

ELISHA

PROPHET OF THE FAITHFUL GOD

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

Elisha - the successor of Elijah

Just finishing the lessons on Elijah and moving on to Elisha we see a big change. Elijah did many miracles and impacted a whole nation, but what about Elisha? He seems to be ministering more to individuals - one by one. At first this change looks like an anti climax but actually this is very similar to our ministry as children's workers. Sometimes we wonder if we really make an impact by what we are doing - it often seems like the results are so small compared to the great needs of the children of today. But this is not how God looks at our work - He sees the individual child and He rejoices over each soul evangelised and edified.

God had a time for Elijah in the history of Israel, but God also had a time for Elisha. Through Elisha's ministry God even touched the enemy Syria several times with His love and care (see lessons 4 and 5 in this textbook).

God gave Elisha a double portion of His power than Elijah had, so that he could do the work he was intended to do. In the same way, God will also give us sufficient grace and power to do our work amongst the children, leading them to Christ - one by one!

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked **CT**. These are also marked out in the lesson plan. You will notice that the central truths are marked with a **U** or an **S** to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, "If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ..." or, "Christian, you ...". The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Making yourself available

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour at a later date. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say. As you also teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have. For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to come to the Lord Jesus to have your sins forgiven, but you don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin. Only the Lord Jesus can do that, but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under the tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson - one verse to teach the children during the first three lessons and another verse to teach during the last three lessons. Suggestions of how to teach these verses are included in the lessons where they first appear (lesson 1 and 4).

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning, some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

Review questions are provided. Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught while still being fun for the children. You will often discover misunderstandings or gaps in their knowledge which you can correct there and then.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Elisha's authority established by God 2 Kings 2:13-25	God blesses those who serve Him	Unsaved: Listen to those who serve God - and trust Jesus Christ Saved: Don't be afraid to obey God - He will bless you and use you	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5
Elisha and the widow's oil 2 Kings 4:1-7	God has promised to supply the needs of His children	Unsaved: Trust Jesus Christ and He promises to make you a child of God Saved: Trust Him and He will always supply your needs	If you have already taught lesson 1 we suggest you continue Proverbs 3:5 If you teach this lesson by itself you might want to use, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19
Elisha raises the Shunammite's son 2 Kings 4:8-37	God is all-powerful and can do the impossible	Unsaved: God is able to save you if you trust Jesus Christ Saved: God can bring something good out of difficult situations	Review Proverbs 3:5
Naaman is healed of leprosy 2 Kings 5:1-16	God is able to clean the unclean	Unsaved: God will cleanse you from your sin if you trust the Lord Jesus Saved: You need to let your friends know that God can cleanse them	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16
Elisha trusts in God for His protection 2 Kings 6:8-23	God has the power to protect His children in every situation	Unsaved: God will protect you if you become His child Saved: Trust God to protect you	Review John 3:16
Believe the good news 2 Kings 6:24 - 7:16	God has good news for those in need	Unsaved: Believe the good news about Jesus Christ and be saved today Saved: Tell the good news about Jesus Christ to those who need to hear	Review John 3:16

Lesson 1

Elisha's authority established by God

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 2:13-25

Central truth

God blesses those who serve Him

Application

Unsaved: Listen to those who serve God - and trust Jesus Christ

Saved: Don't be afraid to obey God - He will bless you and use you

Memory verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4 and 1-5

Or

◆ Figures: ES-1, ES-2, ES-3, ES-4, ES-5, ES-6, ES-7 and ES-8

And

◆ A teaching card with the central truth in big letters (may be made in A4 size)

◆ A map of Israel

Lesson outline

Introduction

Elisha looks up into the sky

Progression of events

- 1 Elisha walks through Jordan **CT**
- 2 The sons of the prophets insist on searching for Elijah
- 3 They don't find him **CTU**
- 4 The men of Jericho tell about the problem of bitter water
- 5 Elisha asks for a brand new bowl and salt **CTS**
- 6 Elisha pours the salt in the water
- 7 God makes the water fresh **CTS**
- 8 Elisha goes to Bethel and young men make fun of him **CTU**
- 9 Elisha puts a curse on them because they don't respect God

Climax

Two bears kill forty-two of the young men

Conclusion

Elisha continues on to Mount Carmel and then returns to Samaria **CTS, CTU**

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5

Introduction

“Do you not believe me?” Peter looked at his little brother. “Trust me - you can eat this worm. It’s delicious!”

The little brother shook his head. He knew from experience that his big brother did not always do what was best for him. He didn’t trust his brother.

Sometimes it is hard for us to trust others but there is Someone we can always trust. That person is God. Let us read from the Bible and see what God tells us about Himself.

Presentation

Read Proverbs 3:5 from the Bible. Explain that the verse is completely true because it’s God’s Word. Let the children read with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

Trust in the Lord - God is our Lord and He wants us to trust in Him, to believe that everything He has said in the Bible is true.

with all your heart - We can trust God completely, from the bottom of our heart, because He is a perfect God who loves us. He only wants what is best for us.

and lean not on your own understanding - Some people think that they are very smart, so smart that they are able to manage by themselves. They think they don’t need God. They think they can lean, or depend, on their own understanding instead of trusting God to help them and guide them. But they have got it all wrong. God is the One who knows what is best for us and when we read the Bible, we can learn what is right for us to do and what is not. God created us and He understands us better than we do ourselves.

Application

Unsaved: If you have never decided to trust God, it is an important decision to make. You can trust that He is God and that His Son Jesus died for you. You can trust the Lord Jesus to forgive you for all the wrong things you have done. Today in our Bible lesson you will hear more about how you can trust God’s Son, Jesus.

Saved: If you have already trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive you all your sin, then you can also choose to trust Him every day. You trust God to help you obey Him and do what is right. Trust that He knows what is best for you and that you can ask Him to help you do the right things.

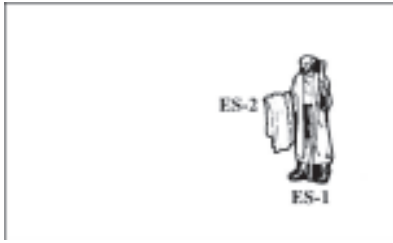
Repetition

“Stop and Go”

Repeat the verse a few times with the children. Then use the “stop and go” signs for the rest of the repetition.

As long as you wave your hand towards yourself (like a policeman waving a car closer) the children continue to repeat the verse, but as soon as you make a “stop” sign with your hand (turning the palm of the hand vertically towards the children) then the children must stop repeating. When you continue to wave the “go” sign, the children continue from where they had to stop.

As the children become more familiar with the verse you can use more and more complicated intervals between the “stop” and the “go” signs.

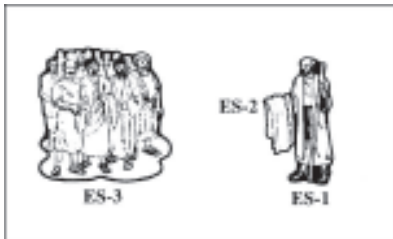


We recommend that the life of Elijah is taught to the children before the life of Elisha.

Flashcard 1-1

It is also a good idea to review the main events from the life of Elijah with the children before this lesson. In this review it would be good to include how God called Elisha ("Elijah - Prophet of the Living God" lesson 3, scene 4).

Flashcard 1-2



CT

Show teaching card with central truth.

The sons of the prophets believed (like Obadiah did in 1 Kings 18:12) that God's Spirit had moved Elijah to another location - possibly a remote

Lesson

Elisha stared up into the sky. He could hardly believe his eyes! God had just taken his dear friend and teacher, the prophet Elijah, up to Heaven in a whirlwind! Elisha must have been excited for his friend, but also sad that he would now be without him.

Place Elisha (ES-1) and cloak (ES-2).

Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak that was left behind. It was the same cloak Elijah had spread over Elisha's shoulders to show that God had chosen him to be His special worker after Elijah had gone.

As Elisha walked back toward the Jordan River, he must have felt alone. Arriving at the water's edge, Elisha knew he must somehow get across. Only a short time before, God had opened a path through the Jordan River as Elijah struck the water with his cloak. Elisha knew he was going to serve God or work for Him just as Elijah had done. But would God, who had been faithful to Elijah, also work through him? Elisha took the cloak as Elijah had done and struck the water. Immediately God showed that He was with Elisha too and opened a path in the river for Elisha! What mighty power God has! Elisha then knew for certain that he was God's new prophet - the one chosen by God to speak His messages to the people.

Add sons of the prophets (ES-3).

When Elisha reached the other side of the river, fifty men called "the sons of the prophets" were waiting for him. They had been students of Elijah, learning how to teach God's Word to the people, and they had great respect for him as God's prophet. Now they saw that God parted the waters of the river for Elisha. The men bowed low before Elisha because they knew that Elisha was going to serve God - or work for Him - as Elijah had done. God was certainly blessing Elisha.

God blesses those who serve Him. Everyone who believes in Jesus as his or her Saviour should serve God. He deserves it because He is the almighty God. He is the King of Kings. A normal king on this earth has lots of people who serve him. God is so much greater than any king on earth and there are many ways to serve Him. Some people decide to work for Him maybe by being a pastor or going as a nurse to another country or by helping poor people and sharing about Jesus. God leads some people to stay at home and serve Him by the life they live. Perhaps they become a Good News Club® teacher and tell children about Jesus. There are many ways to serve God and He blesses those who serve Him.

Elisha had chosen to serve God and the sons of the prophets had already seen how God had blessed Elisha and helped him to get across the Jordan River.

But the sons of the prophets wondered where Elijah had gone. They didn't know that he had been taken up to Heaven. The sons of the

prophets thought that God had taken Elijah to another place and they wanted to search for him. But Elisha told them not to go. Instead of listening to Elisha, the men kept insisting that they should go and search. Just a few minutes before, they had bowed low before Elisha to show him respect and now they wouldn't listen to him. Finally Elisha permitted them to go. After three days of hopeless searching, the sons of the prophets returned. If they had obeyed Elisha they wouldn't have spent time and energy for nothing. They had learned their lesson. From this time on they would listen to Elisha because He was serving God.

Do you listen to those who serve God - who are working for Him? Maybe you have been to Good News Club many times and you have heard over and over again how important it is to trust in Jesus and to ask Him to forgive your sins and make your life clean. But maybe you have not done it yet. Then you can do it today. In the Bible we read that Jesus has said, "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). You can pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sins. You can be sure that He will do that. Then you too can start to serve Him and He will bless you.

Remove all figures.

Elisha was serving God and many people needed his help.

He went to the beautiful city of Jericho. This city had tall palm trees and colourful flowers that sweetened the air like perfume. It was a wonderful place to live in, except for one big problem. The main spring that fed the city wells had gone bad. Something had happened to the water, which caused the crops to die, and made the water dangerous to drink.

Place Elisha (ES-1) and men of Jericho (ES-4).

Word must already have spread to Jericho that Elisha was now God's prophet. The city leaders showed respect for Elisha by going to him for help. They explained the problem to Elisha, saying, "Our city is a good place, but the water is not good and the crops are not growing" (see 2 Kings 2:19).

Elisha must have known that this would be an opportunity for them to see God's power and care. God told Elisha what to do and he asked the men to bring him a brand new bowl with salt in it. This might have sounded like a strange solution, but Elisha obeyed what God had said.

You can obey God too. If you have trusted in Jesus to forgive your sins the first and most important way to serve Him is to obey Him. In Good News Club or Sunday school you learn a lot from the Bible about how God wants you to live. You learn what is right to do and what is wrong. You serve God when you obey Him by doing the right things. Can you remember any of the things you have learned that you should or shouldn't do?

mountain area. Elisha chose not to tell the sons of the prophets that Elijah had been taken to Heaven.

Young children can act out the three days search and count three days.

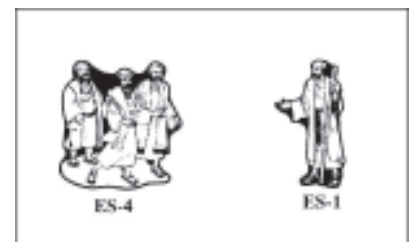
CTU

Since this lesson is focused on Christian growth, the message of salvation is condensed. It would therefore be good to reinforce the presentation of the Gospel at another point of the class hour - for example in connection to a song.

Older children will enjoy locating Jericho on a map.

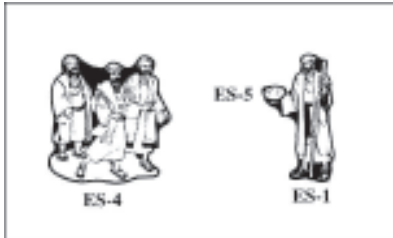
Flashcard 1-3

In different translations the problems which the water caused are different, from poor crops to women with miscarriages.



CTS

Allowing children to answer questions and share ideas helps them to be attentive, to learn and to apply the teaching. Use the children's ideas in the following teaching or use the one already written in this paragraph.



Read the verse from the Bible to remind the children that the verse is God's Word.

CTS

Show teaching card.

Give children an opportunity to share.

Maybe you have learned in Good News Club that you should obey your parents. If you do the dishes when your mum asks you to, then you are serving God. Or maybe you have heard that God doesn't want us to steal. If you refuse to go along with somebody from school who is going to take some sweets from the supermarket, then you are serving God and obeying what He has said.

If you have trusted in Jesus Christ, then God will bless you when you serve and obey Him. To bless someone means to do something good for him or her. When you obey God then He will bless you - or do something good for you - by giving you His peace and joy. Even if it might be hard to say no to going along with friends who are planning to do something wrong, God will bless you. He will make you happy inside because you obey Him. Sometimes God even blesses you by helping you with something you need His help for. God will bless you when you obey Him.

Elisha obeyed God by doing what He had told him to do.

Place bowl (ES-5) in Elisha's hand.

Elisha carried the bowl of salt to the spring and threw the salt into the water. As he threw in the salt, he said, "The Lord has said, 'I have healed this water'" (see 2 Kings 2:21).

Had it really happened? Let's read from the Bible.

Read 2 Kings 2:22a.

