Preschool–Grade 6

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: When things are hard, we can trust God and run to Him, like the Shunammite woman did.
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, a pillow, a small box, a small chair, a flashlight, 6 index cards, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 4:8.

1. Opening game: What's Missing? (5 minutes)

Set the pillow, the box, the chair and the flashlight in a row. Say: "This is a bed, a table, a stool and a lamp." Kids look hard, then close their eyes. Take one thing away. Kids open their eyes and guess what's missing. Play a few times. Then say: "Today we will meet a woman who made a little room for a man of God, with four things in it."

2. Bible story: It Is Well (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 4, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Long ago there was a man of God named **Elisha**. A **man of God** is a man who served God and spoke God's words. In a town called **Shunem** lived a great woman, which means an important woman. She asked Elisha to come in and eat bread. After that, every time he passed by, he stopped at her house to eat (2 Kings 4:8).

She said to her husband, "this is an holy man of God" (4:9). "Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall." A **chamber** is a little room. In the room they put four things: **a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick** (4:10). A stool is a little seat. A candlestick is a stand that holds a lamp. Count them on your fingers with the kids: one, two, three, four!

Elisha wanted to do something kind for her too (4:13). His servant **Gehazi** said, "she hath no child, and her husband is old" (4:14). So Elisha called her and said, "thou shalt embrace a son" (4:16). That means, "You will hold a baby boy in your arms." And at the very time Elisha said, she had a baby boy (4:17)!

The story continues: The boy grew. One day he went out to his father in the field, where the **reapers**, the workers who cut the grain, were working (4:18). He said to his father, "My head, my head." His father had a young man carry him to his mother. The boy sat on his mother's lap until noon, and then he died (4:19–20). It was a very sad day.

But his mother knew where to go. She laid him on the bed in Elisha's little room and shut the door (4:21). She saddled an **ass**, the Bible's word for a donkey, and rode fast to Elisha at mount **Carmel** (4:24–25). Elisha saw her coming far away. He sent Gehazi running to ask her, "Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child?" That means, "Is everything all right?" And she answered, "**It is well**" (4:26). She came to Elisha and held on to his feet. She said, "I will not leave thee." So Elisha got up and went with her (4:27, 4:30).

Elisha came into the house. He went in to the boy, shut the door, and **prayed unto the LORD** (4:32–33). He stretched himself out over the child, and the child's body grew warm (4:34). Then the child **sneezed seven times**, and the child **opened his eyes** (4:35)! Elisha called the mother and said, "Take up thy son." She bowed down to the ground, and she picked up her son (4:36–37). God had given him life again!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What four things were in Elisha's little room? *(A bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick, 2 Kings 4:10)*
2. What did Elisha say the woman would hold in her arms? *(A son, 4:16)*
3. When her son died, where did the woman go? *(To Elisha, the man of God, at mount Carmel, 4:25)*
4. What did she answer when Gehazi asked, "Is it well?" *("It is well," 4:26)*
5. What did Elisha do after he shut the door? *(He prayed unto the LORD, 4:33)*
6. How many times did the child sneeze? *(Seven times, 4:35)*

4. Memory verse: Is It Well? (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 cards up in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **I pray thee** means please, **is it well** means is everything all right, and **thee** and **thy** mean you and your. Read the verse together. Then you read the three questions, and the kids call out the answer: "It is well!" Take one card away and say it again. Keep taking cards away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The Shunammite woman had a very sad day, but she ran to the man of God and did not give up. Elisha prayed, and God gave her son life again. When things are hard, we can trust God and run to Him in prayer. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away, and we come up to a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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 hard or sad happens, run to God first. Stop and pray, and tell Him all about it.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Shunammite woman word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/the-shunammite-woman-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/the-shunammite-woman-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/the-shunammite-woman-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/the-shunammite-woman-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/the-shunammite-woman), or **Four Things:** give each child paper folded into four boxes. In the boxes, they draw the bed, the table, the stool and the candlestick from Elisha's little room (4:10). Ask: *How can you be kind to someone who serves God, like your pastor or your Sunday school teacher?*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear us when we pray. When things are hard, help us run to You and trust You. 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: some children in your class may have lost someone they love. Let them talk, and tell them it is all right to be sad. God cares. Keep it simple, don't guess about any person, and let the child's parents know so they can talk about it at home.

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 prayed and stretched himself out over the child, as the Bible says. The Bible doesn't name the boy's sickness, so don't guess what it was.

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