

ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

Elisha's life and ministry point to Christ.



THE STORY: 2 KINGS 4:1-7

MONDAY

Elisha multiplied the oil

Elisha multiplied the oil – A woman, a wife of one of Elisha's students, was caught in a difficult place. Her husband died and, in order to pay her debt, her children were going to be taken into slavery. Elisha instructed the woman to collect jars and pour out what little oil she had. In a miracle reminiscent of Elijah's multiplication of the widow's oil and one that points forward to the miracles of Jesus multiplying the fish and loaves, Elisha helped the woman pay her debt.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where else in the Bible is something miraculously multiplied? (*Jesus turned water into wine and multiplied the fishes and the loaves.*)

Who can we trust to provide for us? (*We can trust the Lord to provide for our needs. In Matthew we read that we should not worry about our food and clothing. If we seek first the kingdom of God, we are promised everything that we need to do God's will.*)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you have faith in Him and trust in Him for the things that we need.



THE STORY: 2 KINGS 4:8-17

TUESDAY

Elisha healed the woman's barrenness

Elisha healed the woman's barrenness – The answer to whether or not Elisha had indeed inherited a double portion of Elijah's spirit was quickly answered. Here, Elisha prophesied that the barren woman would have a son. She responded in faith calling Elisha a "man of God." Elisha, in turn, did not draw attention to himself but to God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Can you remember other stories where God gave barren women children? (*Sarah had Isaac, Rebekah had Jacob and Essau, Rachel had Joseph, Hannah had Samuel, Elizabeth had John the Baptist.*)

What other miraculous birth did God bring to pass? (*God gave Mary the baby Jesus who was conceived by the Holy Spirit.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for the wonders he has done for these women, especially in bringing us Jesus.



THE STORY: JOHN 9:1-11

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

The miracles demonstrated in the life of Elisha were powerful and point forward to Christ. Elisha instructed the widow. When the woman followed the instructions in faith, God provided for her needs miraculously. Events like this in Elijah's and Elisha's lives show the power of God. They are a window into the mercy and kindness of God, which finds its fullest expression in Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

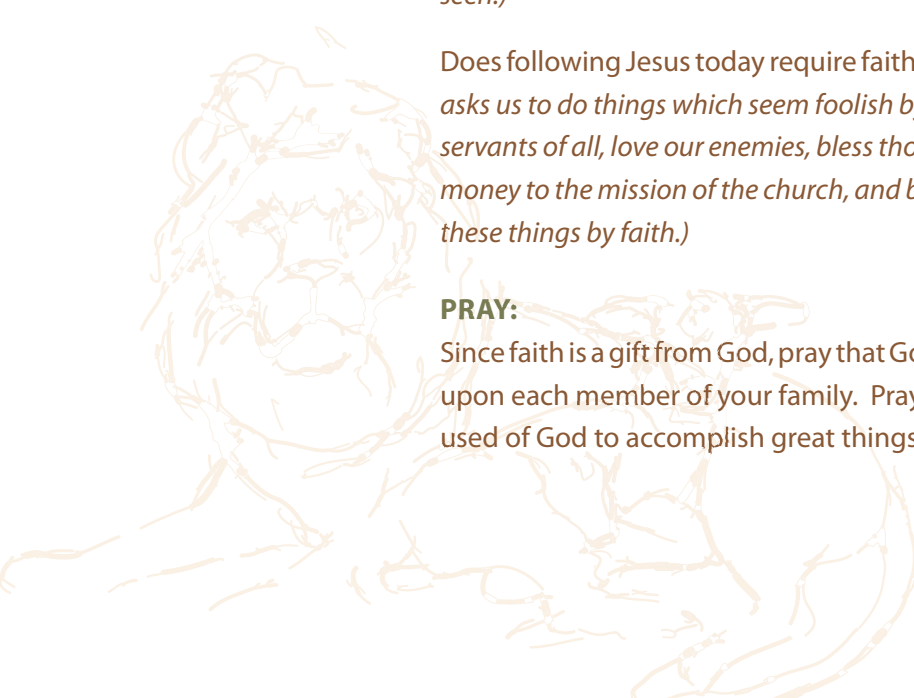
How are Jesus' healing of the blind man and the story of the widow and her oil similar? (*Both Elisha and Jesus called on these suffering people in need to believe and obey by faith. When they did so, their needs were met.*)

What is faith? (*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*)

Does following Jesus today require faith? (*Yes. Following Jesus does require faith. Jesus asks us to do things which seem foolish by the world's standards. We are to become the servants of all, love our enemies, bless those who persecute us, give large portions of our money to the mission of the church, and believe in a God we cannot see! We can only do these things by faith.*)

PRAY:

Since faith is a gift from God, pray that God would pour out the gift of faith generously upon each member of your family. Pray that each of you might believe God and be used of God to accomplish great things for His glory.





Elisha raised the dead son

Elisha raised the dead son – When the Shunammite’s son suddenly became sick and died, she placed the boy’s body on Elisha’s bed and asked for help from the prophet. The woman did not leave Elisha’s side until he came to see the boy. She demonstrated her trust in God in a declaration of faith to Elisha (2 Kings 4:30). Elisha went to the boy and, after praying to the Lord, laid on the lifeless boy twice until the boy was raised from the dead.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this miracle remind you of the ministry of Jesus? (*Jesus raised the dead and He also rose from the dead.*)

How does the raising of people from the dead give us hope? (*It makes plain that only God has power over death. And because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have the promise that all those who place their faith in Christ will also be raised by God from death to life.*)

PRAY:

Thank God that He rules over death and will one day conquer death forever!





On the road to Emmaus.

Habakkuk 1:5 is quoted by Paul in Acts 13:41 as a warning against not believing in Jesus. The language of Habakkuk's prayer (the prayers call God a "Rock and Holy One") is the same language used to describe Christ (Acts 2:27 and 1 Corinthians 10:4).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Read Acts 13:41-46. What did God do when the Jews refused to believe the message that was spoken to them? *(When they began to contradict Paul's message, God then instructed Paul to give the message to the Gentiles. Not long after that (AD 70), Jerusalem was destroyed and many of her people were taken captive by the Roman armies.)*

Why is the passing on of the Gospel to the Gentiles important? *(God promised to bless all nations of the earth through Abraham. It is in the passing of the Gospel to all peoples that God is keeping this promise.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that salvation through Jesus is available to all men. Pray that God would help the church take the Gospel to every nation. This requires that the Bible be translated into other languages and that churches be planted everywhere. There are still people today who do not have a Bible translated into their language.)

