very serious punishment was coming his way.

God Strikes Gehazi with Leprosy

"Gehazi," said Elisha, "Was my heart not with you when you went to meet with Naaman? Should you be receiving

money, clothes, and gifts at this time? Naaman's leprosy will be on you and your descendants forever."

Then all of a sudden, Gehazi was struck with leprosy, the same disease that Naaman had just been cured from. He left Elisha's house completely covered in sores and he went away very miserable. Having all the money in the world was not going to help him now. Gehazi lied many times because of his greed, but in the end, God knew his heart and punished him for his sins.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. **Gehazi was greedy and** _____ (dishonest)**.**
2. **Gehazi lied to Naaman and asked him for** _____ (money) **and clothes.**
3. **Gehazi lied to Naaman by telling him that two young prophets had come.** True.
4. **Gehazi admitted the truth to Elisha.** False; Gehazi lied to Elisha.
5. **Because he had sinned against God, Gehazi was punished and received Naaman's leprosy.** True.

Questions to Think About

1. **Use your own words to describe what being honest means.**
2. **What do you think Gehazi could have done to feel better after lying to Naaman and Elisha?**
3. **What can you do if you have been dishonest about something?**
4. **What would you do if you found something that didn't belong to you?**

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Be holy in all your conduct." (1 Peter 1:15b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Who was honest?

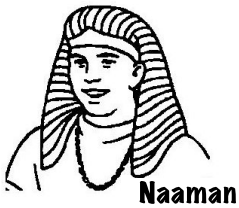
In today's lesson, we learned about what happened to Gehazi because he was greedy. What did he do out of greed? [Let students answer.] He lied to Naaman and took the gifts that were originally for Elisha, and then he lied once more, this time to his master. The Bible tells us that the Lord hates a lying tongue (Prov 6:17). Dishonesty is an abomination to Him. If a family member or friend of yours lied to you, how would you feel? You certainly wouldn't feel good. Likewise, God feels sad and disappointed when we do not speak the truth. A dishonest person is often self-seeking and selfish. God's commandment is for us to love others and do good. He blesses those who are truthful, but disgraces people who are deceitful like Gehazi.

Dishonesty is something that really harms our relationship with God. Sometimes, it may be easier for us to tell lies than to tell the truth, but lying can become a habit. The more we lie, the more deceitful our hearts will become. The Bible says, "He who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much" (Lk 16:10b). If we allow ourselves to lie about little things, it'll become natural for us to lie about bigger things in the future. Not only will this get us into trouble, it will also take God away from us. Therefore, we must be very careful with our words and actions every day.

Let's revisit our story today and try to identify if the statements were honest or dishonest.

Instructions: Read each sentence. Circle the person who said those words. If the person said something honest, circle the word "Honest." If he was being dishonest, then circle the word "Dishonest."

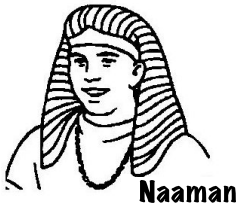
1. After Naaman was healed, Elisha said to him, "I did not make you well. God did." Was Elisha being honest or dishonest?



Honest **Dishonest**

2. After Naaman left, Gehazi said to himself, "I will think up an excuse to have the gifts for myself." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?

Honest **Dishonest**

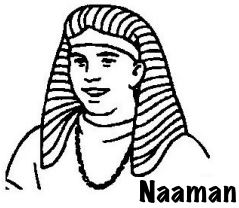


3. Gehazi said to Naaman, "Elisha asked me to come and find you." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?

Honest **Dishonest**

4. Gehazi said, "Naaman, two young prophets have just come to our house. They need money and clothes." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?

Honest **Dishonest**



5. Gehazi said to Elisha, "I did not go anywhere." Was Gehazi being honest or dishonest?

Honest **Dishonest**

2. Live Honestly

Objective: To help the students learn to be honest people of God.

Instructions: Gehazi showed us that it is wrong to live a dishonest life. We want to live an honest life. Have students suggest an honest response to each of the pictures illustrated. Write the response on the board so that the students can copy them onto their activity sheet.

1. "My father owns a candy store. Let's take some candy from the store without paying when we go visit him. He won't know."
   What would you say?
   _____

2. "That is Jack's Bible. Let's hide it so that he gets in trouble. It'll be funny!"
   What would you say?
   _____

3. "I found this toy here. Let's take it. No one will know. We can have fun playing with it."
   What would you say?
   _____

4. "This park is beautiful. It has many pretty flowers. Let's take some. I think my mom will like it when I surprise her with beautiful flowers."
   What would you say?
   _____

5. "My mother told me to pray every night but I don't! I tell her that I do so that she'll stop nagging me about it."
   What would you say?
   _____

6. "I don't know the answer to this question. I think I will copy Annie's answer. She won't mind because she is my friend."
   What would you say?
   _____

Students, lying stems from the heart; it can poison us from the inside and disgrace our heavenly Father. God searches our hearts and detects any dishonest thoughts we have. A lot of times, these thoughts are difficult to get off our minds. But even during those instances, we can be honest with God and ask Him for help. God is merciful and understanding. If we truly want to be honest children, He will cleanse our hearts and fill us with thoughts of His grace and honor. God has everything we will ever need, and we certainly don't need dishonest gains.

