

ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

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



The STORY

Read "Elisha has Elijah's Spirit" and "Elisha's Works of Power" from 365 Read Aloud Bedtime Bible Stories pages 144-145.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in the story about the oil? (A woman did not have money to pay her bills. Elijah told her to bring as many empty jars as she could find and to pour her oil into them. The oil did not stop coming out of hers until all the others were filled.)
- Can anyone think of another Bible story like this one? (Elijah told a woman to make him a meal with her last bit of oil and yet her oil never ran out, see 1 Kings 17:7. Point out to the children that Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. In other words, Elisha wanted to continue the ministry of Elijah after he was gone. This miracle is another evidence that God answered Elisha's request.)
- What did Elisha's power say to the people of Israel? (Elisha got his power from God. The miracles confirmed to the people that Elisha was a prophet of God.)

ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

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

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a picture of the oil being poured into many jars, some much larger than the original container. Engage the children by asking:

- What does this story teach us about God's power? (God is all-powerful and able to make the oil multiply in the jars.)
- Can God still do miracles? (Yes, God can still do miracles.)
- What miracles can God still do? (God is not limited. He can do all things. One of the miracles He does is change hearts of sinful people. Jesus died on the cross so that we can be forgiven of our sin and our sinful hearts can be changed.)
- Have the children color the oil yellow and color the tops of all the jars yellow as though they were all filled.

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children by asking:

- What do you think it would have been like to see the oil coming out of a little jar and filling many other jars? (It would have been amazing!)
- Pretend your water pitcher is the oil jug and act out the pouring of the oil into all the containers the neighbors brought.
- How could this happen? (God is all-powerful and led Elisha by his Spirit to do miracles to help people believe Elisha was God's prophet.)



ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

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

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."

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