Yes, God had performed a miracle! He used the salt to purify the water so that it was safe to drink and to use for the crops. From then on, there was never a problem with that spring of water in Jericho. Because Elisha had obeyed God, He had blessed him and used him to help the people of Jericho.

If you choose to serve God, then He will bless you and use you to help others. When you serve God by doing the right things, then people will start to notice that there is something different about you. They will start to see that you are God's child and maybe they will want to know more about God because you serve Him and obey Him. Can you think of any situations where you can serve God by doing what is right and where others will notice that you are His child because of that?

Give children an opportunity to share.

Maybe you can help a person in your class who is lonely, or maybe you can help someone with their homework. God can use you in many ways to help others.

God used Elisha to help the people of Jericho by making their water supply good to drink.

Remove men of Jericho (ES-4) and bowl (ES-5).

Elisha left Jericho and went into the mountains toward a town called Bethel. As he walked along the road, the Bible tells us that some young men - we could also call them teenagers - came out from the city. There were over forty of them, and they came to make trouble.

Place mocking young men (ES-6).

They treated Elisha very disrespectfully. Let's hear what they called out rudely to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" (2 Kings 2:23). They were making fun of God's worker. They were probably referring to the way Elijah was taken up into Heaven, saying, "Why don't you go up, too? If you are a prophet of God, go up!" These young men were sinning against God - they were doing something very wrong when they made fun of God's prophet instead of listening to him.

Maybe you know that you need to listen to those who serve God and who have told you how important it is to trust in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins. If you want to trust in Jesus but do not know how to do so, then I will gladly help you. After the lesson I will be sitting on this chair (*point out the chair*) and while the others are doing something else, you are very welcome to come and talk with me. I will show you from the Bible how you can trust Jesus Christ to forgive your sins. Then you too can start to serve Him like Elisha did.

Elisha was serving God but these young men near Bethel were making fun of him instead of showing respect.

Replace Elisha (ES-1) with figure ES-7.

Elisha turned and looked at the young men. He asked God to bring punishment upon them because of their disrespect for God. Perhaps they laughed at Elisha, but suddenly they stopped laughing and teasing him.

Add bears (ES-8).

Two mother bears came charging out of the woods and attacked them! The young men no longer laughed at Elisha, but they were very much afraid and forty-two of the young men died.

Remove all figures.

How sad this must have been. I'm sure those who heard about it never forgot how important it is for everyone to respect God and His prophet.

Elisha left Bethel after this. He travelled on to Mount Carmel then eventually returned to Samaria. This was the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel. It was also the place where God would do many more amazing things through His prophet Elisha.

Word must have quickly spread to all the towns and cities about the things that had already happened wherever Elisha had gone. There was no doubt in the people's minds that Elisha was serving God and that God was blessing Elisha.

Let an older child find Bethel on a map. This activity helps to remind the children that these are real places and real people.

Flashcard 1-4

Read the verse from the Bible.

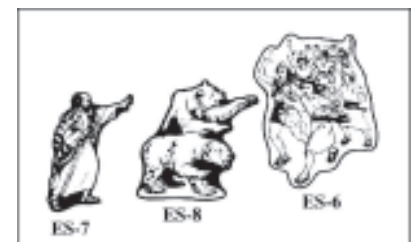
Some Bible translations use the term "little



CTU

children" about these young men. But the Hebrew term used is "naar" or "nahar". This term is used about Isaac when he was 28 and Joseph when he was 39. The term is used many times in Scripture and in every other place it is translated "young men". (Source: 1 & 2 Kings by J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible books, California.)

Flashcard 1-5



CTS

Show teaching card.

CTU

What about you? If you have trusted in Jesus to forgive you, will you serve Him? Will you choose to do what is right to do? Then He will bless you. He will use you so that others will get to know Him too.

But what about you who have never trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins? Will you do that today? Will you tell Him that you believe in Him and that you really want Him to forgive all your sins? If you do that and mean it with all your heart, then He will forgive you. He will make your life clean and then you too can start to serve Him.

Review game

Secret word

Prepare a review game folder and cards to use throughout the Elisha series. (See diagram on page 63.)

Place the word "authority" in the review game folder and insert the numbered flaps so that the cards are fully covered.

Divide the class into two teams and ask questions of the teams alternately.

When a child answers a question correctly, he may indicate by number which flap he wants you to open. Leave the flap open.

(To extend the game as long as possible, don't let the children choose the first flap until all other flaps have been opened.)

If the child thinks he knows the word, let him come whisper it to you. If the word is correct his team gets 500 points, but don't tell the rest of the class so that the game can be played longer.

If the secret word is revealed before all questions have been asked, score 500 points for each remaining correct answer.

Review questions

- 1 What sign did God use to show the fifty sons of the prophets that Elisha was now serving God as Elijah had done? (God opened a path in the Jordan River for Elisha.)
- 2 Why should we serve God? (He deserves it because He is the King of Kings.)
- 3 The sons of the prophets didn't listen to Elisha. What did they do? (They left Elisha and went to look for Elijah.)
- 4 How can we serve God? (By obeying Him and doing what is right.)
- 5 How do we know what is right or wrong to do? (We learn about it in the Bible, for example through Good News Club.)
- 6 In which town did the people have a problem with their water? (Jericho.)
- 7 What miracle did God do when Elisha threw salt in the water? (Purified the water so that it was safe to drink.)
- 8 How will God bless those who obey Him? (God will bless us with a good feeling inside and maybe even in other ways too.)
- 9 How can you have your sins forgiven? (Ask Jesus to forgive my sins and change me.)
- 10 What wrong thing did the young men do to Elisha? (They made fun of him.)
- 11 From what book in the Bible, what chapter and verse did our memory verse come? (Proverbs 3:5.)
- 12 Try to quote as much as possible from our memory verse. ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5.)

Carry-over activity

This game could help the children to find out ways to serve God in different places.

Hand out one of the schedules shown below to each of the children. Tell them to write down six places where they will spend time during

next week. Then they will take turns throwing a dice. When a child for example throws a two on the dice, he can tick off the place beside number two on the paper and say, “I can serve God in _____ by _____.”

For example, “I can serve God in school by doing my homework every day” or “I can serve God at the playground by being a good friend to those who don’t have a friend.”

When the child has done this, the next child has a go. After a few rounds it gets harder and harder to throw the right number on the dice to get the last places on the list ticked off. Depending on time, you can either decide that each child only throws the dice once in each round or as many times as needed until a right number shows up.

The first one to get all his or her places ticked off is the winner.

If you have too many children in class you will need to divide the children in groups.

After the game you can explain to the children that they can take home the paper and pray about one of these places each day during

Number	Place	✓
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Example:

Number	Place	✓
1	School	
2	Home	✓
3	Good News Club®	
4	After school activity	✓
5	My grandmother’s home	
6	Football	

the next week that God will help them to serve Him in that place.

This child has already thrown the dice twice and had a number 2 and a number 4. He still needs four more right throws to win the game.

Lesson 2

Elisha and the widow's oil

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 4:1-7

Central truth

God has promised to supply the needs of His children

Application

Unsaved: Trust Jesus Christ and He promises to make you a child of God

Saved: Trust Him and He will always supply your needs

Memory verse

If you have already taught lesson 1 we suggest you continue Proverbs 3:5

If you teach this lesson by itself you might want to use, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: ES-1, ES-9, ES-10, ES-11 and ES-12

And

- ◆ A little bottle of oil and an empty bottle
- ◆ A teaching card with the central truth in big letters (may be made in the shape of a jar of oil)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Tim looked very unhappy **CT**

Progression of events

- 1 One of the sons of the prophets dies
- 2 The widow and her children are in debt
- 3 A man wants to take the sons as slaves
- 4 The widow goes to Elisha **CTS**
- 5 Elisha tells her to borrow lots of empty jars **CTU**
- 6 The children collect lots of jars **CTS**
- 7 The widow pours oil into the jars **CTS**
- 8 When all the jars are filled the oil stops running
- 9 The widow tells Elisha what has happened

Climax

The widow sells the oil and the debt is paid off

Conclusion

The widow and her sons are able to live on the money that remains **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

Tim was walking home from school looking very unhappy kicking at the small stones along the way. Suddenly his big brother's friend Steve passed by.

"What's the matter?" Steve asked.

"We have a maths test tomorrow in school and I have been ill for two weeks and have no idea how to solve those maths problems. I really need help but no-one from class has time to help me," Tim answered.

"I can help you," Steve said. "I love maths and if you need help, I will help you!"

"You want to help me?" Tim asked as his face brightened up.

"Sure, no problem. I will stop by your house later today."

CT

Show teaching card with central truth.

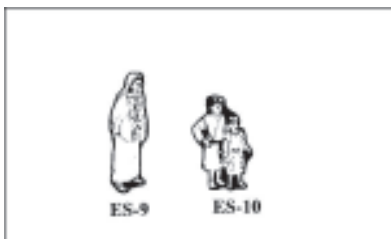
Sometimes things like that happen. We have a need and we have no idea how to meet that need. Sometimes a friend or a family member can help us, but other times there are needs that God alone can meet. In the Bible we read that God wants to supply all the needs of His children. How wonderful to know such a God!

Elisha knew that God could meet the needs of those who trusted in Him. Elisha had already seen how God had supplied the needs of the people of Jericho when He made the water pure in their city.

During the time Elisha and Elijah worked together, they trained a group of men to teach God's Word to the people. These men were called "sons of the prophets". Many of them had families and therefore they often did other work to earn money to take care of their families' needs.

Place widow (ES-9) and sons (ES-10).

Flashcard 2-1



It is possible that this prophet had been one of queen Jezebel's victims (see 1 Kings 18:4).

The jar of oil might have been oil used by the prophets for special ceremonies, or it could be that the father grew

One day something very sad happened to one of these families. The father, who was one of the sons of the prophets, died. The Bible doesn't say how he died - perhaps he had become very sick, or maybe he had an accident of some kind. The woman was now a widow without her husband to provide for the family. Life was very hard for the widow and her two sons. For a while the family were probably able to live on the money the boys' father had earned, but soon the money began to run out. There was no money for food and clothes and nothing to pay the bills. The only thing this family had left was one small jar of olive oil. In those times many years ago olive oil was very important. It was used in cooking, in the lamps to make light and for other purposes. Therefore the woman could sell the olive oil and earn some money from it - but this amount of oil that she had was not enough to pay the bills. They owed quite a lot of money to one man. Maybe he had supplied food for them but the family had not been able to pay him back. Now he grew impatient, waiting for

the money that was owed to him. Finally he told the widow, "If you can't pay me, I'll take your sons to be my slaves." What an awful thing to threaten her with! In desperation, the widow went to the prophet Elisha for help.

Remove sons (ES-10). Place Elisha (ES-1).

Perhaps the widow was crying as she came to Elisha and said, "My husband, your servant, is dead. You know that he feared (loved and obeyed) the Lord. Now, the one we owe money to wants to come and take my two sons as slaves, if I don't pay him" (see 2 Kings 4:1).

Elisha must have been deeply saddened. He knew that unless she could find some money, not even the laws of the land could protect her from losing her sons.

This woman loved God, but look at the problems she had! She had no money; she was in debt; her sons could soon become slaves. Had God let her down, or was the problem too big for Him?

No, God would never let her down and He will never let you down either if you have received Jesus as your Saviour. There is no problem too big for Him. You can count on Him! God promises in the Bible that He will give you everything you really need. Let us read the wonderful promise in Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God knows what you really need and He promises to meet the needs of all His children. How can He do that? God can do anything because of "His riches in glory" - because He is an almighty God. The Bible tells us that God is like a perfect father to those who believe in Him. Your Father in Heaven wants you to know that He always keeps His promises and that He wants to give you what you really need.

Give children the opportunity to share some of their needs.

And God also wanted to help the widow who so desperately needed His help. She came to Elisha with her great need.

"How can I help you?" Elisha asked the widow. "What do you have in your house?"

"I have nothing except a little oil in a jar," she sadly replied.

But God had a plan to help her.

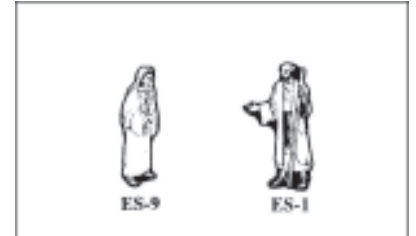
Elisha told the widow to collect as many empty jars as she could. "Go to your neighbours and borrow empty jars - lots of them!" Elisha instructed her. Listen to what Elisha told her to do with all those jars: "When you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels [or jars], and set aside the full ones" (2 Kings 4:4).

Remove Elisha (ES-1).

and pressed olives for oil to sell.

If possible bring a little bottle of oil to show the class.

Flashcard 2-2



CTS

Ask an older child beforehand to be prepared to read out the verse from the Bible. Be sure to help the child find the verse in the Bible if necessary.

Show teaching card with central truth.

Read the conversation between Elisha and the woman aloud from 2 Kings 4:2.

Read the verse aloud from the Bible or have a child read 2 Kings 4:4.

God had a special plan for the woman and her sons. He knew she had a problem she could do nothing about, but she was one of His children. He loved her very much and made a way to meet her needs.

CTU

Perhaps you are asking, “How can I be God’s child and know His love and care?” We read the answer in the Bible. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). You must receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour to become a child of God. In other words you need to ask Jesus to forgive all of your sin - all the wrong things you have done. Tell Jesus that you need to have your sins forgiven. Tell Him that you believe in Him and want to receive Him into your life. When you do that you become a child of God.

If you do not know how to receive the Lord Jesus, I would like to help you. After the lesson you can come and sit on one of these front row chairs and while the others are doing something else, I will explain to you again how you can get to know God and show you what the Bible tells you to do. When you ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you, He will keep His Word and forgive you because He loves you so much!

God loved the widow, too. He made a way to meet her need because He knew she could do absolutely nothing about her terrible problem.

Place sons (ES-10).

Elisha’s instructions may have sounded strange to the widow, but she immediately obeyed. She went home and probably called her sons and told them to go into the village to call on their neighbours.

