

REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 4:8-37; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 237-240.

Alive Again

Have you ever visited a friend's house and been given good food to eat and a comfortable place to sleep? A woman did that for Elisha. And God never forgot her kindness.

Thank you for inviting me to dinner," Elisha spoke kindly to the Shunammite woman. "I always enjoy your home when I come to Shunem. But now I must be on my way." Elisha waved as he went down the road.



"The man of God needs a place to stay when he travels through our town," the woman said to her husband. "Let's build a little room for him up on the roof." Her husband agreed. Soon some men were working to add a room to the top of the house. When Elisha came again, the room was ready. It was so good to have a place to stay!

One day while resting in his new room, Elisha sent his servant, Gehazi, to the woman. "Ask her what I can do to thank her," Elisha said. But the woman said she had everything she needed.

Memory Verse

"If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

ECCLESIASTES 4:10, NIV.

The Message

God's people are kind to one another.

“I would still like to do something for her,” Elisha said to his servant.

“She has no son,” Gehazi reminded his master.

Elisha sent for the kind woman. “This time next year you will be holding a son in your arms,” he told her with a smile.

And the next year the woman and her husband had a baby boy!

The little boy grew and grew. One hot summer day he went to the fields where his father was working. Suddenly he cried out, “My head hurts! My head hurts!”

His father called to a servant, “My son is sick. Quickly, take him to his mother.”

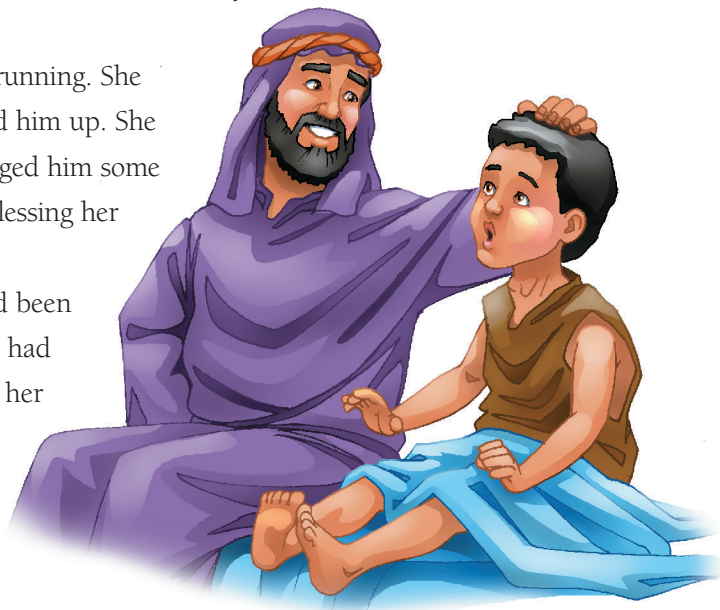
The servant carried the boy to the house. His mother held him on her lap and tried to help and comfort him. But he died. Her heart was broken. She went upstairs and put him on Elisha’s bed. Then she hurried to find Elisha.

Elisha went back home with the woman. He went into his room and saw the boy. Elisha prayed and prayed. God answered his prayer. God put life back into the boy!

The little boy sneezed. Then he sneezed again—and again! Altogether the little boy sneezed seven times, one right after another! Then he opened his eyes and sat up. “Go get his mother,” Elisha called to Gehazi. Gehazi hurried away and called the boy’s mother.

The little boy’s mother came running. She saw her boy sitting up. She picked him up. She hugged him, kissed him, and hugged him some more. She thanked the Lord for blessing her son.

The Shunammite woman had been a blessing to Elisha. But the Lord had blessed her more—He had given her the same son twice!



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse as follows: Your child falls down and says: “If either of them falls down.” You take their hand and help them up while saying: “One can help the other up.” Then both of you say, “Ecclesiastes 4:10.” Switch roles and repeat.

SUNDAY

Use the “Hands of Blessings” made in Sabbath School to help your child be a blessing to someone. (Or make a “Hands of Blessings” by tracing around your child’s hands. Print on one hand the name of the person to whom they want to be kind. On the other hand print how they will show kindness.) Your child gives the “Hands of Blessings” to that person while being kind.



MONDAY

List ways to be helpful to others. Each day select one thing and do it together.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-16 together. Ask: Why did Elisha want to do something for the woman? How do you feel when others are kind to you?

TUESDAY

Read 2 Kings 4:17-22 together. Ask: Who

helped the boy get to his mother?

Help your child list things you and others do to help him or her; then count the things. Thank Jesus for all who help us.



WEDNESDAY

Act out the story with your family. Have your child pretend to sneeze seven times when appropriate in the story. Ask: How do you think the little boy felt when he opened his eyes? How did his mother feel?

THURSDAY

Have your child say the memory verse. Sing a helping song before prayer.

Talk to your child about how they are a blessing to your family. Be specific.

FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about the boy who was brought back to life in *Prophets and Kings*, page 237 (third paragraph), page 238 (first paragraph), and page 239 (first paragraph).

Talk about how your family can be a blessing at church tomorrow.

Sing a helping song and say the memory verse together before prayer.