

REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 4:38-41; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 240, 241.

Poison in the Pot

*Do you complain about what's for supper? I hope not!
But I think if you were a student at the school Elisha visited,
you might have a good reason to complain about the stew.*

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he students of the Gilgal School of the Prophets were excited. Elisha was coming to visit! Good things always happened when the prophet came. Elisha always had time to listen to them. He gave them good counsel and encouraged them in their studies.

Yes, the prophet was coming, and the students were excited. Would Elisha answer their questions?

Would he encourage them to study Scripture?

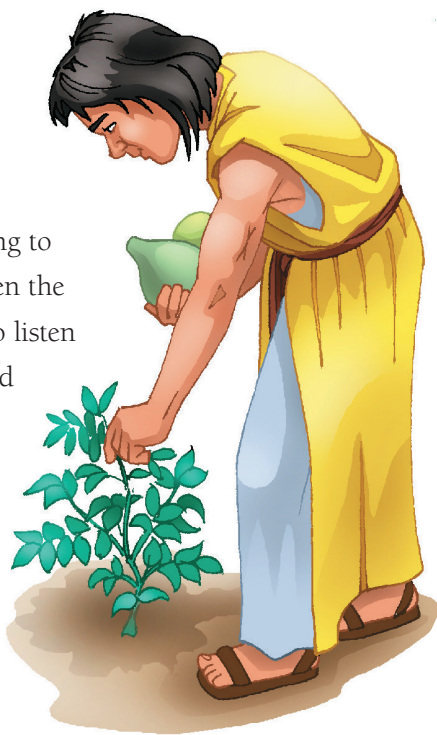
Would Elisha hear their stomachs growling?

What? Stomachs growling? Yes.

Another drought in the land meant

no rain, which meant little food growing, which meant stomachs growling with hunger.

Everyone greeted Elisha excitedly. It was easy to see that the students looked forward to his visit. Elisha smiled as he listened to



Memory Verse

“For I will surely
show you kindness.”

2 SAMUEL 9:7, NIV.

The Message

God helps us
see and supply
others' needs.

their chatter. But he also noticed that the students looked thin and a little pale. *They haven't had much food to eat*, Elisha thought. He knew they needed food so they could think clearly.

Elisha called to his servant, "Bring a big pot and make some stew for the students."

The servant went into the field near the school. He found some things growing on a vine. He wasn't quite sure, but thought they would do.

Elisha's servant boiled some water in the big pot. He cut up the things he had found and added them to the water, threw in some herbs, and let them cook.

The smell drifted to the students. Now their stomachs were really growling! They didn't know what the servant had put in the stew, but it smelled wonderful. They hurried to wash their hands and get their bowls. Soon they gathered around the big pot. They held their bowls, eagerly waiting to be served. They gulped down the first bites. Something was wrong! "Stop!" they shouted. "There is poison in the pot!"

The servant was shocked. *Poison? The plants must have been bad. What have I done?* he may have worried.

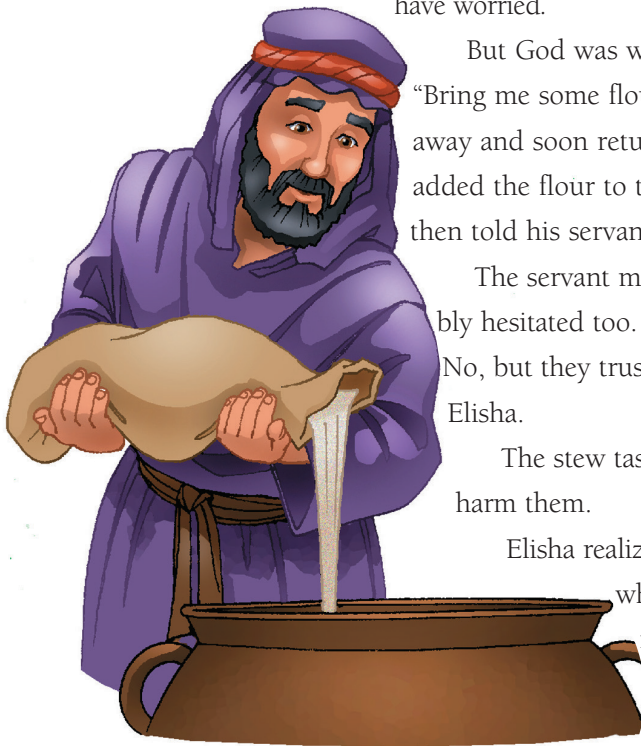
But God was watching and He told Elisha what to do.

"Bring me some flour," Elisha insisted. His servant hurried away and soon returned with a sack of flour. Quickly Elisha added the flour to the pot and stirred it. He tasted the stew, then told his servant to offer it to the students again.

The servant must have hesitated. The students probably hesitated too. Does flour normally take away poison? No, but they trusted God, and they trusted God's servant, Elisha.

The stew tasted delicious! There was nothing to harm them.

Elisha realized the students' need of food, and he did what he could. With God's help, he cared for the students. God will take care of you too. And God will help you care for others.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse as follows: Cup hands together; then outstretch your arms as if giving while saying, “For I will surely show you kindness” (2 Samuel 9:7). Repeat several times.

SUNDAY

Read 2 Kings 4:38-41.
Ask: How do you think the servant felt about the poisonous stew? Did the flour take the poison away? Who did? Help your child share the gourd made in Sabbath School. (Or draw a gourd, write the memory verse on it, color, cut out, and share it.)

MONDAY

Show your child the symbol for poison (skull and crossbones). Ask: What



does this mean? Look for poisonous household items (cleaners, etc.). Ask: What should you do about these?

Sing a song about God’s care; then thank Him for watching over your child.

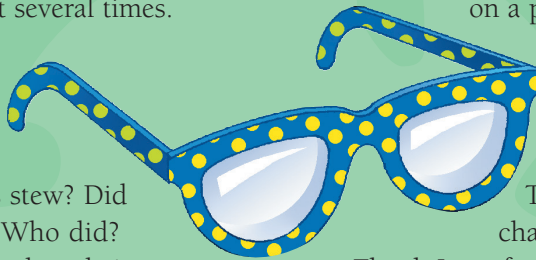
TUESDAY

Together, taste different things (bitter, sour, salty, and sweet). Ask: Do poisonous things always taste bad? (no) Should you eat something

you find if you are not sure it’s safe? (no) Thank Jesus for safe plants to eat.

WEDNESDAY

Act out the Bible story. Have your child put on a pair of play glasses and look around the house for ways they can help (play with baby sister, pick up their toys, etc.). Talk about looking for chances to help people.



Thank Jesus for eyes to see.

THURSDAY

Find pictures of hungry people in newspapers or magazines. Ask: What can we do to help people like these?

Sing “He’s Able” together; then thank Jesus for His loving care.

FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about the poisonous stew in *Prophets and Kings*, page 240 (third paragraph) through page 241 (second paragraph). Ask: How can we help people who are hungry? Plan to do something specific.

Talk about ways God has helped your family this week. Say the memory verse together. Sing thank-You songs; then praise God as you pray.