

LESSON



The Floating Axhead

COMMUNITY Community means caring for one another.

References

2 Kings 6:1-7; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 260, 261.

Memory Verse

“Serve each other with love” (Galatians 5:13, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God knows and cares about the small things in our lives.

Feel thankful we can care for small needs in fellow believers’ lives.

Respond by seeking ways to help others, even in small matters.

The Message



We can help others, even in small ways.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Elisha is visiting another school of the prophets. This one has become overcrowded, so the students suggest to him that they need a new school. He agrees. The students ask Elisha to accompany them to the Jordan River to cut trees, and he again agrees. At the river they begin to cut down trees. While chopping, a student’s axhead flies off into the river. He is distraught because it was borrowed. Elisha asks him where it fell.

Elisha picks up a stick and throws it into the water. The axhead floats, and the student recovers it.

This is a lesson about community.

Even though it seems to be a small matter, the borrowed ax is of concern to the student. He must fix it or replace it. Elisha sees a need and with God’s assistance performs another miracle to help the student. Just as God is concerned with our day-to-day activities, so we

TWELVE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>It Floats!</i> B. <i>Small Things</i>	small metal objects, magnet, clear container, water paper, crayons
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 123. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costumes, blue sheet or large piece of cloth, small stick
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Small Things</i>	bag or box, various small items
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Passing On the Ax</i>	copies of ax pattern on heavy paper (see p. 144), crayons, scissors

should be watchful for ways to be of assistance to others.

Teacher Enrichment

"He [Elisha] was equally at home with kings and generals and with the workers at their daily toil. Never did he hold himself aloof. . . . The greater the leader, the greater the willingness to serve" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 882).

"There are those who think that there is something trivial about such a miracle as this, and that it need not have been performed. Man, in the narrowness of his vision, is likely to reason that it is only in great things that divine intervention should be looked for. But

there is not a grief or a heartache on the part of any of God's children on earth but the Father's great heart of sympathy goes out to the one in need. . . . Not a day passes but the Lord intervenes in the interests of those who call upon Him, supplying their needs. The day of miracles is not yet over. There may not be an Elisha present, but in His own way God works in behalf of His children who have faith in Him" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 883).

Room Decorations

Continue to use the drought (see Lesson 5) and Palestinian home items (see Lesson 6).

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from the previous week’s lesson study. Collect items they may have brought for your community service project. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. It Floats!

You Need:

- small metal objects (steel)
- strong magnet
- clear container
- water

Try this before class!

Add water to the clear container (how much depends on the strength of the magnet). Set it where all the children can see. Tell the children you are going to perform an experiment. Ask a volunteer to drop the metal into the water. After it sinks, say: **I will help you get it back.** Hold the magnet above the water so the metal will rise to the surface.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you think would happen when the metal was dropped into the water? How did it rise to the top of the water? That’s right, the magnet drew it up. Do metal things usually float? (no) Could you make something metal float without a strong magnet? (no) I helped in a small way by holding the magnet above the water. You could do that too. Our message for today is:**



We can help others, even in small ways.

Say that with me.

B. Small Things

You Need:

- paper
- crayons

Ask the children to think about and name some small things. Give the children a piece of paper and ask them to draw the smallest thing they can think of.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you draw? Do you think God cares about the little things in your life? Yes, He does care if you get a speck of dust in your eye and it hurts. God cares about the small things in our lives, and He wants us to care about helping others, even in small ways. And that leads me to to-**

day's message:

We can help others, even in small ways.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Care for One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 262)

"Our Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 258)

"All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 85)

"Someone Cares" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 170)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Our offering today will go to help people with small needs as well as big needs.**

Prayer

Pray that the children will notice people's small needs and help with them.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- adult Bible-times costume
- blue sheet or large piece of blue cloth
- Bible-times costume for each child
- small stick

Dress the children in Bible-times costumes. Ask an adult male to be Elisha. Explain that you will pretend to be a student at the school of the prophets as you tell the story.

Spread the sheet or cloth out to represent the Jordan River. The children can sit in a circle around the riverbank. Instruct them to move to the right and say "Move over, please" when you read the words **school of the prophets** in the story; and to use a chopping motion and say "Chop, chop" when you read the word **ax** or **axhead**.

Read or tell the story.

Welcome to the **school of the prophets**. [Move right. ("Move over, please.")] We are glad to have you join us.

Another new student is starting today. We are already crowded. Josephus and Peniel are already squished against the walls at the ends of the benches. There is hardly any room for new students to sit. I'm so uncomfortable. This **school of the prophets** [Move right. ("Move over, please.")] really needs more space, but what are we going to do? Oh, well, we'll just have to make the best of it and squeeze together some more.