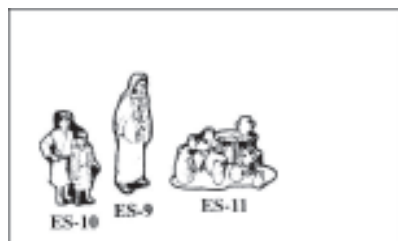
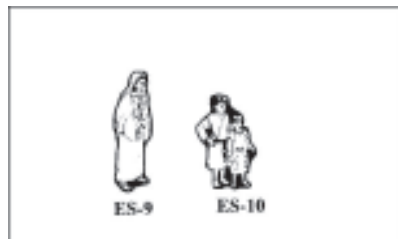
Coming to a neighbour’s house, the boys might have asked politely, “Please, may we borrow empty oil jars from you? Our mother needs them. We’ll be sure to bring them back when she is finished.” House after house, the boys made the same request. Maybe the widow went with them and told her neighbours about her terrible problem and how the prophet had instructed her to borrow empty jars. Many of the neighbours helped out, giving the widow as many jars as they could spare. They must have been curious how empty jars would help solve her problem. Some probably refused to help, thinking the widow was very foolish. But the instructions came from God and therefore they were worth following.

CTS

It is the same with us. If we want God to help us with something, we must also follow His instructions. Maybe you know that there is something God wants you to do. Maybe you have even read something in the Bible and you know God wants you to obey it. When you obey God He can help you. If God has asked you to do something, it is the right thing to do - even if your friends think it is foolish to do it.

Add table and jars (ES-11).

Flashcard 2-3



Perhaps some of the neighbours thought the widow was foolish, but slowly the number of empty jars in her house grew. When they had borrowed all they could find, the widow and her sons went inside and shut the door.

Replace widow (ES-9) with figure ES-12.

The widow picked up the small jar of oil - the only one she had left - and carefully began pouring it into one of the many empty jars they had collected. Her sons must have watched her, fascinated to see what would happen. What do you think the widow was expecting to happen as she poured the oil?

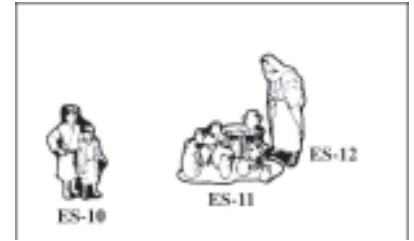
Let children respond.

She was expecting God to somehow meet her need. She knew God had given her His plan through Elisha. As she followed God's plan, she must have known that God would take care of her need.

God will take care of the needs of all His children. People have many different needs and if you are a child of God, He promises to meet your real needs. Do you feel lonely and do you need a true friend? Ask God to meet this need. He wants to be your friend but He also wants you to have good human friends. We don't know how God will answer or when He will answer. But if you are a child of God then you can know that, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). He will meet your need. Or are you ever afraid when you walk home in the dark? Do you need His comfort? Ask God to give you peace when you are afraid. If you have received the Lord Jesus and have asked Him to forgive your sin, He will meet your needs - even in hard times. When you need something, talk to God. You need God's help and you can ask for it! He knows about your problem already, but He wants you to talk to Him about your needs and feelings. Even when hard things happen, you can be sure He is right beside you and wants to meet your need. Sometimes He meets your needs in a completely different way from how you thought He would, but you can be sure of one thing - if God is your perfect Father in Heaven, He knows what is best for you and you can trust Him.

The widow must have trusted God to take care of her need. She knew that somehow God would take care of the problem. She poured out the oil, expecting God to meet her needs.

When the empty jar was filled with oil, she saw that there was still more oil left in her little jar. She asked her son to give her another empty one. When it was full, she called for another, then another, and another, and still another! Her sons' eyes must have opened wide in amazement as they watched jar after jar being filled with oil. How could so much oil come from one little jar? It was a miracle that only our faithful God could do!



Flashcard 2-4

You may want to bring a small bottle or jar of cooking oil and pour it slowly into another jar as you tell this part of the story. One of the children would make a great helper!

CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.

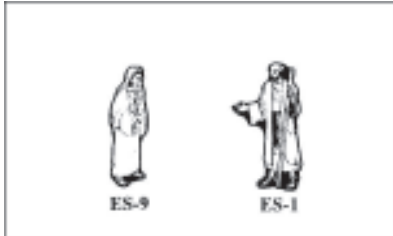
The aspect of God allowing hard things to happen will be dealt with in lesson 3.

Pause briefly to let the truth of this miracle impress itself on the children's minds and hearts.

Flashcard 2-5

Read the verse aloud from the Bible to prove the authenticity of the story.

Flashcard 2-6



Soon the widow and her sons were surrounded by jars filled with oil. "Bring me another empty jar," she said to her sons.

But they replied, "There are no more!"

Just then, the oil that the widow had been pouring stopped flowing. The widow and her sons looked around the room at all the jars.

God performed a miracle, causing the oil to continue to flow until all the jars were full! He met her need perfectly, just as He will meet yours if you trust in Him.

Remove all figures. Place widow (ES-9) and Elisha (ES-1).

The widow hurried off to find Elisha. She told him all that had happened.

"Go and sell the oil," Elisha said. "Pay your bills, and you and your sons can live from the money that remains" (see 2 Kings 4:7).

What a great day this was for the widow and her sons. They must have hurried to take their oil to the market, where they sold it for a good price. With joy in her heart, the widow probably went directly to the person she owed the money to. "Here is the full payment for all I owe you," she would have said. "God provided it for me!" After selling the oil, there was enough money left for the woman and her sons to live on. God delighted in meeting their needs!

Remove all figures.

CTS

God delights in meeting your needs as His child as well. No matter what happens to you, you must remember that you can trust God even in hard times. When you have a need, will you talk to God about it? God is faithful to keep His promise. Remember that the Bible tells us "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Maybe you are thinking right now of a need you have. In a minute we will have a moment of silent prayer, and you can talk to God about that need.

CTU

But if you have not yet received the Lord Jesus and asked Him to forgive you, then your greatest need is to do so and become God's child. Will you receive Him? Will you ask the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin today and make you a child of God?

Allow time for prayer.

Review game

Oil jar concentration

Place the oil pot card in the review game folder and insert the numbered flaps so that the card is fully covered.

Review questions

- 1 What was going to happen to the widow's sons if she could not pay her debts? (They were going to become slaves to the person she owed money to.)
- 2 Who did God use to help the widow with her need for money? (Elisha.)
- 3 What did the widow have in her house that God used to meet her need? (A jar of oil.)

- 4 If a person is not a Christian, what is his greatest need? (To have his sins forgiven.)
- 5 How did God take care of the need for our sins to be forgiven? (He sent Jesus to pay for our sins.)
- 6 What did Elisha tell the widow to do? (Borrow empty jars from the neighbours and fill them with oil.)
- 7 What happened when the widow poured the oil into the jars? (God made the oil keep coming until all the jars were full.)
- 8 What is the first thing you should do when you have a need? (Talk to God about it and ask Him what you should do.)
- 9 Quote our memory verse. (“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5.)
- 10 If God already knows what you need, why should you talk to Him? (He wants you to talk to Him about your problems.)
- 11 What does God give you inside when you tell Him about your problems and needs, even if you do not receive the answer you expect? (Peace.)
- 12 Name one need that children might have. (Afraid of darkness, parents lost job, etc.)

Carry-over activity

Pass the promises

Place a label with the words “God’s Promise Jar” on the outside of a small pill bottle or other container. Photocopy the promises on page 64, cut apart and place in jar.

Have children sit in a circle and pass the jar around while singing “Faith Is Just Believing” or another song. When the song ends, whoever has the jar may pull out a verse and read it. (If you have children that can’t read, make sure to let the children work in pairs with a reader and a non-reader in each pair.) Have children discuss what that promise means to them. Then pass the jar to the next person and repeat activity.

If you have recently taught one or more memory verses which contain promises, it would benefit the learning process to exchange some of the verses listed with the verses which are familiar to the children.

Divide the class into two teams and question alternately.

When a child answers correctly, his team scores 500 points. The child can call out two numbers on the review folder to try for a match. Close the flaps and give the next team a chance to answer a question and try for a match.

Once a match is found, leave the flaps up and give the team 500 extra points.

If questions remain after all matches have been found, give 500 points for each correct answer remaining.

The team with the most points in the end wins.

Lesson 3

Elisha raises the Shunammite's son

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 4:8-37

Central truth

God is all-powerful and can do the impossible

Application

Unsaved: God is able to save you if you trust Jesus Christ

Saved: God can bring something good out of difficult situations

Memory verse

Review Proverbs 3:5

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6

Or

◆ Figures: ES-1, ES-13, ES-14, ES-15, ES-16, ES-17, ES-18, ES-19, ES-20, ES-21, ES-22, ES-23 and ES-24

And

◆ Grapes, raisins or other dried fruit, biscuits and water to be served to the children

◆ A map of Israel

◆ A teaching card with the central truth in big letters (may be made in A4 size)

Advice for the teachers

Since this lesson is about resuscitation you should make yourself available for counselling, especially to those children who are in mourning for a relative or a friend.

Explain to these children that God does not always restore people to this life. A person who is resuscitated must die once more. At the resurrection to eternal life this is no longer the case. Then God will bring to life forever those who believe in Him.

Encourage the children who do not yet believe in Jesus to accept Him as their Saviour so that they can be with God always in Heaven where there is no crying and no tears.

Help the believing children to trust anew, showing them from the Bible how God has promised always to be with them (Hebrews 13:5b-6) even in times of sorrow.

If none of the children in your group is affected by the death of a person, you can make yourself available for counselling as usual.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Another hot day

Progression of events

- 1 The woman of Shunem takes care of Elisha and builds a special room for him
- 2 Elisha wants to repay her kindness but she refuses any favour
- 3 Elisha promises that she will have a child
CTS, CTU
- 4 A year later the woman of Shunem gives birth to a baby boy
- 5 Several years later the son becomes ill and dies
CTS
- 6 The woman rides off to find Elisha
- 7 The woman meets Elisha and cries over the loss of her son
- 8 Elisha and Gehazi return to Shunem with the woman
CTS

Climax

God uses Elisha to bring the boy back to life

Conclusion

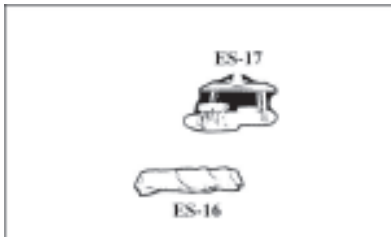
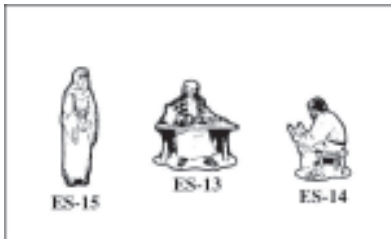
The woman is called into the room to embrace her healthy son

The woman bows low to show her gratefulness to God and His servant Elisha
CTS, CTU

The older children will enjoy locating this village on a map. Shunem was an agricultural area about 5 km north of the palace at Jezreel. Elisha probably stopped here often as he travelled between Samaria and Jezreel.

You could serve grapes, raisins or other dried fruit, biscuits and water to the children.

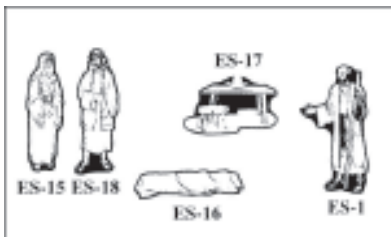
Flashcard 3-1



Flashcard 3-2

Building this room was a sacrificial act for this couple. The rooftop of an eastern home was the most desirable part of the house because of the hot climate. Although the furnishing doesn't seem like much, it was more than would usually be found in such a room and showed the generosity of this couple and their respect for God's prophet.

Flashcard 3-3



Lesson

Place Elisha (ES-1).

It was another hot and sunny day as God's prophet, Elisha, walked the dusty roads, travelling from city to city to do his work for God. You remember Elisha had been called by God to serve Him. On this particular day, he arrived at the small farming village of Shunem, just a few kilometres from Jezreel where the king's palace was. Elisha didn't know it yet, but God was about to do one of His most amazing miracles through Elisha in this quiet little village!

Elisha came near the home of a rich farmer and his wife. Perhaps the woman saw the prophet, looking tired and hot from his travels. She invited - or actually urged - Elisha to come and eat with her and her husband and rest a while.

Replace Elisha (ES-1) with figure ES-13. Place woman (ES-15) and her husband (ES-14).

Perhaps Elisha told this friendly couple about the wonderful things God had done, like how God healed the water in Jericho and filled the jars with oil for the poor widow.

From then on, whenever Elisha was near Shunem, he stopped to visit this husband and wife.

Remove (ES-13).

The woman knew Elisha's life must be hard and sometimes lonely as he travelled from place to place. God gave her an idea of how she and her husband could encourage the prophet. The woman told her husband, "I know that Elisha is a man of God. Why don't we make an extra room in our house for him and put furniture in it? Then when he comes this way, he'll have his own room where he can rest and pray" (see 2 Kings 4:9-10).

Remove woman (ES-15) and husband (ES-14). Place bed (ES-16) and table (ES-17).

Her husband agreed, and they built the room up on the flat roof of the house. When it was finished, they placed some furniture inside - a bed, chair, table and a candlestick. Elisha must have been very pleased when he returned to Shunem and saw his new room.

One day Elisha came to Shunem with his servant, Gehazi. They went to this upper room and Elisha lay down to rest. He was so thankful to God for the kindness of this woman and her husband. He wanted to do something for them in return - but what? Elisha asked Gehazi to call the woman.

Place Elisha (ES-1), woman (ES-15) and Gehazi (ES-18).

Elisha said to her, "You have been so kind to us. Now what can I do for you? Is there something I can talk to the king about or to the captain of the army?" Elisha was willing to talk to anybody he could to grant the woman's request.

But this woman was very wealthy and very humble. There wasn't anything she and her husband needed. She said to Elisha, "I have all that I need. I am content living here among my own people."

