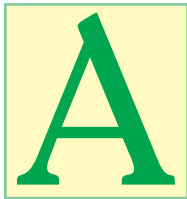




REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 4:1-7; COUNSELS ON STEWARDSHIP, P. 227.

Never-Ending Oil

Has your family ever asked to borrow something from a neighbor? Maybe your family asked for some flour, or perhaps a tool? A poor widow once borrowed some unusual things.



A poor widow came to Elisha with tear stains on her face. “My husband was a good man who loved the Lord,” the woman cried.

“But now he is dead. The man my husband owed

money to says if I don’t pay him, he will take away my two sons to be his slaves!”

“How can I help you?” Elisha asked gently. “Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Nothing!” the widow answered. “I have nothing except a little oil.”

Elisha thought about her need. “Go to all your friends and neighbors,” he spoke kindly, “and borrow as many empty jars as



Memory Verse

“Elisha replied . . . , ‘How can I help you?’”

2 KINGS 4:2, NIV.

The Message

God’s people care for one another.

you can. Then go home and shut the door. Pour the oil from your jar into all the borrowed jars.”

So the widow borrowed her neighbors’ empty jars. She and her sons filled their house with empty jars. Then the woman shut the door. She began to pour oil from her jar into a borrowed jar. The oil kept flowing, and soon the first borrowed jar was full.

The woman poured and poured, and the oil kept flowing. She filled the second borrowed jar. She filled the third borrowed jar. Then she filled the fourth. Soon she lost count. She just kept pouring until all the jars were full.

“Bring me another jar!” she said happily.

“There aren’t any more empty jars left, Mother,” her boys exclaimed. “You filled them all!”

The woman’s eyes sparkled. She hurried out of the house and ran to find Elisha. “I did exactly what you said!” she spoke breathlessly. “I borrowed as many jars as I could, and now they are *all* filled with oil! And I still have oil in my jar!”

Elisha smiled. “Go and sell the oil,” he said. “Pay back what your husband owed. And you will have money left over for you and your sons to live on.”



The widow praised the Lord for the miracle of the oil. She thanked God for taking care of her. And she thanked Him for Elisha and her neighbors.

That day the widow and her sons learned that they could always trust the Lord to take care of them. We can trust God to send the right people to care for us too. And God wants us to be good neighbors also. How can you be a good neighbor? How can you help others today?

Do and Say

SABBATH

Read the lesson story each day this week and review the memory verse as follows: Have your child (the “widow”) kneel in front of “Elisha” (you) with hands held up as if begging. “Elisha” says the memory verse to the “widow.” Switch roles and repeat several times.

SUNDAY

Together, read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Ask: How do you think the widow felt when she thought the man might take her boys away? What did the woman do with the oil?

Show your child oils you use (olive oil, corn oil, etc.). Let them smell or taste each. Ask: What do you think the widow used her oil for? Let your child help you use the cooking oil to prepare food today. Thank God for food.

MONDAY

Your child’s Sabbath School class has chosen a community service project. Together, make a plan for helping with that project. (Or plan one your family can do.) Talk about how you can be a good neighbor to others.

Sing “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 202).



TUESDAY

Have your child help you pour and count how many cups of water are in two or three of your largest pitchers. Ask: Do you think the widow’s neighbors lent more or fewer jars than these? Why did God give the widow enough oil to fill all the jars?



WEDNESDAY

Act out the Bible story with your family. Talk about ways church friends have helped your family. Ask: What would you have shared with the widow if she had been our neighbor? Why? Sing a caring song before prayer.

THURSDAY

Ask your child to tell the lesson story. Count the ways God can use your family to help others. Try to do one today. Sing a helping song before you pray.

FRIDAY

Read about God’s care for us in *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 227 (second paragraph). Ask: What will God give us? What do we need to do? Should we worry?

Let your child point out things in your home for which to thank God. Sing a thank-You song.