Activity

Be Honest Children of God

Objective: To understand that when we lie, we are only harming ourselves.

Materials
- Play dough
- Candy

Instructions
1. Give each student a bit of play dough.
2. Ask them to make simple play dough people to represent themselves.
3. When they have finished shaping the play dough, have the students sit in a circle.
4. Ask the students to introduce their play dough people to one another.
5. Ask each student to say one dishonest thing. When the students say something dishonest, they need to take apart a small section of their play dough person. Once all the students have each said one dishonest thing, ask them to look at their play dough person and introduce it again to the rest of the class.
6. Tell the students that when we say dishonest things, it is as if we are breaking off small parts of ourselves in the process. In the end, we'll become incomplete and broken like our play dough people.
7. Allow them to form their play dough people once again. After they're done, start another round of sharing. This time, tell them that they can choose to say something dishonest or something honest. If they say a dishonest thing, they can get a piece of candy, but they must still lose a play dough part. If they say an honest thing, they do not get a piece of candy, but their play dough person will remain the same.
8. Once that round is done, those who have candy must return it to the teacher. Have everyone share their play dough person.
9. Emphasize how we might think that it is okay to be dishonest sometimes in order to get stuff we want, but in the end, we are only hurting ourselves. We will be damaged and missing pieces like our play dough people. We must remember that God doesn't want us to hurt ourselves by being dishonest.

Homework Answer Key

1. greedy
2. leprosy
3. money, clothes
4. dishonest
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. B

E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 12—Greedy Gehazi

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ **Parent signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Truth: God will punish those who commit sin.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To differentiate between honesty and dishonesty.
2. To learn to be honest children of God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.
Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Peter 1:15b)

_____

_____

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

money	dishonest	greedy	leprosy	clothes

Fill In the Blank

1. Mom already gave you two cookies but you're still not satisfied and want another two. You shouldn't be so _____, but rather, say, "Thank you, Mom!"

2. God punished Gehazi for lying by giving him Naaman's _____.

3. Gehazi took _____ and _____ from Naaman.

4. When you don't say the truth, you are being _____.

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : Gehazi was not happy because _____.
   a. Naaman's disease was cured
   b. Elisha praised God for the miracle
   c. He didn't get any gold and silver

6. _____ : Gehazi got gold and other gifts by _____.
   a. Healing Naaman
   b. Telling Naaman a lie
   c. Begging Naaman to pity him

7. _____ : Which is not the reason why Gehazi was struck with leprosy?
   a. He was obedient.
   b. He was greedy and dishonest.
   c. He lied to Elisha.

8. _____ : When we want to get something, we should _____.
   a. Lie until we get what we want
   b. Be honest and thankful
   c. Just take it

Lesson 13

Review

This lesson is meant for review purposes. There are many ways to conduct a review. Here are some ideas for you.

1. It can be in a standard test format. Elementary 1 students should be able to answer the following types of questions without much difficulty: true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Depending on your class needs, feel free to create your own test by selecting questions found in the **Check for Understanding** section of each lesson. Alternatively, you can look through some of the **homework assignments** for ideas. Be sure to think about **life application questions** in addition to the knowledge-based ones. Never forget to ask the students to remember the **memory verses** that they have learned.

2. The review can be done as a game. Playing games is a fun way to share information. It can be a simple game like Jeopardy or a race to the finish line (moving spaces as students take turns to say the correct answer). Students can also create their own questions and quiz each other. The possibilities are endless!

3. You can think of this class as a brand new lesson. You can select certain characters to study and compare, or themes to look at to review the whole quarter. Look at the memory verses and see how they can be a springboard into a review. These require a little bit of work on your part, but it can be a rewarding way to tie up the past twelve weeks.

Finally, remember to soak in the words of God. After reviewing God's wonderful teachings, have a small snack fellowship. Sing hymns, or go outside and enjoy His creations. You can do a play that sums up the learning that has taken place. And don't forget that you work with a wonderful group of teachers. Brainstorm with your fellow RE workers for fantastic ideas to end your quarter. May God remember all your labor for Him.

For those teachers who have great ideas as to how to review all twelve lessons, we welcome you to email USGA with all the details. We can upload your ideas to the RE link and let other teachers share your creativity.