Remove woman (ES-15).

The woman left, but Elisha continued to talk with Gehazi about how they could show their appreciation to this couple. Then Gehazi had an idea. This woman and her husband had no children. They were old now and would probably never be able to have children.

"She has no child," Gehazi said.

Probably every woman in Israel wanted to have children and surely this woman did too!

"Call her back here," Elisha said to Gehazi.

Place woman (ES-15).

Elisha said to the woman, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son" (2 Kings 4:16).

She could hardly believe it! Could this really happen to her? I am sure her heart must have started beating faster and maybe her eyes started to shine with happiness. After all these years without a child, she was going to be a mother! It seemed impossible to her that God would do this wonderful thing. She knew she had to learn to trust in God Who is all-powerful.

If you have already asked Jesus to save you from your sin, then you will want to learn to trust in God more and more. You can be sure that God can turn any difficult situation in your life into something good because He is all-powerful.

But what does it mean that God is all-powerful? It means that nothing is stronger or greater than God. He can do anything. The most wonderful thing of all that He can do is to save you from your sin. Your sin is a problem because it keeps you away from God Who is perfect. But God wants to help you and take away your sin. You can ask His Son Jesus Christ to take away your sin - to save you from your sin. He is able to do that because He died on the cross for you. When He hung on the cross He took our sin upon Himself. If He had been a normal man, He could not have done it, but because He was the Son of God Who is all-powerful He could do this. He willingly bled and died so that you could be forgiven for the things you have done which do not please God. After Jesus died, He came back to life and now, today, He lives in Heaven. If you ask Jesus to take away your sin, you can trust Him to do it. He is able to do it because He is all-powerful and died on the cross for you.

The woman of Shunem had to trust that God Who is all-powerful would do as He had promised and give a son to her and her husband.

Elisha had a good relationship with the officials of the country. God had established Elisha's authority as His prophet.

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.

CTU

Remove all figures.

Do you think God kept His promise to the woman?

Let children respond.

Yes! He always keeps His promises. The day finally arrived when the promised son was born. It must have been a happy time for the couple!

Place father (ES-19).

A few years went by and the little boy grew to be as old as some of you. He liked to go into his father's fields at harvest time. The boy probably enjoyed watching the men and helping out - maybe tying up small bundles of grain.

Add boy (ES-20).

One morning the sun may have been very hot in the fields. The boy was out with the servants when he felt a sharp pain in his head. He ran to his father crying, "My head, my head!"

The father quickly ordered one of the servants, "Carry the boy to his mother."

Remove all figures.

The servant picked up the little boy and hurried to the house, where he handed the child to his mother. The woman must have been very concerned as she looked at her son, holding his head in pain. She tried to comfort him, holding him close on her lap. In spite of her love and care for her son, at mid-day the little boy died.

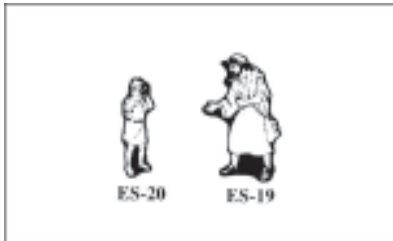
The woman was heartbroken. This was the child God had promised to give her - he was a miracle - and now he was gone. How could this happen? Why had it happened? The woman must have been full of questions and also very, very sad. What a terribly difficult situation she was in!

Maybe you've had something terribly sad happen in your life. Perhaps someone you love very much has moved away or maybe even died. Or maybe you've faced other hard situations.

Discuss hard situations that the children might face at home or at school. Be prepared to suggest some possibilities - he/she fails an exam, falls ill or has an accident, or father loses his job, mother ill, granny dies, etc.

When difficult things happen that you don't understand, it may seem like God has stopped loving and caring for you and that everything is out of control. But God is never out of control - He is all-powerful.

You might feel angry towards God and wonder how anything good could possibly come from your situation. But God is all-powerful, and if you trust in Him as your Saviour then you can ask Him to help you - just as the woman did in our story today. God will always be with you just as He has promised. Last week we talked about how we can trust God to keep His promises. God has promised to be with us



Flashcard 3-4

Preschoolers would enjoy pretending to be the sick boy.

CTS

It is important for the teacher to keep in mind that many children think that hard situations are a punishment from God. You might want to clear this misunderstanding with the children.

Show teaching card with central truth.

in all situations. He is all-powerful and can bring something good out of even the worst situation. In the Bible God promises, “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28). If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, trust God Who is all-powerful to bring good out of difficult situations. Remember our memory verse.

Quote Proverbs 3:5 together.

You can trust Him even when it doesn't seem like you can. He is all-powerful and He will help you through your hard times. He can cause something good to come out of even a terribly sad situation.

The Shunammite woman was in a terribly sad situation. She was heartbroken over the death of her child, whom God gave to her in a miraculous way. She carried the little boy's body up to Elisha's room, laid him on Elisha's bed and closed the door.

She hurried out to her husband and said, “Please send one of the servants and a donkey so I may go to the man of God and return.” Her husband asked her why she wanted to go. She didn't tell him about their son. She just said, “Everything will be all right.” Deep in her heart, this sad mother was trusting God to help her.

Place woman and servant on donkeys (ES-21).

Leaving Shunem, the woman and her servant rode across the wide valley toward Mount Carmel to find Elisha. The journey would take about five to six hours.

“Go forward,” she told her servant. “Don't slow down for me unless I tell you.”

Remove woman and servant (ES-21). Place Elisha (ES-1) and Gehazi (ES-18).

Up on Mount Carmel, Elisha could see someone in the distance approaching quickly on a donkey. As the rider came nearer, Elisha recognised the woman.

“Look,” Elisha said to Gehazi. “There is the woman from Shunem! Run to meet her. Ask her about her husband and her son.”

Remove Elisha (ES-1). Place woman and servant (ES-21).

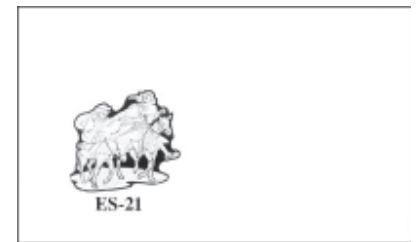
Even though she was very sad, the woman told Gehazi that everything was all right. Why? I think she had absolutely no doubt that God would work everything out for the very best.

She continued on. Seeing Elisha, she got off the donkey and knelt at his feet.

Remove all figures. Place Elisha (ES-1) and woman (ES-22).

Gehazi went to push the woman away from his master, but Elisha said, “Let her alone, for she is very sad. The Lord has not told me what is wrong.”

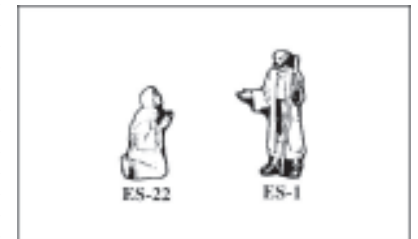
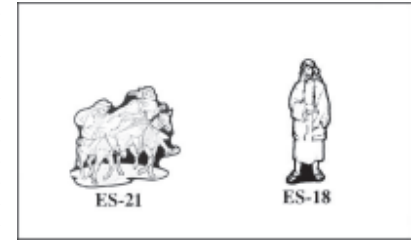
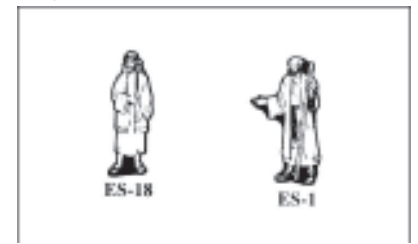
The Bible commentator Matthew Henry says, “The woman didn't prepare for the burial of the dead child but for his resurrection.”

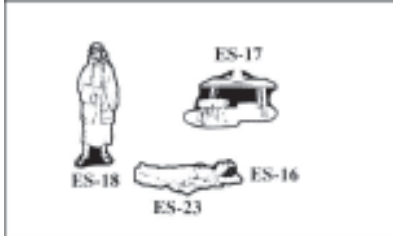


Preschoolers will enjoy a pretend donkey ride.

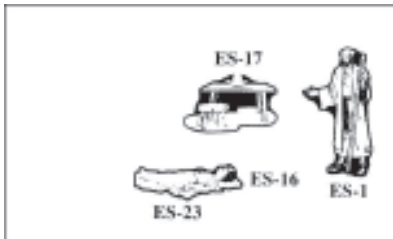
Flashcard 3-5

Mount Carmel was about 32 km away and was apparently where Elisha was busy ministering, or perhaps he went there for times of solitude and prayer.





Read the verse from the Bible.



CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.

Then the woman told Elisha that the son God had promised her had died.

Immediately, Elisha told Gehazi to take his staff (the wooden stick Elisha carried) and go to the child. "Put my staff on the child's face," Elisha commanded his servant.

Gehazi took the staff and hurried away. But the woman refused to leave without Elisha, so he agreed to go along.

Remove all figures. Place bed (ES-16), table (ES-17), Gehazi (ES-18) and dead child (ES-23).

Gehazi reached the child first. He did as Elisha had instructed him, laying the staff on the child's face. What happened? "There was neither voice nor hearing" (2 Kings 4:31). The boy didn't move.

Gehazi left the house and met Elisha and the woman on their way. He told Elisha that the child was still dead.

Remove Gehazi (ES-18). Place Elisha (ES-1).

Arriving at the house, Elisha went up to the room and shut the door. He looked sadly at the little boy lying silently on the bed. Knowing that God is all-powerful, Elisha trusted that God could bring something good out of this sad, difficult situation.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, trust God to bring something good out of difficult situations. Hard things will sometimes happen in your life. Perhaps there is someone in school who always makes life very difficult for you. Ask the Lord to help you and give you peace and patience in that situation. Perhaps those you play with make fun of you being a Christian. Then trust the Lord to help you to be a good witness to them. Perhaps someone in your family has left and you just cannot get over it. You never feel happy anymore. Trust the Lord to give you the strength to go on.

Instead of these examples you can also refer to situations discussed earlier.

God is all-powerful and faithful, and you can depend on Him no matter what. He is God and He is in control of every situation.

Even if things don't turn out the way you want or expect, you can thank God that He is with you and that He loves you, then trust Him to help you. When something difficult happens, do what Elisha did first - pray! Tell God about it. Thank Him that He will give you strength and courage to go through it. Tell God that you trust Him to bring something good from that difficult situation - even if you don't know how He can do it. Then watch for God to work. He will do so because He is all-powerful. Perhaps God will use the situation to bring you closer to Him and make you stronger. Maybe He will use it to help someone come to know Him as Saviour. It may take a long time before you see the good that God is doing - maybe you'll never see it - but He will do it in His own time and way. He knows what is best for you. Just trust God Who is all-powerful to bring something good out of your difficult situation.

For example, if you became ill and had to stay in bed for a few days, could God bring good out of this? Yes! Maybe you would have time to watch some helpful videos or read a good book.

If you failed an exam, could God bring good out of that?

Let the children suggest answers, but be ready with an answer.

Yes! He could teach you the importance of studying more or starting exam preparation earlier.

If you lost some money, could God bring good out of that?

Let the children suggest an answer.

Yes! God could teach you to be more sympathetic to a friend who had lost money or something else important.

Elisha trusted God Who is all-powerful to bring something good out of this difficult situation. He prayed, and God told him what to do.

Elisha stretched himself out on the child, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on the child's eyes and his hands on the child's hands. Can you imagine how difficult this must have been for Elisha? He certainly must have known that this was God had told him to do. Let's read from the Bible what happened.

Read the verse from your Bible.

“The flesh of the child became warm” (2 Kings 4:34).

Then suddenly he could feel warmth returning to the child's lifeless body.

Elisha got up and paced back and forth across the room, probably praying that God would do a miracle. Then he returned to the child and stretched out on the boy again.

Replace dead child (ES-23) with figure ES-24.

Suddenly, the boy sneezed seven times! Then he opened his eyes. God, Who is all-powerful, used Elisha to bring the boy back to life!

Add woman (ES-22).

Elisha must have been overjoyed! He had Gehazi call the child's mother. The woman came up to the room and Elisha said to her, “Pick up your son” (2 Kings 4:36).

The joyful woman fell at Elisha's feet in gratefulness for his help and for the miracle God had performed. Then she swept her son up into her arms and carried him out. The woman of Shunem had trusted God Who is all-powerful and He showed that He could bring something good out of this sad, difficult situation.

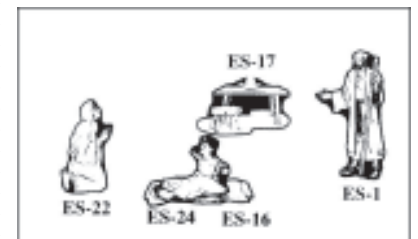
Remove all figures.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, will you trust God Who is all-powerful to bring something good from difficult situations?

This way of healing may seem strange to us but the personal contact with the dead child is actually a picture of what Jesus has done for us. When we were dead in trespasses and sins, personal contact with Jesus Christ brought life to us. In Him we have life! (Source: 1 & 2 Kings by J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible books, California.)

Preschoolers would enjoy “sneezing” seven times.

Flashcard 3-6



CTS

CTU

When you face a hard time at home or school, will you remember that God is all-powerful and that He promises to help you? Will you tell God about the hard situations you face? Will you thank Him that He will help you and give you strength and courage to go through it?

And if you have never trusted Jesus as your Saviour will you turn from your sin today, trusting the Lord Jesus Who is able to save you? The Bible tells us in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." If you want to trust the Lord Jesus to save you, you can tell Him that right now or, for example, when you get home from Good News Club. He will listen and save you because He is all-powerful.

Review game

Paper clip draw

Divide the class into two teams - the pink team and the blue team.

Place about 20 coloured vinyl paper clips (or pieces of paper) in a bag, making sure there are lots of pink and blue ones.

To determine which team goes first, ask the first question to the whole group. The child who raises his hand first and correctly answers the question gets to pull a paper clip out of the bag.