Oh, look. Here comes Prophet Elisha to visit. [Elisha enters and sits with the children.] I always love the prophet's visits. He talks to us and tells us stories. He answers our questions and gives us advice. Wait! That's it! We need to ask him about the space problem here at the **school of the prophets**. [Move right. ("Move over, please.")]

I'm going to raise my hand and say something. "Prophet Elisha, we have

a problem here at the **school of the prophets**. [Move right. ("Move over, please.")] We need more room. We're packed in here. It's really uncomfortable. Could we go to the Jordan River and cut down some trees to build a larger school?" [Elisha nods his head.]

"Yes? Great. And will you please come with us? [Elisha nods in agreement.] You will? Thank you, Prophet Elisha."

I'm so excited! I run home to get my father's **ax** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] We all meet at the Jordan River and start working. Lots of trees need to be cut down so we can build a larger school. We're working and working, cutting and cutting with our **axes** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")]

Suddenly I heard a big splash in the Jordan River. One of my classmates exclaims, "Oh, no! My **axhead** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")]! It was borrowed!" I look at his **ax** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] and I see that the **axhead** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] is missing! The young man is very upset.

Elisha comes over and asks him where it fell into the river. My friend points to the exact spot. Then Elisha does the strangest thing. I see him pick up a stick and throw it into the river, right at the spot where the **axhead** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] fell in.

Look! I can't believe it. Up comes the **axhead** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] floating on the water. Now we all know that an **axhead** [chopping motion ("Chop, chop.")] is made of metal and it won't float. So how did it float? A miracle! It's a miracle!

Yes, God sees the small things that happen to us in life, such as losing a borrowed tool. And God cares. He cared enough to use Elisha to perform a mira-

cle to help my classmate. And He cares about the small things in your life too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What was the big problem in today's story? What was the small problem? Who cared? Does Jesus care about our big problems? Does He care about our small problems? Does He want us to care about each other's problems? Do you want to help others? Remember our message? Let's say it together:



We can help others, even in small ways.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 6:1-7. Point to the passage and say:

This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible. Read the passage aloud, pointing to each sentence as you read.

Debriefing

Ask a few simple questions about the passage. Emphasize that God cares about all our problems, large or small.

Memory Verse

Turn to Galatians 5:13 in your Bible. Hold the Bible so the children can see the page. Point to the text and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to each word as you read the verse aloud. **"Serve each other with love."** Then teach the verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

Serve

With palms up, arms at waist level, move arms forward.



each other

Point to others.



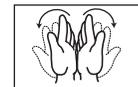
with love.

Cross arms over the chest.



Galatians 5:13

Put palms together; then open.



Repeat until the children know the verse.

Ask: **Does Jesus care if we lose something? Does He care about the small things in our lives? Yes, He cares about everything. He will help us, even with small things. And we can help others too, even in small ways.**

3

Applying the Lesson**Small Things****You Need:**

- bag or box
- small items
(see activity)

Beforehand, place several items in the bag or box to represent what God cares about in our lives.

Be sure to place items such as a picture of Jesus, a crown to represent heaven, someone praying; and other items such as food,

clothing, toy animal, tweezers (to remove a splinter), adhesive bandage, etc.

Call on children to take one item out of the bag or box at a time while you ask: **What did you find? How could you use it to help someone? Do you think God cares about this? Does He want you to help others, even in small ways? Do**

you want to help others?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think God cares about the big things in your life such as going to heaven? What about the little things such as having a splinter or finding a lost kitten? God does care about the small things in our lives too. And He wants us to care about each other. So let's remember:**



We can help others, even in small ways.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Passing On the Ax**

Give each child a copy of the ax pattern on heavy paper. Have them color and cut it out. Tell them to be thinking about someone they can share their ax with today. By doing this they will help others remember that God cares about the little things in their lives.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
With whom will you share your ax

today? You can tell them today's Bible story and remind them that God cares about the little things that happen in their lives. As you are doing that, you will be caring about that person. Let's say our message again:



**We can help others,
even in small ways.**

You Need:

- copies of ax pattern on heavy paper (see p. 144)
- crayons
- scissors

Closing

Pray, asking Jesus to show the children little ways they can care for other people.

Also, remind the children that next week is the last week to bring in items for your community service project.

STUDENT LESSON

The Floating Axhead

References

2 Kings 6:1-7;
Prophets and
Kings, pp. 260,
261

Memory Verse

"Serve each
other with love"
(Galatians 5:13,
ICB).

The Message

We can help
others, even in
small ways.

