Preschool–Grade 6

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: When things are hard, trust God and run to Him in prayer; don't give up on Him.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 4:8–37. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well." *2 Kings 4:26 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Guest Room Plan (5–10 minutes)

Kids work in teams of three or four. Say: "A guest is coming to stay at your house. In one minute, write down everything you would put in the guest room." When time is up, teams read their lists. Then a child reads 2 Kings 4:10 out loud. Ask: *What did this family put in the room? Which team had all four?* Say: "Let's meet the woman who made this room, and see how God took care of her on her hardest day."

2. Bible story: It Is Well (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 2 Kings 4. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A room for the man of God. Elisha passed through **Shunem**, where a great woman lived, an important woman. She **constrained** him, which means she urged him strongly, to come in and eat bread, and after that he stopped there every time he passed by (2 Kings 4:8). **Look up 2 Kings 4:9.** She told her husband she could tell Elisha was "an holy man of God." **Look up 2 Kings 4:10.** They made him a little chamber, a small room, on the wall, with a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick. A **candlestick** was a stand that held a little oil lamp.

A promise. Elisha told his servant **Gehazi** to ask what he could do for her, since she had been "careful for us with all this care." He offered to speak to the king for her, but she said, "I dwell among mine own people," which means "I have all I need here" (4:12–13). Gehazi said she had no child, and her husband was old (4:14). **Look up 2 Kings 4:16.** Elisha said she would **embrace** (hold in her arms) a son. She said, "do not lie unto thine handmaid." She could hardly believe it! But she had a son "at that season that Elisha had said unto her" (4:17).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

The hardest day. When the child was grown, he went out to his father and the **reapers**, the workers cutting the grain. He cried, "My head, my head." A young man carried him to his mother, and he sat on her knees until noon, and then he died (4:18–20). She laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door, and asked her husband for a young man and an **ass** (a donkey) so she could go to Elisha. Her husband asked why, since it was neither **new moon** nor **sabbath**, special days. She said, "It shall be well" (4:21–23).

It is well. She rode to mount **Carmel**. **Look up 2 Kings 4:26.** Gehazi ran to ask, and she answered, "It is well." She caught Elisha by the feet; Gehazi came to push her away, but Elisha said, "Let her alone; for her soul is vexed," which means she was in deep sorrow, "and the LORD hath hid it from me" (4:27). Elisha sent Gehazi ahead to lay Elisha's **staff** (walking stick) on the child's face (4:29). **Look up 2 Kings 4:30.** She said, "I will not leave thee," and Elisha went with her. Gehazi laid the staff on the child's face, but there was no voice or hearing; "The child is not awaked" (4:31).

Take up thy son. Look up 2 Kings 4:33. Elisha went in, shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed unto the LORD. He stretched himself upon the child, and the child's body grew warm. He walked to and fro in the house, then stretched himself upon him again (4:34–35). **Look up 2 Kings 4:35.** The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes! Elisha said, "Take up thy son." She fell at his feet, bowed to the ground, took up her son and went out (4:36–37).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The woman made a room for Elisha before she knew he would do anything for her. Why is it good to be kind to people who serve God?
2. On her worst day she said, "It is well" (4:26). What do you think she was trusting?
3. She said, "I will not leave thee" (4:30). What does it look like to keep going to God and not give up?
4. Elisha shut the door and prayed first (4:33). Why do you think he prayed before anything else?
5. What hard thing could you bring to God in prayer this week?

Recall questions

1. What four things were in the little chamber? *(A bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick, 2 Kings 4:10)*
2. What was the name of Elisha's servant? *(Gehazi, 4:12)*
3. How many times did the child sneeze? *(Seven times, 4:35)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **I pray thee** means please, **thee** and **thy** mean you and your, and **is it well** means is everything all right. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner: one asks the three questions, the other answers, "It is well."

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The Shunammite woman ran to the man of God, and Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and God gave her son life again. God is the One who gives life. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when something goes wrong, go to God in prayer first, before you complain or give up.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 2 Kings 4:8: What did the woman ask Elisha to do? *(Eat bread)*
2. 2 Kings 4:9: What did she call Elisha? *(An holy man of God)*
3. 2 Kings 4:13: Where did she say she lived? *(Among her own people)*
4. 2 Kings 4:18: Who were working with the boy's father? *(The reapers)*
5. 2 Kings 4:20: Until what time did the boy sit on his mother's knees? *(Until noon)*
6. 2 Kings 4:25: Where did she find Elisha? *(At mount Carmel)*
7. 2 Kings 4:29: What did Elisha tell Gehazi to lay on the child's face? *(Elisha's staff)*
8. 2 Kings 4:37: What did the mother do first when she came in? *(She fell at his feet and bowed to the ground)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear us when we pray. When things are hard, help us trust You and run to You, and never give up. Help us be kind to people who serve You. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is sad about someone who died: let them talk, and tell them it is all right to be sad. God cares. Don't guess about any person, and let the child's parents know. **Left out on purpose:** the Bible tells in more detail how Elisha lay upon the child (2 Kings 4:34). This lesson says only that he stretched himself upon the child, as the Bible says. The Bible doesn't name the boy's sickness, so don't guess what it was.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post