REVIEW ANSWER KEY

Short Answer

1. water
2. Naboth's vineyard was close to King Ahab's palace.
3. He was sad and upset, and he wouldn't eat.
4. He was a young farmer.
5. heaven
6. Elisha
7. oil
8. God
9. seven
10. Naaman

Multiple Choice

1. C 2. D 3. A 4. C 5. C

Memory Verses-Fill In the Blank

1. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)
2. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. (Jas 1:17a)
3. Call to Me, and I will answer you. (Jer 33:3a)
4. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer." (Ps 4:1b)
5. The Lord will hear when I call to Him." (Ps 4:3b)
6. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (Jer 29:12)
7. The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground. (Ps 147:6)
8. For God is not unjust to forget your work. (Heb 6:10a)
9. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Ps 46:1)
10. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 Jn 3:18)
11. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (Jas 4:10)
12. Be holy in all your conduct. (1 Pet 1:15b)

Fill In the Blank

1. died 2. raise 3. flour, oil 4. fire 5. pray
6. seven 7. Jezebel 8. angel 9. 7,000 10. horses

Life Application

1. Idols cannot help or protect us. Idols are man-made and they are not real. We cannot bow down to worship idols because we only worship God—the Creator of this world.
2. I can pray. I can read the Bible. I can say grace before eating meals. I can go to church. I can be good and obedient to my parents.
3. I can be thankful: for my family; that there's enough food for me and my family to eat; that I have clothes to wear; that I can go to school; that I have a nice warm bed to sleep in; that I can go to church, etc.

Review Test

Short Answer

1. What was the first thing Elijah asked for from the widow?

_____

2. Where was Naboth's vineyard?

_____

3. How did King Ahab feel when Naboth wouldn't sell him the vineyard?

_____

4. What was Elisha's job before God called him?

_____

5. Where was Elijah taken up to by a whirlwind?

_____

6. Who asked for God's power so that he could become God's prophet?

_____

7. What did the poor widow only have a small jar of left in her house?

_____

8. When the woman's son died, she knew that no other person, not even her husband, could make him live again. However, there was one Person who could. Who was that Person?

_____

9. How many times was Naaman told to wash himself in the Jordan River?

_____

10. Who did Gehazi lie to when he asked that person for clothes and money?

_____

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : King Ahab and Queen Jezebel built _____ for the idol Baal.

a. An altar
b. A temple
c. An altar and a temple
d. None of the above

2. _____ : When Elijah was spending the night in a cave on Mount Horeb, God told him to stand on the mountain because He was passing by. God appeared to Elijah in the _____.

a. Strong wind
b. Earthquake
c. Fire
d. Small voice

3. _____ : God was extremely angry with Ahab. There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord because _____.

a. He listened to his wicked wife Jezebel
b. He was sad and upset
c. He didn't listen to his parents

4. _____ : When her son died, the first person that the Shunammite woman asked for help was _____.

a. Her neighbor
b. Elijah the prophet
c. Elisha the prophet

5. _____ : Elisha told the widow to go to her neighbors' and friends' house to borrow _____.

a. Ten jars of oil
b. As many jars of oil as she could
c. As many empty jars as she could

Memory Verses-Fill In the Blank

love	Lord	hear	saved	listen	Me	work	call	help	good	holy	humble

1. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be _____." (Acts 16:31)
2. "Every _____ gift and every perfect gift is from above." (Jas 1:17a)
3. "Call to _____, and I will answer you." (Jer 33:3a)
4. "Have mercy on me, and _____ my prayer." (Ps 4:1b)
5. "The Lord will hear when I _____ to Him." (Ps 4:3b)
6. "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will _____ to you." (Jer 29:12)
7. "The Lord lifts up the _____; He casts the wicked down to the ground." (Ps 147:6)
8. "For God is not unjust to forget your _____." (Heb 6:10a)
9. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present _____ in trouble." (Ps 46:1)
10. "My little children, let us not _____ in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 Jn 3:18)
11. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the _____, and He will lift you up." (Jas 4:10)
12. "Be _____ in all your conduct." (1 Pet 1:15b)

Fill In the Blank

flour	pray	angel	7,000	raise	horses	Jezebel	died	fire	oil	seven

1. The widow's son became so sick that he _____.
2. God has the power to _____ the dead.
3. When Elijah stayed with the widow, God provided them _____ and _____.
4. God answered Elijah's prayer by sending _____ on the altar.
5. Elijah went up to Mount Carmel to _____ to God for rain.
6. Elijah asked his servant to go and look toward the sea _____ times.
7. Queen _____ was not happy because Elijah proved that Baal was not the true God.
8. God sent an _____ to bring food to Elijah in the desert.
9. God told Elijah that there were still _____ people who served the Lord and had never worshipped Baal.
10. Elisha witnessed a chariot of fire and _____ of fire from heaven.

Life Application Questions

1. **We should only worship the Creator of this world: God. When we worship God, we are thanking Him for looking after us every day and for protecting us from danger. Can idols help or protect us? Do you know why we cannot bow down to worship idols?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. **How can you obey God? Write down 2-3 things that you can do to show your obedience to God.**

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. **What can you give thanks to God for today?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

"You are my God, and I will praise You;
You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 118:28, 29)

Y2 Bk 2

The Victorious Soldiers

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

21225 Bloomfield Avenue

Lakewood, CA 90715 U.S.A

Printed 2013