Do you think God knows about the tiniest ant crawling along? He does. He cares about little things. A long time ago God showed someone how much He cared about a little thing.

Elisha was visiting the school of the prophets at Gilgal. "Another new student is starting today," someone told him. "But there is hardly any room for him. This school needs more space."

The students liked the prophet's visits. He answered their questions and listened to them. So they told him about the space problem.

"Prophet Elisha," a student began, "we like it when you come. And we like to have new students. But we have a big problem. We need more room."

Prophet Elisha thought about it. The school really was too small. "Yes," he agreed. "This place is too small."

"Let's go to the Jordan River. We can build a place there where there is plenty of room," someone suggested. "And there are plenty of trees to cut down for a larger building."

A bigger place was needed so more students could come and learn about God so they could tell others.

"Yes," Elisha encouraged. "That's a good idea. Go and get started."

Then one of the students said, "Won't you please come with us?"

"I will," Elisha replied. And he went with them.

So they all

met at the river and started working. Lots of trees had to be cut down to build a larger school. Everyone worked hard, chopping and cutting with axes. Suddenly one of the students cried out, "Oh, no! No! No!"

Everyone heard a big splash and turned to look. His ax! The axhead was gone! No wonder the student was upset. An ax was an expensive tool. The axhead was made of iron, and it would be hard to replace.

"It wasn't mine," the student moaned. "I borrowed it! What will I do? How can I replace it?"

Elisha hurried to the young man's side. "Where did the axhead fall into the river?" he asked.

The student pointed to the exact spot. "There," he said. "It just flew into the river right there."

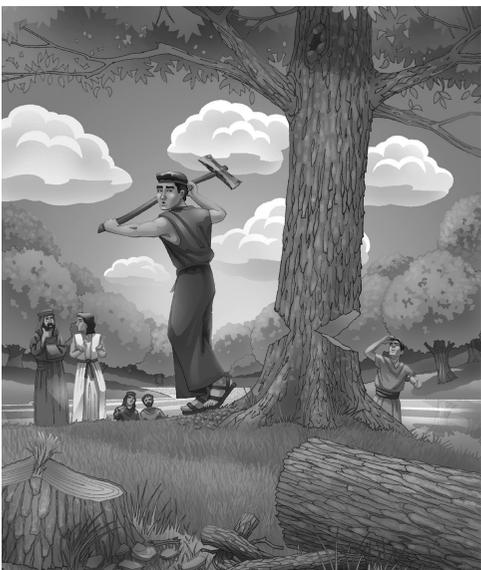
Then Elisha did the strangest thing. He picked up a stick and threw it into the water, right where the axhead fell in. And up came the axhead, floating on the water!

"Lift it out," Elisha said to the young man.

So the young man entered the water and waded to the axhead. He grabbed it and returned to shore where he fixed it to the ax handle.

Now, everyone knows that things made of iron can't float. So how did this axhead float? It was a miracle! God used Elisha to perform another miracle!

Yes, God cares about the little things. He cares if we lose a borrowed tool or a favorite toy. He cares about all your needs!



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story together and use the motions to review the memory verse as follows:

Serve

With palms up, arms at waist level, move arms forward.

each other with love.

Point to others.

Cross arms over chest.

Galatians 5:13

Put palms together; then open.

Sunday

Help your child share the ax made in Sabbath School with someone who is sick or sad. Pray for that person.

Help your child gather small things to look at with a magnifying glass. Include a piece of hair. Read Matthew 10:30. Ask: Do you know how many hairs are on your head? Remind them that God knows and He cares about the small things.

Monday

Read 2 Kings 6:1-7 together. Ask: Why did the students go to the river? Take a walk by a river, pond, or lake. Toss a few things into the water, if you can do so without polluting. What sinks? What floats?

Tuesday

Review the lesson. Ask: Why did the axhead float?

Show your child a real ax (or a picture). Point out the axhead. Talk about ax safety. Ask: What do people use axes for today?



Wednesday

In the bathtub or sink, experiment with things that float and sink. Remind your child of the heavy axhead that God made float.

Help your child do something "small" for someone. (Put a love note in Daddy's lunch, sweep a neighbor's porch, etc.) Sing a song about caring or helping.

Thursday

Find little things in nature (ant, blade of grass, pebble). Ask: Does God care about these little things? Does God care about you and me?

Sing about Jesus' care; then thank Him.

Friday

During worship tonight, read about the floating axhead in *Prophets and Kings*, page 260 (third paragraph) and the top of page 261. Ask: Who really worked the miracle?

Act out the Bible story with your family. Sing songs of praise and thank God for His care.

