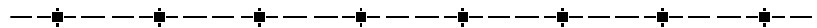


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Prophet Helps a Widow and Her Two Sons

Elisha

II Kings 2-4

A Prophet Helps a Widow and Her Two Sons
II Kings 4:1-7

Memory Verse:

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
(Ephesians 4:28 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Elisha was a prophet chosen by God.
2. Understand that Elisha was anointed by Elijah to succeed him.
3. Learn that Elisha trusted and obeyed God.
4. Recognize that God caused the oil and the food to multiply.

Last week we learned about Elijah. He was a prophet who trusted and obeyed God. He challenged the prophets of Baal. Because Elijah was willing to obey God, the people turned their hearts to God.

Read the Bible

READ: II Kings 4:1-7 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

This week we will learn about Elisha. Elisha was also a prophet of God. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha as a prophet. He also told Elijah that Elisha would succeed him. When Elijah found Elisha, he was plowing. Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha. Elisha told Elijah that he wanted to say goodbye to his parents before he followed Elijah. Elijah told him to go and say goodbye. Elisha went back and killed the oxen, cooked the meat and gave it to the people to eat. Then he followed Elijah. (I Kings 19:15-20) What Elisha did was let the people know that he would be following Elijah. You may remember that Elijah was the prophet who confronted King Ahab, who was a bad king who worshipped idols. (I Kings 18:17-18) Following God and serving Elijah was not going to put Elisha on the King Ahab's list of favorite people. God doesn't want us to have a list of favorite people. He loves everybody. God wants us to do the same. (I John 4:7-8) After Elijah died, God was with Elisha. (II Kings 2:9-14) One day a widow came to Elisha. "She said, 'My husband is dead. You know how much respect he had for the Lord. But he owed money to someone. And now that person is coming to take my two boys away. They will become his slaves.'" (II Kings 4:1 NIV) Elisha asked the widow what she had in her house. The widow told Elisha that she only had a little bit of olive oil. Elisha instructed her to go and borrow empty jars from her neighbors. He told her to get as many as she could. Next Elisha said that she should go into her house with her sons and close the door. Elisha told her to pour oil into the jar. Elisha told her that as each jar was filled, she should put it to the side. (II Kings 4:2-4) God wants us to help each other. The Bible teaches us that we are to help those in need. (Ephesians 4:8) The woman went home with her sons. She had them bring the jars to her. She kept pouring oil. When they had filled all the jars, the widow

Elisha – Bible Facts

1. Elisha was a prophet.
2. Elisha succeeded Elijah.
3. Elisha helped a widow and her two sons.
4. God caused oil to flow until the jars were filled.
5. God fed 100 men with 20 loaves and some heads of grain.

asked for another one. Her son told her that the jars were all full. The oil stopped flowing. (II Kings 4:5-6) Can you imagine that? The widow had told Elisha that she had a little oil. Now all the jars were filled! Isn't that an amazing thing? But the widow and her sons wanted to be sure they did what they were supposed to do. So they went to tell Elisha that the jars were all full of oil. Elisha told the widow to go and sell all the oil and then pay what she owed. Elisha also told the widow that she and her sons could live on what was left over. (II Kings 4:5-7) Elisha trusted and obeyed God. The widow and her sons trusted and obeyed as well. Because they did, they were able to pay the money they owed and had money left over.

Another time a man brought 20 loaves of bread to Elisha. The man also brought heads of new grain. Elisha told his servant to take the food and feed 100 men. The servant asked how he could do that. The servant knew that it was not enough food. "But Elisha answered, 'Give it to the people to eat. Do it because the Lord says, 'They will eat and have some left over.'" (II Kings 4:42-43) The servant did as Elisha had instructed him. He served the men. The men ate and had food left over. This was exactly what the Lord said would happen. It did! (II Kings 4:45)

God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God wanted us to know Him. Jesus provided us the way. (John 14:6)

Review

1. **Who was Elisha?** (Elisha was a prophet .)
2. **What did he do?** (Elisha succeeded Elijah.)
3. **What else did Elisha do?** (Elisha helped a widow and her sons.)
4. **What did God do?** (God caused the oil to flow until the jars were filled.)
5. **What else did God do?** (God fed 100 men with 20 loaves and some heads of grain.)

Do You Know Jesus? God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God wanted us to know Him. Jesus provided us the way. (John 14:6) If you will ask God to forgive your sins and invite Him to be a part of your life, He will. (Romans 10:9-10) Would you like to do that today?

Prayer Time

1. **Take a moment to listen to God.**
2. **Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.**
3. **Ask God to help you trust and obey Him.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to trust God.**

Application

Elisha was a prophet chosen by God. He was anointed by Elijah to succeed him. Elisha was able to help a widow and her two sons because Elisha trusted and obeyed God. Elisha knew what God would do. He told the widow and the servant what to do. But it was God who caused the oil and the food to multiply. God wants us to trust and obey Him.