If a pink team member pulls out a pink clip, the pink team gets 500 points. But if he pulls out a blue one, the blue team gets 500 points. No points are given for other colours.

Alternate between the two teams. The team with the most points after all questions have been asked is the winning team.

Review questions

- 1 What did the Shunammite woman and her husband do for Elisha? (Gave him meals and built a room on their house for him.)
- 2 What did they do to make the room special for Elisha? (Furnished it with a bed, chair, table and candlestick.)
- 3 When Elisha's servant asked the woman what kind of thing they could do for her, what did she ask for? (Nothing.)
- 4 What promise did Elisha make to the woman? (God would give her a son.)
- 5 What is the most important gift God promises to all who believe on His Son? (To be saved from the punishment of sin and go to Heaven after death.)
- 6 What sad thing happened to the family? (The son died.)
- 7 What did the woman do when her son died? (She went to Elisha for help.)
- 8 What does God want you to do when sad things happen to you? (He wants you to pray to Him and trust Him to help you through the tough times.)
- 9 How can you trust God's promises even when things don't go the way you expect? (Remember that God always keeps His promises and will bring good things even out of bad situations.)
- 10 What did Elisha tell Gehazi to do? (To put Elisha's staff on the child's face.)
- 11 What did Elisha do when he got to the home and found the child dead? (He prayed and stretched himself over the child.)
- 12 What did the mother do after the child came back to life? (She bowed and thanked Elisha for the miracle God had performed.)

Carry-over activity

Tell the children to help you make a list of different difficult situations that children of today might face (for example, problems in school,

divorce of parents, handicaps, etc). Write the children's suggestions on a blackboard or on a large piece of paper.

Divide the children in groups of three or four and tell each group to choose one of the situations mentioned above. Let each group act out the situation, first showing the problem and then showing how God can make something good out of the situation. Encourage the children to choose realistic solutions and not something that will rarely happen. The children could, for example, show how something good can occur while something is still hard to live with. For example, someone's best friend moves to another town and the one left behind feels very lonely, but because of this situation the child grows closer to God and can even help another child who feels lonely too.

While the children are practising, you and other adult helpers help the groups.

Close the session off by letting each group show their role play to the other groups. If possible, add a few comments after each group has done this, with relevant review from the central truth.

Lesson 4

Naaman is healed of leprosy

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 5:1-16

Central truth

God is able to clean the unclean

Application

Unsaved: God will cleanse you from your sin if you trust the Lord Jesus

Saved: You need to let your friends know that God can cleanse them

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

Or

◆ Figures: ES-1, ES-18, ES-25, ES-26, ES-27, ES-28, ES-29 and ES-30

And

◆ Some beautiful garments and objects of gold and silver placed in a paper bag

◆ A Wordless Book or four sheets of paper in the colours: gold, black, red and white

◆ A map of Israel

Lesson outline

Introduction

Have you ever had a problem you didn't know how to solve?

Progression of events

- 1 Naaman, a rich, famous, good soldier, has leprosy **CTU**
- 2 His wife's servant is a captive from Israel
- 3 The servant tells how Elisha could heal Naaman **CTS, CTU**
- 4 Naaman tells the king of Syria what the girl said
- 5 Naaman is sent to the king of Israel with a letter
- 6 Naaman goes to Elisha
- 7 Elisha's servant tells Naaman what to do
- 8 Naaman is offended and angry with Elisha but finally obeys **CTS, CTU**

Climax

God cleanses Naaman from his leprosy

Conclusion

Naaman understands that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel

Elisha refuses to accept Naaman's gifts

Naaman returns to Syria to tell what has happened **CTS, CTU**

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16

Introduction

Think of a favourite friend or relative.

Pause.

Do you care for that person enough to do anything for him or her? God’s love for you is so great, He loves you even more than you can love anyone else. He loves you more than anyone else can love you. Our verse today helps you see how much God loves you.

Presentation

Explain that the verse is completely true because it’s from God’s Word. Show them how to find the verse, and then read it from your Bible. Let the children read with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

For God so loved the world - God loves all the people in the world, including you.

that He gave His only begotten Son - He loves you so much that He sent His only Son to die for your sins.

that whoever believes in Him - “Whoever” means anyone who chooses to believe in Jesus as the One who died and rose again to pay for their sin.

should not perish - When you believe in Jesus, you will not have to be separated from God forever.

but have everlasting life - Instead you’ll be forgiven of your sin and have life that lasts forever with God in Heaven someday.

Application

Unsaved: Believing on Jesus is the only way to be cleansed of your sin so you can have everlasting life. If you have not believed in Jesus as your Saviour from sin, today is a good day to do that! We will explain during our Bible lesson time today what it means to believe in Jesus and how you can do it.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus, today would be a good day for you to decide to tell someone else about Jesus. Tell a friend this week how much God loves him and that He wants to give him everlasting life.

Repetition

“Sign and Say”

Teach the verse using the sign language symbols below, introducing one new sign with each repetition. For younger children you may wish to omit some of the signs.



God



love



world



gave



Son



believe



Him

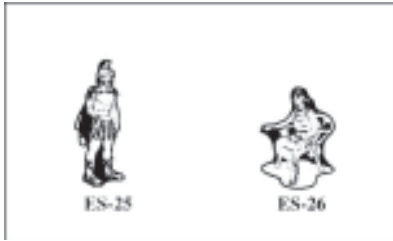


perish



everlasting life

Artwork from *Sign Language Made Simple* by Edgar D. Lawrence, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO 65802. Used by permission.



Flashcard 4-1

Syria was referred to as Aram in Scripture. Naaman probably lived in or near the capital city of Damascus.

Let children locate this area on a map.

Read the verse from your Bible.

Lesson

Have you ever had a problem that you just didn't know how to solve? When that happens, we usually go to someone else for help - maybe a parent or a teacher. But suppose your problem was so great that no one else could solve it either. That's what happened to the man in our Bible story today. His name was Naaman.

Place Naaman (ES-25) and his wife (ES-26).

The Bible says that Naaman was army general in the country of Syria. He was a great soldier and a favourite of the Syrian king. He was strong and brave in battle, and the Lord had allowed his army to have victory over their enemies. Naaman was a wealthy man. He and his wife probably had a fine home and many servants. But Naaman also had a very big problem. The Bible tells us that he "was a mighty man of valour, but a leper" (2 Kings 5:1b).

Leprosy is a disease of the skin that causes painful sores. As the disease causes skin tissue to die, sometimes the person will even lose infected fingers or toes. In Naaman's time, there was no cure for leprosy. The disease would slowly spread throughout his body, and others could easily catch it. His sickness must have brought much sadness and fear to Naaman and his wife.

Even though Naaman was an important, wealthy man and a friend of the king, there was nothing he could do about his leprosy. What a terrible problem! It had darkened his life.

CTU

Did you know that you and I have a terrible problem which is even worse than leprosy?

Pause to see if a child might have an answer.

How do you know you have a problem worse than leprosy? Think of all the wrong things you do. In the Bible this is called sin and the dark colour can remind us of this problem because sin has darkened our lives.

Show dark page in the Wordless Book (or dark coloured paper).

Each person born into this world has sin on the inside - except the Lord Jesus. You and I were born wanting to do things our own way instead of God's way. The Bible says, "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23). What are some things you do your own way instead of God's way?

Let children give examples.

Sin is serious because it separates us from God, Who is holy and always does what is right. God cannot be near sin and sin cannot be in Heaven because that would make Heaven as terrible a place as the world is. It is important to have your sin cleansed away - taken away - because sin is a terrible problem. It's even worse than leprosy!

Let children verbalise their understanding of sin. Be prepared with other examples of sin as well if the children fail to know or give wrong answers.

Naaman had the terrible problem of leprosy. Even though he was an important, wealthy man, there was nothing he could do about his disease.

Naaman continued to serve as General of the Syrian army. His country had gone to war with the smaller country of Israel. His army invaded Israel, capturing some of the people to become servants in the homes of wealthy, important Syrians.

Add servant girl (ES-27).

One of the captives brought from Israel was a young girl. The Bible doesn't tell us her name. Perhaps she had been playing near her house or doing her chores when a Syrian chariot rumbled down her street and a stern-looking soldier caught her and took her away. It must have been very scary! Can you guess whose house in Syria the young girl was taken to? Yes, she was taken to Naaman's house to be a servant for Naaman's wife. Perhaps she swept the floor, cooked the meals or washed the clothes to help Naaman's wife.

Soon after arriving, the young girl realised there was a big problem in this home. Perhaps she noticed how sad Naaman and his wife were. It could be that she heard some of the other servants talking about Naaman's terrible disease.

Remove Naaman (ES-25) and his wife (ES-26).

The young girl was very concerned for Naaman. She may have prayed for him. God reminded her of someone in Israel who could help Naaman. She had often heard about the prophet Elisha. She knew that he served the true and living God and that God had done amazing things through him. She had probably heard how Elisha had parted the Jordan River and crossed on dry ground; how he had healed the waters of Jericho; and how God had even given him power to raise a young boy back to life! Surely God could use Elisha to cure Naaman! The girl went to tell Naaman's wife right away.

Add Naaman's wife (ES-26).

The young girl bravely spoke to Naaman's wife, saying, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy" (2 Kings 5:3).

In telling Naaman's wife about her God and His prophet, this young girl was being a witness. She was telling what she knew to someone who needed to hear.

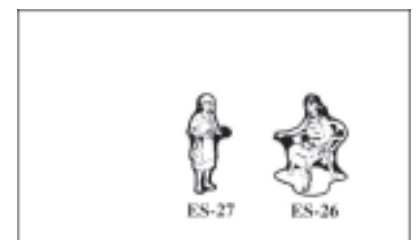
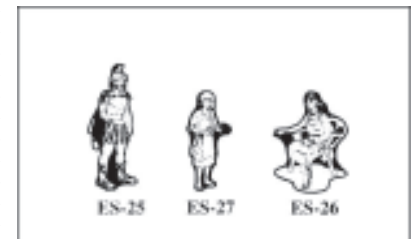
Isn't it wonderful that God planned for this girl to be a servant in Naaman's home where she could tell about God's prophet? God really loved and cared about Naaman.

God really loves and cares about your friends who have not heard about Jesus. If you have already believed in the Lord Jesus and have had your sins forgiven, there is something God wants you to do for

Although leprosy was a despised disease in Syria, infected people were not required to be isolated from others as they were in Israel.

God had given Israel's enemy Syria victory over them because Israel had turned away from God to idols.

Flashcard 4-2



Flashcard 4-3

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

Let children locate Samaria on a map.

CTS

Him. He wants you to be a witness for Him just like the little girl was. Being a witness for Jesus means to tell someone about Him.

One way of being a witness is to tell what you know about God to someone who needs to hear. You can share how others can believe on Jesus as their Saviour - just like you did! The Bible says, "You are My witnesses" (Isaiah 43:10). God has chosen you to serve Him by being a witness.

Perhaps you don't know how to share about Jesus. You could ask God to give you courage to invite someone else to hear about Him in our Good News Club or in church. This is another way of being a witness. Maybe you can think of a family member or a friend you could invite this week.

CTU

Just as this little girl told how Naaman could be cleansed from his leprosy, I am here today to tell you about the only One who can take away your sin. It is God and He loves you very much. He sees that you have sin in your life that needs to be cleansed away so that you don't have to be separated from Him. He wants you to go to Heaven when you die. Heaven is the wonderful place where God lives and where everything is perfect and good. The street in Heaven is even made of gold and therefore this page can remind us about Heaven and about God

Show gold page of the Wordless Book (or gold paper).

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). God loves you so much and He wants you to believe in His Son Jesus Christ and have your sins cleansed away - forgiven - so you can go to Heaven when you die. This is very good news for you!

The young girl also had good news when she told Naaman's wife how Naaman could be cleansed of his leprosy.

I am sure that Naaman's wife must have been very, very excited and she must have quickly shared the good news with Naaman.

Remove all figures.

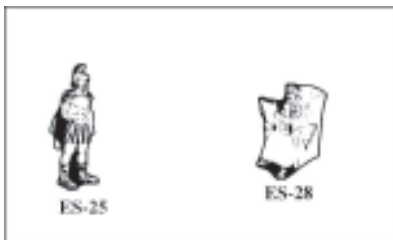
Naaman eagerly told his king the good news.

"You must go to Israel immediately!" the king replied. "I will write a letter to the king of Israel for you to take along."

Naaman took the letter, some servants and many rich gifts and he started off in his chariot for Samaria, where Israel's king lived. The journey no doubt took several days.

Place Naaman (ES-25), and king (ES-28).

Arriving at the palace, Naaman stood before the king of Israel and presented the letter. As the king of Israel read the letter, from the king of Syria, his eyes must have opened wide in surprise. The letter said, "I have sent my servant Naaman to you, that you should heal



Flashcard 4-4

Somehow the Israelite king, Joram, didn't think of the prophet Elisha when he read the letter from the Syrian king. As

him of his leprosy.” The king was shocked. “Do you think that I am God that I can make men well from disease?” the king asked. Perhaps his eyes narrowed as he thought, “The king of Syria must be trying to start another war with us. That’s what this is all about!” The king tore his robes, which was a custom showing despair or sadness.

During all this confusion, Elisha somehow heard about Naaman. He sent a message to the king saying, “Let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel” (2 Kings 5:8).

The king must have been relieved to get Elisha’s message! He sent Naaman to Elisha’s house.

Remove all figures. Place Naaman and servant (ES-29).

Naaman’s fine horses quickly pulled his beautiful chariot along until it rumbled to a stop at the door of the prophet’s house. Naaman, probably dressed in his army uniform, stepped out and walked to Elisha’s door. His servants followed, carrying the gifts of gold, silver and beautiful garments sent by the king of Syria. Naaman expected the prophet Elisha to come out, eager to take care of his important visitor.

Replace Naaman and servant (ES-29) with figure ES-25. Add Gehazi (ES-18).

But Elisha didn’t come out. Instead, a servant (perhaps it was Gehazi) came with a message for Naaman from Elisha. He said, “Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. If you do this, you will be made clean from your leprosy” (see 2 Kings 5:10).

