

ELISHA HELPS SONS OF PROPHETS

Scripture:

II Kings 4:1-7, 38-41; 6:1-7

Materials Needed:

Sheet, robe, towel, headband,
pitcher, pot, ax—for dress-up
Map

Memory Verse: *I Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. OR
Philippians 4:6,7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that when a widow faced a creditor, the sons of the prophets ate poisonous stew, and a borrowed ax-head was lost, they each took their needs to Elisha, followed the instructions he gave, and had their needs met.

To Realize: that one who is following the Lord can take their needs to Him, do what He shows them to do and see His care for them when He provides.

To Respond: by taking their needs to the Lord and doing what He shows them.

Setting Up the Story—

Divide class into three groups. Have each group silently read one of the references on the board: II Kings 4:1-7, II Kings 4:38-41, II Kings 6:1-7.

Today we are going to have three visitors with us! And they all have one thing in common...they all knew what it was like to live in Israel when Elisha was alive. They would like to tell you what it was like.

Telling the Story—

Visitor #1 (Widow: Put sheet over your head as if you are a woman; have pitcher ready.) I am so glad to be with you today! I would like to tell you about my life. There was a man of God in Israel during my day. Do you know what his name was? Yes, Elisha. I know you cannot tell just from looking at me, but I have had many troubles in my life. You see, I am a widow. My husband was a good man. He served the Lord. He was like a student. They called them “the sons of the prophets” that meant they studied under the prophet who came to visit our town. My husband was not rich. In fact, when he died, he left me and my two sons in debt. Then a real problem came up. The creditor came to make me give him the money we owed. Since I didn’t have any money, he was going to take my two sons as slaves. I went straight to Elisha. Do you know why? He asked what he could do for me and then asked what I had in the house. Well, really the only thing I had was a jar of oil. He told me to borrow as many large containers as possible from all my neighbors (bring out the pitcher). I did JUST as he told me. I went into my house, shut the door, and began to pour the oil into the containers and jars. When there were no more jars, my oil suddenly STOPPED! Elisha told me to sell the oil for money and pay my bill. Boys and girls, I can tell you from my experience, if you have a problem, and you take that need to the Lord and do what He tells you, He will take care of that need. Well! I must go...
(quickly change costume outside of room)

Visitor #2 (Sons of prophets/poisonous stew: Put robe on; have pot and map ready.) Thank you for letting me come here today. I would like to tell you about myself and something that happened to me. I lived during some very hard times. It hadn’t rained for a long time in Israel and there was a famine. Now, I am from Gilgal (point to map) and I am part of a group of students called, ‘the sons of the prophets.’ No, we are not really their sons, but we listen to them teach us. There was a man of God who would visit us often. His name was Elisha. Elisha told me to go get some food from the fields to make some food for everyone. I went and got some gourds, and we made the stew. Are you wondering why I am telling you all of this? Because the gourds I picked were poisonous! I don’t remember who realized it first, but someone suddenly called out, “There’s poisonous food in this stew!” Do you know what we immediately did? We told Elisha, the man of God. He told us to get some flour. We did EXACTLY as he said. Then he threw it in the stew and the stew was cured! Boys and girls, I can tell you from my experience, if you have a problem, take that problem to God and do what he tells you; He will take care of that need. I would love to tell you more about the things Elisha did and what he told us, but I must go! (quickly change costume outside of room)

Visitor #3 (Change into a different Son of the Prophets by adding a towel and band on your head.) Hello there. I would like to tell you something that happened me. You just heard two of my friends tell you about problems they had. Well, I had a big problem, too. You know how some things just happen by

accident? Something happened to me by accident, but I was in a tight spot when it happened. I lived with a bunch of people at a school. We were all like students. They used to call us, "The sons of the prophets." The place we were living was too small and we wanted to build a bigger place. So we asked Elisha if we could go cut down some trees by the Jordan River. He said that we could and he even said he would go with us. Well, being somewhat poor, I had borrowed an ax. (pick up ax) I don't remember if it was new or not, but I had to take extra special care of that ax. As we were cutting down a tree, I'm not sure how it happened, but the head of the ax flew off the handle and fell into the water. I felt sick inside! The Jordan River is too deep and too muddy to wade in and find it. Do you know who I immediately asked for help? (Elisha) How did you guess? All I could do was cry out in alarm. Elisha asked me where it fell into the river. He took a stick and threw it in. I couldn't believe my eyes! The axhead started floating on top of the water! Elisha told me to pick it up and I did. Boys and girls, I can tell you from experience, if you have a problem, take it to God and do what He says; He will take care of that need. I wish I could tell you more things that Elisha did, but I must go. Thank you.
(Leave classroom and quickly remove costume.)

Concluding the story:

On the back of today's worksheet, I want you to write down what ONE thing you think our visitors would want you to remember from their time with you today. Let's pray.

ELISHA HELPS SONS OF PROPHETS HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. When have you felt in need of resources beyond what you had?
2. What do you do to try to solve the problem? (e.g., worry, talk to a friend, pray)
3. In what situations have you seen God provide for you in an unexpected way?
4. What other cares can you take to God?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. What cares do your students have that might seem beyond their ability to handle the situation?
2. In what ways might your students try to solve their own problems?
3. How can you encourage your students to keep track of God's faithful provision for them?

Memory Verse:

*I Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. OR
Philippians 4:6,7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

Have the students look up "sons of the prophets" and "Jordan River" in a Bible dictionary. Look on a Bible atlas to find out where Jericho was located. From the background information, have your students try to answer this question: A lost ax-head and some sickness seem very "minor" things to bother a man of God with. Why would these things have been big concerns for the characters in today's lesson?

Homework Ideas:

Have your students keep a journal for one month. Write down needs, prayer requests and burdens that feel "too big to handle." After one month, write down how they have seen God take care of them through all those things. Even if all the problems haven't been "solved," in what ways have they seen God take care of them through the problems?