**Planning for the next week:
Joash (An Ungrateful Son) — II Kings 12**

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: II Kings 4:1-7 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Have the children color pictures of praying hands. Decorate your room with praying hands. Tell the children Elisha prayed and trusted God.)

One day a widow came to Elisha, the prophet. "She said, 'My husband is dead. You know how much respect he had for the Lord. But he owed money to someone. And now that person is coming to take my two boys away. They will become his slaves.'" (II Kings 4:1 NIV)

Elisha asked the widow what she had in her house. The widow told Elisha that she only had a little bit of olive oil. Elisha told her to go and borrow empty jars from her neighbors. He told her to get as many as she could.

Next Elisha said that she should go into her house with her sons and close the door. Elisha told her to pour oil into the jar. Elisha told her that as each jar was filled, she should put it to the side. (II Kings 4:2-4) God wants us to help each other. The Bible teaches us that we are to help those in need. (Ephesians 4:8)

The woman went home with her sons. She had them bring the jars to her. She kept pouring oil. When they had filled all the jars, the widow asked for another one. Her son told her that the jars were all full. The oil stopped flowing. (II Kings 4:5-6) Can you imagine that?

The widow had told Elisha that she had a little oil. Now all the jars were filled! Isn't that an amazing thing? But the widow and her sons wanted to be sure they did what they were supposed to do. So they went to tell Elisha that the jars were all full of oil. Elisha told the widow to go and sell all the oil and then pay what she owed. Elisha also told the widow that she and her sons could live on what was left over. (II Kings 4:5-7) Elisha trusted and obeyed God. The widow and her sons trusted and obeyed as well. God wanted us to trust and obey Him. God wanted us to know Him. Jesus provided us the way. (John 14:6)

Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.**
- 3. Ask God to help you trust and obey Him.**
- 4. Pray for friends and family members who need to trust God.**

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn about trusting God.

Consider this: Make a prayer book for the class. Write prayer requests in the book. Be sure to include the date. Check weekly to see which prayers have been answered and be sure to include the date the prayer was answered. If possible you can ask the children to create their own picture prayer books. Instead of writing their requests they can draw a picture of their request.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Elijah threw his coat over Elisha. Bring a coat. Wear the coat as you tell the verse. Then put the coat on a child who is ready to say the verse.
- **Test your memory** — Bring candy in a jar. As you tell the story ask questions for review. Give the children who raise their hands to answer a piece of candy. At the end of the story be sure to give everyone a piece of candy.
- **Taste activity** — Bring olive oil. Bring something cooked with olive oil for a snack.
- **Think about it** — Elisha killed the oxen that he was using to plow. He cooked the meat and gave it to the people to eat. The oxen were probably the primary tools he need to farm the land. There was no turning back. Talk about serving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed him. Elijah was pretty much the enemy of King Ahab. Following God was not a popular thing. Talk about serving God when “everybody else” is doing something different.

- **Touch activity** — Bring toy oxen. Bring toy food and dishes. Pretend you are having a meal like the one Elisha may have prepared.

Make a prayer book for the class. Write prayer requests in the book. Be sure to include the date. Check weekly to see which prayers have been answer and be sure to include the date the prayer was answered. If possible you can ask the children to create their own picture prayer books. Instead of writing their requests they can draw a picture of their request.

Have the children color pictures of praying hands. Decorate your room with praying hands. Tell the children Elisha prayed and trusted God.

- **Run and play** — Bring containers of some kind. Play relay races moving the containers from one end to the other.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to trust and obey Him.
- **Sing** — Sing “Trust and Obey” or another song related to the story.

Memory Verse

He who has been
stealing must
steal no longer,
but must work,
doing something useful
with his own hands,
that he may have
something to share
with those in need.
Ephesians 4:28 NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Elisha

believed

God.

Word Puzzle

S H D R R E H S N W V F S
V S X H M U A C I M B J V
C K C R N D E D E A U J F
B D S D C R O S N D M E K
F A R P L W J O A Z L I L
R E H F R D I H P I N O T
D A H S M N S K J G A W K
K J O B T I F A P V E D C
P N A E L B H M E N I B A
S A D E C R I S T C E R O
L J L Y C E H Y O R P I E
T V Q E P M N L J F L D B