Remove Gehazi (ES-18).

Naaman was offended! Perhaps he paced back and forth as he shouted angrily to the servants standing silently around him. “I thought Elisha would surely come out and call on the name of his God and wave his hand over me and heal me of this disease. Wash in the dirty Jordan River? The rivers back in Syria are far better than this Jordan!” Naaman was furious. He didn’t want to listen to the advice of Elisha.

Perhaps your friends and family are not interested when you tell them about God or invite them to hear about Him. What could you do then?

Let children share.

There are two important things you can do - pray for them and also ask Jesus to help you be a good example when you are together with them. Many children and adults have seen how prayer and a good example has made someone interested in hearing about God. You can be a witness when you are living as Jesus wants you to be. You can show others that God loves them - even when they don’t want to listen to you.

Naaman didn’t want to listen to Elisha’s servant. He turned away in rage. Why was Naaman so angry? Besides being offended that Elisha

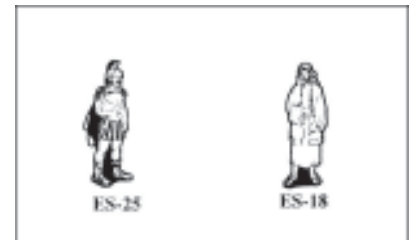
the son of Ahab, this king was also ungodly and frequently opposed by Elisha. Temporarily at peace with Syria, the Israelite king thought this was a plot to stir up another war.

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.



Young children like to handle beautiful garments and objects of gold and silver. Place objects in a paper bag and pull out one at a time.

Flashcard 4-5



Instruct a child before class to give Gehazi’s instruction, “Go wash ... seven times.”

CTS

didn't come personally to see him, he was also angry because he didn't want to do what Elisha's servant said he must do. He wanted to be healed his own way. But there was only one way for Naaman to be healed or cleansed from leprosy, and that was God's way.

CTU

God has only one way for you to be cleaned from your sin, and that is through His Son, the Lord Jesus. He is God's perfect Son. Sometimes people think that if they go to church that will clean them or if they just do a lot of good things that will clean them. But that is not true. There is only one way for us to be cleaned from our sin. God's way was for the Lord Jesus to take the punishment for your sin when He died on the cross. His blood ran down and therefore this page can help us to remember that Jesus died for us.

Show red page of the Wordless Book (or red paper).

As Jesus hung on the cross, God placed all the wrong things you and I have done on the Lord Jesus. Jesus willingly suffered the punishment for sin so you wouldn't have to. He gave His blood so your sins could be forgiven - so you could be made clean. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). This is what this page should remind us about.

Show white page of the Wordless Book (or white paper).

After Jesus died He was buried, then three days later He came back to life. Today He is in Heaven with His Father. Now He wants to come and forgive your sin and live in you. You need to turn from your sin and ask Him to take away all the wrong things that you have done and make you cleaner than the white page and right as God sees you. Tell Jesus that you believe that He alone can clean you and forgive your sin. Ask Him to do that, and to change you. Then you can live to serve Him.

If you don't know how to ask the Lord Jesus to take away your sin, then I will be glad to help you. You can come and talk to me after the lesson. I will be standing here by the flannelboard. The Lord Jesus is the only One Who can help you to be cleaned from your sin.

There was only one way for Naaman to be cleaned from his leprosy, and that was God's way. But he wanted to be healed his own way. Naaman's servants tried to convince him to change his mind. "General Naaman," they said, "if the prophet had told you to do something great, wouldn't you have done it? Why don't you do this small thing?"

Replace Namaan (ES-25) with figure ES-29.

Naaman did want very much to be healed, and there didn't seem to be any other way. Perhaps looking down at the sores on his arms, Naaman decided to believe Elisha's God and do it His way. He and his servants got back into the chariots and hurried toward the Jordan River.

Remove Namaan and servant (ES-29).



Flashcard 4-4 again

Let children locate the River Jordan on a map.

At the river, Naaman got out of the chariot and probably took off his outer robe. Leaving his servants at the river's edge, Naaman waded out into the water. He dipped himself in the water, perhaps feeling a bit foolish, yet at the same time hopeful. He dipped once ... twice ... three times. Perhaps he checked his body, watching for any sign of healing. He dipped again, four times ... five times ... six times. Still there didn't seem to be any change.

"Maybe the prophet was wrong - but he did say seven times," Naaman may have thought.

Place Naaman (ES-30).

Naaman's servants must have held their breath as they watched their master dip into the river the seventh time. Only the sound of dripping water could be heard as Naaman came up out of the river. He looked down at his skin. What had happened? The Bible says, "his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child" (2 Kings 5:14). Yes! The ugly sores were gone! His skin was clean and smooth. Naaman's servants must have cheered!

God had cleansed Naaman from his leprosy!

Naaman was thrilled! He knew it wasn't the muddy waters of the river that had cured him. The God of Elisha had healed him because he had done what the prophet told him to do.

Replace Naaman (ES-30) with figure ES-29.

Jumping back into his chariot, Naaman and his servants must have joyfully raced back to Elisha's house.

Replace Naaman and servant (ES-29) with figure ES-25. Add Elisha (ES-1).

This time Elisha came out to meet him. Naaman proclaimed to the man of God, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:15b). Naaman had seen the power of the true and living God. He saw how God is faithful to keep His word. Naaman would return to Syria, no longer worshipping the false gods but the one true and living God.

Naaman offered Elisha the gifts he brought, but Elisha refused them. He wanted God to have all of the credit for healing Naaman. Naaman had been made clean because he did what God told him to do.

Remove all figures.

If you have already been cleansed from your sin will you be a witness for God this week? Your friends and family need to know how they can believe and have everlasting life. God says you are His witness to tell others about Him. Will you ask the Lord to help you tell a friend this week about how he can be cleansed from his sin?

You can be made clean from your sin by doing what God says. One place that the Bible tells you how, is in our memory verse.

Use your voice to build suspense.

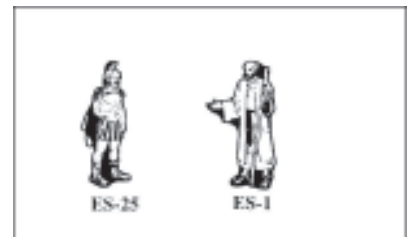
Young children will enjoy counting with you.



Read the verse from your Bible.

State climax triumphantly!

Flashcard 4-6



CTS

CTU

Quote John 3:16 together.

You must believe in Jesus, God's Son. Will you tell Him that you are sorry for your sins and ask Him to make you clean and help you to live a new life for Him? Will you tell Him that you believe He is the Son of God? Remember, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Review game

Wordless Book concentration

Place little cards in review game folder in the four colours used in the text (gold, black, red and white).

Place two of each card and insert the numbered flaps so the cards are fully covered.

Play this game just like "oil jar concentration" used in lesson 2 (see page 22).

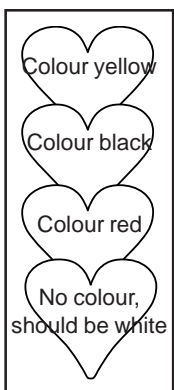
Review questions

- 1 What problem did Naaman have? (The disease of leprosy.)
- 2 What problem do all people have still today? (The problem of sin.)
- 3 How did the Israelite girl end up at Naaman's house? (She was captured by the Syrians and taken to Naaman's house to be a servant to his wife.)
- 4 What did the servant girl do to help Naaman? (She told Naaman's wife about Elisha, a prophet of God, who could help Naaman.)
- 5 What good news could you share with someone this week? (Tell about Jesus and the way to have everlasting life.)
- 6 What is it called when you tell someone about Jesus? (Witnessing.)
- 7 What can you do if you are scared about witnessing? (Pray.)
- 8 There are two important ways to witness. One is by what we say. What is the other way? (By how we behave.)
- 9 Why was Naaman angry when Elisha's servant told him to dip in the Jordan River seven times? (He wanted to be healed in his own way and expected Elisha to come out and do some great things for him because he was an important person.)
- 10 Why do you think Naaman was made well by dipping seven times in the Jordan River? (Because he did what God told him to do.)
- 11 After Naaman was made well, what did he say about God? ("I know that there is no other God in all the earth.")
- 12 Why do you think it was so important that the servant girl told Naaman and his wife about the man of God in her country? (Perhaps she was the only one who knew God and could share this news.)

Carry-over activity

Photocopy the bookmark on page 65. Hand out one of these to each child. Tell the children to colour each heart in one of the four colours from the Wordless book. Ask the children what each colour means and help them to write this on the back of the bookmarks as shown on the example.

Tell the children that this is a way for them to remember what Jesus has done for them but this could also be a way for them to tell others about His love.



God lives in Heaven and loves everyone.

God doesn't like the wrong things we do.

Jesus, God's Son, can forgive all the wrong things we have

done, so that we can be clean in God's eyes.

Lesson 5

Elisha trusts in God for His protection

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 6:8-23

Central truth

God has the power to protect His children in every situation

Application

Unsaved: God will protect you if you become His child

Saved: Trust God to protect you

Memory verse

Review John 3:16

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

- ◆ Figures ES-1, ES-31, ES-32, ES-33, ES-34, ES-35, ES-36, ES-37, ES-38 and ES-40

And

- ◆ A teaching card with the central truth in big letters (may be made on the outline of a protecting hand to reinforce the teaching)



- ◆ A map of Israel

Lesson outline

Introduction

The dreaded Syrian army is closing in!

Progression of events

- 1 The Syrian king makes war with the Israelites
- 2 He tells his servants where his camp will be **CTS**
- 3 Several times Elisha warns the king of Israel of the Syrian plans **CTS**
- 4 The Syrian king believes someone in his camp is reporting to the Israelites
- 5 A servant tells the king it is Elisha **CTU**
- 6 Horses and chariots are sent to Dothan to capture Elisha
- 7 Elisha assures his nervous servant there are more with them than with the Syrians
- 8 Elisha prays for God to open his servant's eyes **CTS**
- 9 Elisha prays that God will blind the eyes of the Syrian soldiers
- 10 Elisha leads the enemy army into Samaria
- 11 The king of Israel prepares a feast for the Syrians, then sends them on their way

Climax

God protects His people - the war is over!

Conclusion

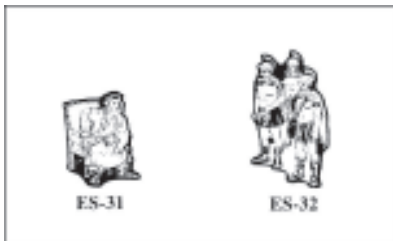
God's people are protected from the enemy by God's power and faithfulness **CTS, CTU**

Capture attention by speaking with excitement and anticipation!

Let children locate Syria on a map. Point out the distance between Syria and Israel's capital city of Samaria.

(At this time, Jerusalem was not the capital of the whole country, as Judah and Israel were two separate countries and Jerusalem was a part of Judah.)

Flashcard 5-1



CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.



Flashcard 5-2

Let the children locate Dothan on a map. It was situated about 20 km north of Samaria and was a temporary residence of Elisha.

Lesson

The dreaded army from Syria was closing in! Perhaps Elisha's servant could see the sun reflecting off their sharp swords and spears. His heart was filled with fear. The servant could hardly believe what he saw next! He would never forget this day - or that sight - for the rest of his life!

How did Elisha and his servant come to be surrounded by their enemy? What was the amazing sight the servant saw? The story begins in Syria.

The Syrians had long been enemies of God's people, the Israelites, and the two countries had been fighting off and on for many years. The Syrian army had invaded Israel a number of times, taking control of more and more of Israel's land.

Place Syrian king (ES31) and officers (ES-32).

Now the king of Syria had a new plan. He wanted to set up a secret camp near Israel's border so he could make a surprise attack.

The Syrian king gathered his officers to discuss his secret plan. He told them where he wanted the army to camp. He probably said, with a glint in his eyes, "How surprised Israel's army will be when they come by that secret place and our armies suddenly appear and attack!"

Remove all figures.

The Syrian army waited in their secret location to make their surprise attack on Israel.

Would anybody have the power to protect Israel?

Yes, Someone had the power to protect Israel and Someone has the power to protect you. Do you know Who I am talking about?

Allow children to respond.

I am talking about the only true and living God. In the Bible we can read that God has the power to protect His children. If you believe in God and have asked His Son Jesus to be your Saviour, you are His child and so you can trust Him for protection whenever you need it.

The people in Israel needed protection because they had an enemy whose plan was to defeat them. Would it succeed?

The Syrian army waited in their secret location to spring their ambush.

Place Elisha (ES-33).

While the Syrian king was busy making his secret plans, our all-knowing God was busy telling those plans to His prophet Elisha, who was staying in Dothan, not far from the palace in Samaria! God somehow let Elisha know where the enemy was waiting.

Point to Elisha (ES-33).

Elisha sent word immediately to the king of Israel warning him not to take his army near the place where the Syrians were waiting to attack.

Israel's king sent one of his soldiers to spy out the location to see if it was true. When the soldier returned, he told the king of Israel that the Syrians were indeed camped there, just as Elisha had said.

When Israel's army failed to come by the place where the enemy troops were camped, the king of Syria moved his army to a different place. But God told Elisha about the new plan, and he again warned the king of Israel.

The king of Syria continued moving his army to new places, and each time God told Elisha, and Elisha warned the king.

God wanted to protect His people against their enemy who wanted to defeat them. Only God has this kind of power.

There is another enemy who has a plan to defeat God's children. If you have asked the Lord Jesus to save you and make you a child of God, the enemy's plan is to defeat you. His name is Satan or the devil and he hates God. He is an evil angel who works against God's plans. He wants to defeat you by keeping you from living for the Lord. But if Jesus is your Saviour, trust God Who has the power to protect you.

What wrong things would Satan tempt you to do?

Let children answer.

What good and important things does the devil want to stop you doing?

Let children answer and add other examples of Satan's attacks to their answers. Use the following explanation.

