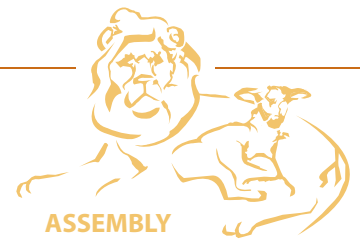


ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II KINGS 2:13-22, 4:1-7, AND 6:1-7



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

FLOATING AXE HEAD

Supplies:

- axe head or hatchet
- wood
- a stick
- a clear container

First, ask the class to guess what will happen when the wood is dropped into the water. Then drop the wood into the water to see that it floats. Do the same with the axe head. Ask the class to help you figure out a way to make the axe head come back up out of the bottom of the container. Try a few silly ideas like commanding the axe head to come out.

Read the story from the NIV Bible, 2 Kings 6:1-7, to reveal what Elisha did (he threw a stick into the water, 2 Kings 6:6). Tell the class, "That must be the trick." Throw your stick into the water and when the axe head does not float up ask them why. Ultimately you are trying to show that there is no trick but it was God, not Elisha, who made the axe head rise. Elisha was simply being used by God to do the miracle.

ONE ACT PLAY

Supplies:

an assortment of containers, at least one for each child

This is a great story that a few teachers can act out for the children and ad lib very easily. Have a teacher play the widow and another one act as Elisha.

Start out with the woman making her appeal, followed by Elisha's instructions. Prior to class, hide the assorted containers around the room. Explain to the children that they are to search in the neighborhood (the classroom) and find the empty jugs. Place at least one for every child in the room. Thank the children and tell them you are going inside to fill them.

Then act out filling the jars with great excitement, praising God for his miracle through Elisha. Finish the skit by selling the oil to one of the teachers and at the last minute have the angry debt collector come, only to be surprised by a full payment of the debt and some money left over. Talk to the children about how generous God is to us by giving more than we could ask or imagine, see Ephesians 3:20.

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Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Elisha instructed the widow prophetically. 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 and is a window into the mercy and kindness of God, which finds its fullest expression in Jesus.

John 9:1-11 (ESV)

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."