ELISHA

ANOINTED

ELIJAH

WIDOW

SONS

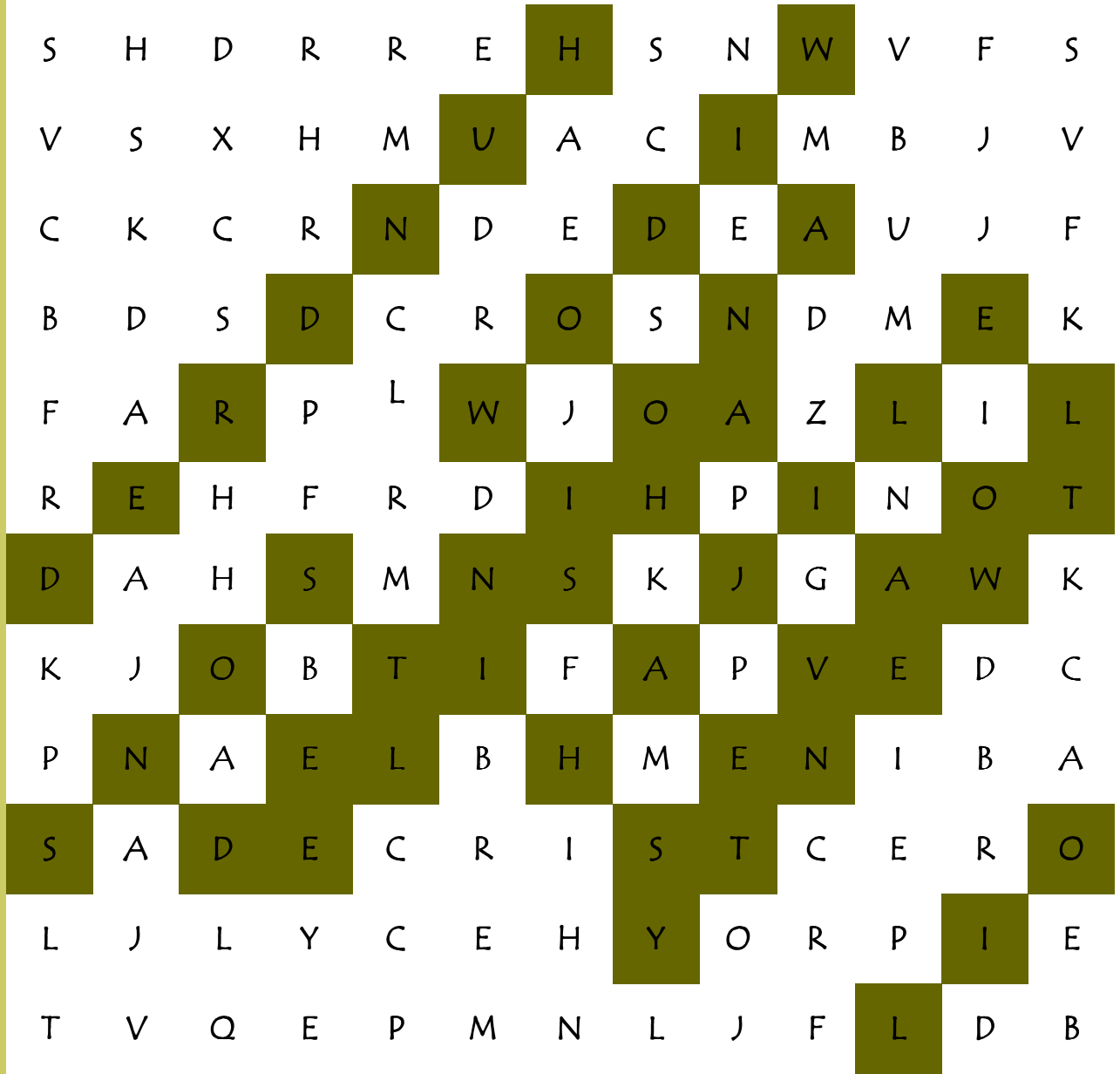
OIL

HUNDRED

TWENTY

LOAVES

Word Puzzle



ELISHA

ANOINTED

ELIJAH

WIDOW

SONS

OIL

HUNDRED

TWENTY

LOAVES

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

R H J B J T K V K I N G
Q F C R L P R K W P J T
B I F W I D O W K V P B
M T C S O N S L K C J N
F S R E L I S H A D V J
J D S T D O I L Q J A H
P F D L O A V E S C V D
B W S E R V A N T P F C

ELISHA

WIDOW

SONS

OIL

SERVANT

LOAVES

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

R H J B J T K V K I N G
Q F C R L P R K W P J T
B I F W I D O W K V P B
M T C S O N S L K C J N
F S R E L I S H A D V J
J D S T D O I L Q J A H
P F D L O A V E S C V D
B W S E R V A N T P F C

ELISHA

WIDOW

SONS

OIL

SERVANT

LOAVES

Anagram

1. DIOWW-

2. SSNO-

3. EODW -

4. SJRA-

5. DFEILL-

6. AYP-

7. SVLAEO -

8. IARNG -

Anagram

1. DIOWW – WIDOW

2. SSNO – SONS

3. EODW – OWED

4. SJRA – JARS

5. DFEILL – FILLED

6. AYP – PAY

7. SVLAEO – LOAVES

8. IARNG – GRAIN