One way Satan tries to defeat you is through your own desires to do wrong. Even though the Lord Jesus lives in you, Satan will still tempt you to disobey God, and you may sometimes give in to his temptations. Maybe you get angry with your little brother in a wrong way or maybe you cheat with your schoolwork. In getting you to sin, Satan is trying to spoil your friendship with God.

Satan also tries to defeat you by putting doubts in your mind that you are truly God's child, by distracting you from reading God's Word and talking to Him in prayer, or by discouraging you and making you think you can't get the victory over your sinful thoughts and actions.

Sometimes hard things like accidents or diseases may come into your life. Or maybe there are people who try to hurt you physically, like some children in school or maybe even an adult who wants to harm you in some way. These things do happen because we live in an evil world. However, Satan can use these situations to defeat you by causing you to be afraid and forget about God.

CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.

Try to make this application very practical by discussing areas where the saved children you teach struggle with defeat in their Christian lives.

Satan is a powerful enemy. His attacks are so strong it is impossible for you to defeat him on your own. But you are not alone if you have the Lord Jesus, God's Son, living in you. The Bible says, "He [God] who is in you is greater than he [Satan] who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). As God's child, trust God, Who has the power to protect you. Satan's plan to defeat you does not have to succeed! God has the power to protect you.

God also had the power to protect His people in Israel.

Remove Elisha (ES-33).

Can you imagine how these failures to defeat the Israelites frustrated the Syrian king? He couldn't understand how Israel always found out about his secret plans and ruined his surprise attacks. He could only come to one conclusion - there must be a traitor in his army! Someone was telling his secrets to Israel!

Place Syrian king (ES-31) and officers (ES-32).

The Syrian king gathered his officers. Let's listen to what he said to them. His words are here in the Bible.

"Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" he said (2 Kings 6:11). In other words he said, "I want to know who is the traitor amongst us!" The king didn't realise that God was helping Elisha and the people of Israel against their enemy.

CTU

You have an enemy too who wants to destroy you! That is Satan, or the devil. If you have never turned away from your sin and asked the Lord Jesus to forgive you and change you, Satan is the enemy who wants to keep you from doing that. He wants you to keep on doing wrong. He is the enemy who wants to keep you travelling on along your own sinful pathway, going further and further away from God. But that is very dangerous. If you go on in your sin, when your life here on earth ends, you will be shut out of God's presence forever. He is so pure and holy that He cannot tolerate the way you disobey Him, by telling lies, losing your temper, saying bad words, disobeying your parents and other wrong things that you do. God wants you to believe in Him so that you can get to Heaven when you die. Believing in Him means trusting in Him. Remember our memory verse from John 3:16, "... that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." The way to believe in Jesus is to trust in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and make you one of God's children. God can deliver you, just as He was doing long ago for the people of Israel.

The Syrian king didn't realise that God was helping Elisha and the people of Israel. He accused his men of being traitors.

Finally, one of his men spoke up. "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom" (2 Kings 6:12).



Flashcard 5-1 again

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

Read the verse aloud from the Bible, or have an older child read it.

The king of Syria was very angry. How dare this prophet destroy his army's plans! "Find out where Elisha lives so I may send troops to get him!" the king commanded. He probably thought that Elisha had some kind of magical powers and if he arrested or killed him that would be the end of his problem. He didn't know that Elisha was the servant of the one and only true God, Whose power revealed the king's secrets to Elisha.

Remove all figures.

When the king learned that Elisha was living in Dothan, he ordered a large group of soldiers with horses and chariots to surround the city. "This prophet will not escape my army", the king must have thought. "I'll put an end to his interfering once and for all!"

Place Syrian army (ES-34) and chariots (ES-35).

The Syrian army arrived at Dothan that evening. They took their positions on the hillsides, completely surrounding the city, and waited for morning to come.

Add servant (ES-36).

Early in the morning Elisha's servant woke up and went outside. Perhaps as he yawned and stretched, something caught his eye - maybe a flash of light from the hillside. He looked, and to his horror, saw chariots and soldiers in gleaming armour. Syrian soldiers! Looking to the right he saw more, and to the left more still! Turning around, the servant could see they were completely surrounded!

His heart must have pounded as he realised Dothan was about to be attacked! He rushed to tell Elisha. "Oh, master!" he cried. "What shall we do?"

Add Elisha (ES-1).

Elisha was calm. "Do not fear," he said, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16).

The servant must have been puzzled. "How can he be so calm when the enemy is about to attack? What does he mean 'those who are with us'? We don't have an army here to fight for us! There is no one here to defend us!" Many anxious thoughts must have rushed through the servant's troubled mind. Elisha could see that his servant didn't understand. Elisha wasn't trusting in his own strength or Israel's army to defend them against the enemy's attack - he was trusting God for protection.

God's protection was very real, so he prayed, "Lord, open his eyes so he can see." Then the Bible says that God opened the young man's eyes, and he saw with amazement what Elisha was talking about. Can you imagine what he saw? What do you think? Let's find the answer in our Bible passage.

Perhaps this man had been a spy in Israel and learned there how God had displayed His power through Elisha.

The Syrian king must have sent such a large number of soldiers to Dothan because he feared Elisha would be guarded or that the people would try to defend their prophet.

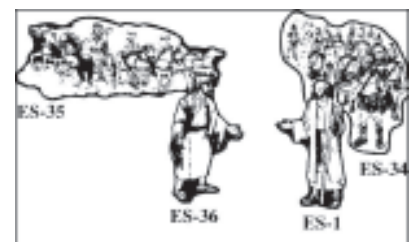
Flashcard 5-3



The servant may have been one of the sons of the prophets whom Elisha was training.

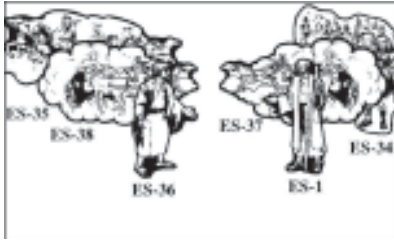
Flashcard 5-4

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.



Read the verse from the Bible.

Flashcard 5-5



CTS

Show teaching card with central truth.

Help children understand that God's promised protection doesn't mean we'll never have hard times. Present a balanced view of this truth.

“The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17b).

Add angels with chariots and horses (ES-37 and ES-38).

On the mountains surrounding them were shining horses and chariots - not the Syrian army, but God's army! These were horses and chariots of fire! God had set a heavenly guard around Elisha and his servant, ready to do battle to protect them! Do you think the servant was still afraid? I don't think so! Now he knew he could trust God's protection.

When your enemy Satan attacks, you cannot trust in your own strength or in others for protection. If you are a child of God, trust Him, Who has the power to protect you. God is always with you. There is never a time when you are alone against your enemy. God is all-powerful! He is stronger than Satan. God can protect you from people or situations that would harm you. He can also protect you from giving in to your own sinful desires and from doubts, fears and discouragement that Satan would like to use to defeat you. Stay close to God so that He can help you. Pray and read your Bible because prayer and Bible reading are powerful weapons against the enemy.

God even provides special protection for His children through His angels. God's angels are spirit beings - messengers - created to serve Him. He assigns His angels to take care of His children, especially in times of need. You can't see angels just like the servant couldn't see God's great army, but they are always there watching over you. In the Bible we can read that, “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7).

When Satan tries to defeat you, remember that God has everything under control. Trust Him to help you, and say no to Satan. That doesn't mean bad things will never happen. Sometimes God allows hard things to happen but God also promises to use even these situations for your good. Do you remember we learned that in the story of the little boy who died but whom God brought back to life? God's Holy Spirit will help you stay calm inside, even as you go through hard situations. You may not understand why this is happening, or how you can stand against the enemy's attack, but you can still trust God, Who has the power to protect you.

God also had the power to protect Elisha.

The Syrian army approached and Elisha prayed again, asking God to strike them with blindness.

Elisha said to them, “Follow me and I will take you to the man you are looking for.”

Remove all figures.

The army blindly followed Elisha for twenty kilometres - right to the capital city of Samaria!

Place Elisha (ES-1) and Syrian soldiers (ES-34).

Once inside the city, Elisha prayed again, and God took away the blindness. The Syrians realised where they were - in the heart of their enemy's territory!

Add king of Israel (ES-40).

When the king of Israel saw that Elisha had brought the Syrian army to him, he was overcome with excitement at his good fortune. "Shall I kill them, shall I kill them?" he asked Elisha.

"No!" Elisha replied. He wanted the soldiers left alive so that they could tell what Israel's God had done. Elisha instructed the king to feed the captives and let them go. The king prepared a great feast, and after the captives ate and drank their fill, he released them to return to Syria.

Remove all figures.

The Syrian soldiers must have told their king of all the strange things that had happened. The king saw that they could not win against Israel's God, and his army stopped invading Israel.

God had protected His people - the war was over!

God's people had been protected from the enemy, not by their own strength or skill but by God's power and faithfulness.

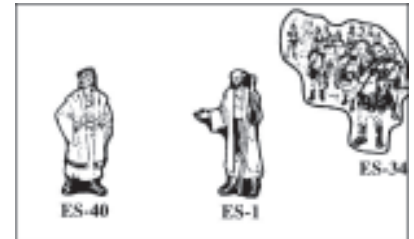
If you are a child of God, will you trust God, who has the power to protect you? Perhaps even this week you will find yourself under attack from your enemy Satan. Maybe it will be through people or situations that would harm you, or maybe through doubts, fears or discouragement when you have done something wrong. Remember that God is always with you and He has everything under control. Trust Him to help you and say no to Satan. This week watch for ways God is protecting you. I have a paper for you that says, "This week God protected me by ____." Fill in the blank with some way that you notice God is protecting you. The papers are on the chair by the door. You can pick one up as you leave if you would like to do this. Next week we can share together how God has protected us.

But maybe you are not yet a child of God. Then you can trust in the Lord Jesus today. Are you prepared to turn away from your sins? Will you trust in Jesus Who died for you, Who took your punishment for sin, and arose again? If you do so, God will forgive your sins and give you everlasting life. That's the kind of life you need to live in Heaven. He will never leave you, He will begin to change your life step by step and He will be with you always and protect you, too.

Review questions

- 1 How did the king of Syria plan to attack the Israelites? (To set up a secret camp near Israel's border.)

Flashcard 5-6



CTS

CTU

Review game

Paper clip zonk

Place about 20 coloured paper clips (or slips of

paper) in a little paper bag. Put only three green paper clips (or slips of paper) in the bag. These three represent the “zonk” clips.

Divide the class into two teams and ask the first team a question.

The first person to raise his hand and correctly answer the question gets to choose paper clips from the bag. He cannot look into the bag to see which paper clip he is selecting.

Each clip (if it isn't a green “zonk” clip) is worth 500 points! The team member can draw as many or as few paper clips as he and the team wants, choosing to stop any time. When the team decides to stop, add up the points then put the clips back in the bag.

However, if the team member draws a green “zonk” clip, he has to put all the clips back in the bag and scores no points for that round.

Take turns asking questions between the two teams. The team with the most points after all the questions have been asked wins.

- 2 Who is the enemy of God’s people today? (Satan.)
- 3 What wrong things does Satan tempt Christian children to do? (Tempt him for example to get angry or cheat or maybe cause him to doubt.)
- 4 What good and important things does the devil want to keep God’s children from doing? (Keep them from reading the Bible, from praying, from obeying, from helping others, etc.)
- 5 What did the king of Syria do each time the Israelites found their secret location? (They found a new hiding place and moved there.)
- 6 What did the Syrian king plan to do to Elisha? (Attack the city where Elisha was staying and capture Elisha.)
- 7 When Satan tries to defeat you, what can you do? (Trust God, remember God has everything under control and say no to Satan.)
- 8 Why was Elisha so calm and his servant so frightened when the enemy surrounded them? (Elisha could see God’s heavenly army but the servant couldn’t.)
- 9 Who are the unseen soldiers that God commands to protect you? (His angels.)
- 10 Why are Christians often afraid when Satan attacks and problems come their way? (They don’t remember that God is all-powerful and in control and so don’t trust Him for help.)
- 11 Where did Elisha lead the Syrian army? (Right into the city of Samaria.)
- 12 What does God want you to learn about Himself from this story? (God is all-powerful and can protect in every situation.)

Carry-over activity 1

Have papers ready for the children by the door with the sentence “This week God protected me by ____.”

Remember to tell children that if they want to fill out the blank parts during the week and bring the papers back to club next week, then you will have a time of sharing.

Carry-over activity 2

Have the children form a circle and have a volunteer blindfolded. Put all kinds of obstacles in the circle. Spread them out leaving a path to walk through. Tell the blindfolded child you will guide him through the path by speaking quietly to him. He must do exactly what you say and trust you to get him safely to the end without bumping into obstacles. Encourage the other children to loudly call any kind of directions they choose, good or bad. If the child trusts you he will make it.

After the activity discuss how we must learn to hear God's voice through His Word, trust what He says and not listen to other advice which may not be correct.

Lesson 6

Believe the good news

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 6:24 - 7:16

Central truth

God has good news for those in need

Application

Unsaved: Believe the good news about Jesus Christ and be saved today

Saved: Tell the good news about Jesus Christ to those who need to hear

Alternative application

Saved: Teach about the physical needs of millions of children and adults throughout the world - people who are short of food, water and a proper home. Challenge them to be sensitive, to want to pray and give to help when there are special appeals in their school or the streets or in their church and Sunday school.

Memory verse

Review John 3:16

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6

Or

◆ Figures ES-1, ES-4, ES-34, ES-35, ES-39, ES-40, ES-41, ES-42, ES-43, ES-44, ES-45 and ES-46

And

◆ A teaching card with the central truth in big letters (may be made in A4 size)

◆ Map of Israel

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Oh, I’m so hungry!”

Progression of events

- 1 The Syrians attack Samaria, creating a famine and causing prices to rise
- 2 The king blames Elisha and threatens his life **CTS**
- 3 Elisha prophesies the famine will end the next day **CTU**
- 4 Four starving lepers decide to surrender to the Syrian army
- 5 God causes the Syrians to flee, thinking they are under attack
- 6 The lepers eat and take away goods **CTU**
- 7 The lepers feel guilty and decide to share the good news about the food **CTS**
- 8 The king sends spies into the Syrian camp **CTU, CTS**

Climax

- 9 The hungry people rush to the empty camp to eat
- 10 God has miraculously rescued the people from death

Conclusion

Elisha’s prophecy has come true

Elisha lives the rest of his life obeying God **CTS, CTU**

It might be effective to have a child prepared ahead of time to make the opening statement, groaning in hunger as a Samaritan might have done.

Ask children who were present for the previous lesson to briefly share the key events showing God's protection.

Ask a child to find Samaria on a map.

Flashcard 5-3

Since Samaria was located on a hill, it was not difficult for the enemy to cut off the people from all outside help.



Flashcard 6-1

Older children might enjoy the more detailed description given in 2 Kings 6:25. A donkey's head was the least desirable food. One shekel was equal to about four days' wages, so eighty shekels was quite an inflated price. A kab equalled one pint. Dove droppings referred to seedpods often used as animal food. These food items were all considered

Flashcard 6-2

"unclean" to the Jews, but these were desperate times.

CTS

You might not want to go into the effects of the famine as noted in 2 Kings 6:28-29. Cannibalism was not

Lesson

"Oh, I'm so hungry!" Those are words you might have heard in the city of Samaria.

God had done miraculous things to protect Israel from their enemy Syria.

Briefly review events from previous lesson.

After the Syrian soldiers were released unharmed from Samaria, they told their king all that had happened. Syria stopped invading the country, and God gave Israel a time of peace. Wouldn't you think that the people, after seeing all that God had done for them, would turn back and truly worship Him as their powerful and faithful God? Apparently they didn't. Maybe that's why God allowed an even more terrible situation - one that caused the people's stomachs to rumble!

Place Syrian army (ES-34) and chariots (ES-35).

This time when the Syrian army attacked Israel they surrounded the capital city of Samaria and cut off their food and water supply.

Add hungry people (ES-39).

People soon began to starve. The little food that was left was mostly animal food. Even that became very expensive, as people grew desperate for something to eat. Men, women and children, rich and poor, were dying because they had nothing to eat. The whole city was about to die from starvation and they needed to be rescued.

Remove all figures. Place king of Israel (ES-40).

The king of Israel was frustrated. When a woman in the city called to him for help he replied, "If the Lord doesn't help you, how can I?" The king was sad to see the suffering of the people, yet he refused to turn to God for help. He was angry with God, and he blamed God's servant Elisha for the famine.

Instead of going to Elisha and asking him to talk to God about the situation, the king decided to stay on his own wrong way. He decided to kill Elisha that very day!

Remove king of Israel (ES-40). Place Elisha (ES-1) and city leaders (ES-4).

Elisha was in his house in Samaria, talking with the city leaders. While they were talking, Elisha received a warning from God that the king was sending someone to kill him! Elisha told the city leaders to bar the door of the house against the man that the king had sent to kill him. Elisha knew the king was also coming. Elisha had a message to deliver to him. He had some good news to share with him.

Good news is worth sharing, isn't it? If you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour then you also have some good news to share with others. God wants you to share about Him with your friends and family who have not yet heard about Him. Your friends and family need to hear the good news about God.

The king also needed to hear the good news that Elisha had to share with him.

Add king (ES-40).

When the king arrived, Elisha must have told him not to surrender to the enemy but to wait because God would rescue them. The king asked Elisha, "Why should I wait any longer for God to act?" The king didn't believe Elisha. He was convinced that God would not help them.

Elisha then told God's message to the king and the city leaders. Let's read from the Bible what he said.

"Hear the word of the Lord ... "Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria" (2 Kings 7:1).

God said that the famine was about to end. There would be lots of food for everyone, and the price of food would return to normal. "And," Elisha said confidently, "all of this will happen by tomorrow!" Even though they didn't deserve it, God still loved the people, and He wanted to rescue them from this danger.

God also wants to rescue you - or save you - from the sin in your life. Sin is when you want your own way instead of God's way. It is breaking God's laws. When you cheat in a test at school, when you selfishly insist on your own way or think hateful thoughts about someone else, you are sinning. Only God can rescue you from sin and this is really good news! He wants to rescue you because He loves you. Our memory verse from the Bible says, "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). It's amazing to think that God, Who is holy - perfect and pure from all sin - loves you in spite of your sin. You don't deserve God's love, but He gives it freely to you and wants you to live forever with Him and to go to Heaven someday. This is truly good news and you can believe it for yourself. God wants to rescue you from sin because He loves you.

God still loved the people of Samaria, even though they didn't deserve it. He wanted to rescue them from danger.

Remove all figures. Place lepers (ES-41).

Outside the city gate, there were four men with a tremendous problem. They had the disease of leprosy. Leprosy is a serious skin disease that had no cure in those days. Israel's law said that people with leprosy had to be by themselves. Can you think of anyone else we have heard about who had leprosy?

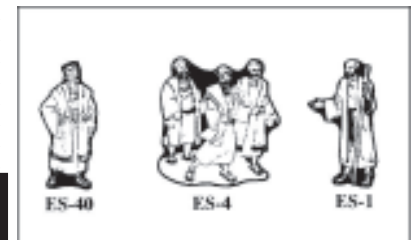
Let children give the answer "Naaman".

These four men probably relied on kind people to bring them food, but now there was no food. These poor, sick men were starving to death.

uncommon in times of famine.

The king may have thought Elisha had somehow brought about the Syrian invasion or that he hadn't interceded for the people enough. The king never seemed to consider that the attack might be God's discipline for his own sin and that of the people. He planned to have Elisha beheaded.

Read the verse from the Bible.

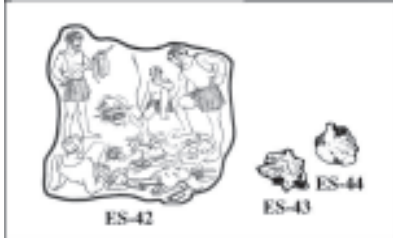


CTU



Flashcard 6-3

You might want to remind the children of the story of Naaman (taught in lesson 4) or to ask the children if they know how lepers had to live in those days.



Flashcard 6-4

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

They thought about the Syrian army camp nearby. They knew that the Syrians didn't require people with leprosy to be kept apart from others. "Maybe if we turn ourselves over to the enemy as prisoners, we'll at least get something to eat!" they thought. If they didn't eat, they would soon die of starvation, so it seemed worth the risk - even if the Syrians killed them. When evening came, the four men moved quietly toward the Syrian army camp.

Remove lepers (ES-41). Place soldiers (ES-42), goods (ES-43) and food (ES-44).

Inside the camp, the soldiers were probably cleaning their weapons and preparing to rest for the night. Suddenly they heard something. What was it? Let's read the answer from the Bible. "For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses - the noise of a great army" (2 Kings 7:6).

Yes, it was the sound of galloping horses and rolling chariots! The soldiers were terrified!

"What's happening?" they asked each other.

One of them warned, "The king of Israel must have convinced other kings to bring their armies here to attack us!"

Fearing for their lives, the Syrian soldiers ran away, leaving their tents, animals, clothes, silver, gold - and their food - behind.

Remove soldiers (ES-42).



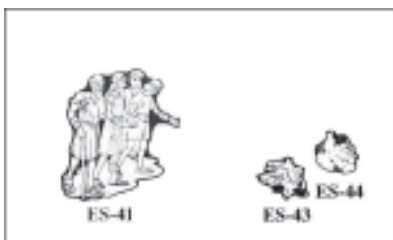
The Bible says there actually were no enemy armies coming to attack the Syrians. Did you notice when I read from the Bible who had caused the Syrians to hear the noise? Yes, it was God Who had caused the soldiers to hear the sound of an approaching army, just to scare them off! Can you remember what God did in the story last week to the Syrian army?

Let children answer.

Yes, He did something to their eyes and blinded them. In this story He did something to their ears.

Place lepers (ES-41).

Flashcard 6-3 again



The four starving men walked cautiously into the camp, expecting to be arrested or killed. To their surprise, no one was there! Everything was quiet. It must have been a strange sight - as if the soldiers were there one moment, then they just vanished. Weapons lay on the ground where they had fallen. Food and drink was left as if someone had hurried away from a meal, frightened.

When the men were sure they were alone, what do you think they did first?

Allow the children to respond.

Yes, they ate! How excited and thankful they must have been! What good news this was - God had made a way for them to be rescued from starving to death.

Did you know that God also has some good news for you? He has made a way for you to be rescued - or saved - from the sin in your life. He did it by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus, into the world to take the punishment for all the wrong things you have done. As Jesus suffered and died on the cross, God placed all of the sin of the whole world upon Him. After Jesus died He was buried, and then three days later He came alive again. Today He is still alive in Heaven. Remember our memory verse says, "Whoever believes [trusts] in Him [Jesus] should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). What good news this is! If you want to be saved, you can pray to Jesus and tell Him that you trust in Him. You can ask Him to take away the sin in your life. When you have asked the Lord Jesus to take away your sin, He will live in you and change your life step by step. He will give you the strength to live as God wants you to live. This is truly good news!

God also had some good news for the lepers. They would now be rescued from starving to death.

Place goods (ES-43) in men's hands.

After they ate, they gathered all the clothes, silver and gold they could carry and hid them outside the camp where they could collect them later. Returning to the camp, they gathered another load of goods to hide.

The men were glad to be rescued, but after a while they began to feel guilty. They thought of the people in the city - men, women and children who were starving to death, just like they had been. Maybe they also thought of their hungry families and friends. Let's read in the Bible what they said. "What we are doing is not right. This is a day of good news, and we are keeping it to ourselves! If we wait even until morning to tell the people in the city about this, we may be punished for keeping it a secret. Let's go right now and tell the good news!" (see 2 Kings 7:9). God had made a way for them to be rescued from the danger of death. Now they realised that the right thing was to share this good news with the people in the city who still needed to hear.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to tell others the good news too. God has forgiven you - He has rescued you from sin. How sad it would be for you to keep that good news to yourself! There are others who need to hear that they, too, can be saved from sin. Can you think of others who need to hear the good news about Jesus?

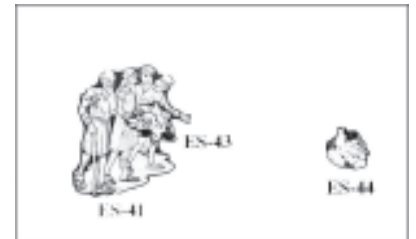
Let children respond.

Maybe you need to tell your parents or brothers or sisters. Or maybe you have other family members - like grandparents or cousins - who need to hear. What about your friends at school? They also need to know that they can be saved from their sins.

CTU

Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

Flashcard 6-5



Read the verse aloud from the Bible.

CTS

What is the good news you can tell them?

Let children share the Gospel in their own words.

You can share the good news of how the Lord Jesus, God the Son, came to earth to die for our sins on the cross, and how He rose again. You can share John 3:16, the verse we learned today, which explains the Gospel.

Quote the verse with the children.

Not everyone will believe the good news, but you still need to tell them. God has commanded His children to tell the good news to everyone. He says, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). You can tell the good news to those who need to hear!

The four men who found food knew they needed to tell the good news to the people in the city. They couldn't keep it to themselves!

Remove all figures. Place lepers (ES-45).

They hurried back to the city and called to the gatekeeper, telling about the food and supplies in the Syrian camp. Word of their discovery quickly spread around the city. God had made a way for the people of Samaria to also be rescued from the danger of death! Soon the good news travelled all the way to the palace.

Remove lepers (ES-45).

The king of Israel was awakened and told the good news, but he didn't believe it. He thought it was a trap set by the Syrians. "They're probably hiding in the field, waiting for us to come out of the city so that they can capture us!" the king cautioned. The king didn't believe right away. One of his officers advised him to send spies to the camp. He needed to hear the good news one more time to be sure it was really true.

CTU

Maybe you feel the same way. Maybe you have heard the good news about Jesus but you are not sure what to do. If you would like to talk to someone about how you can believe in Him, you can come to me after this lesson is finished (*designate time and location*). I can show you from God's Word how you can believe in Jesus as your Saviour and have the everlasting life that He wants to give you.

CTS

Maybe you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and have already told your friends and family about Him but they still don't believe in Him. Then don't give up! Pray for them. Ask God to make them ready to hear the good news again.

Or maybe you think that you are not good at telling your friends about God - what could you do?

Let children briefly share ideas.

Flashcard 6-6



Pray to God. Ask God to guide you to talk to one person who will listen. Maybe you could even ask Jesus if there is someone you should invite to our Good News Club or to church. At the back of the class there are some invitations for our Good News Club.

Show an invitation for Good News Club.

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Saviour then maybe you want to take one or more of these invitations after our class. You can colour them in and during the week hand some to a friend or two who have not yet trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Ask Jesus to give that person a willing heart to listen to you and go with you. For some people it is difficult to believe the good news about Jesus but they still need to hear it.

The king also needed to hear the good news about the Syrian army one more time. When the spies returned, they reported to the king, "It's true!"

Place Israelites (ES-46).

The people of Samaria rushed to the Syrian camp and found all of the food and supplies they needed. How wonderful it must have been to eat and eat until they were full for the first time in many, many days.

God had miraculously rescued the people from death!

With food now plentiful, prices returned to normal.

Remove Israelites (ES-46).

Everything happened exactly as Elisha had said! He had been faithful to God's words. He had shared the good news with the king even when the king wanted to kill him. Throughout the rest of Elisha's life he continued to obey God and serve Him faithfully until he died as an old man.

If you know Jesus as your Saviour, will you be faithful to God by telling the good news to others who need to hear? Remember, God's Word commands, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Maybe you've never believed the good news. You need to know that when you ask God to forgive you, He will save you from your sin. He will change you so that you will want to live for Him. Will you ask Him to save you today?

Review questions

- 1 What happened to the Israelites when the Syrians surrounded their capital city? (Their food supply was cut off.)
- 2 Why was the king of Israel angry with Elisha? (The king blamed Elisha and his God for the famine.)
- 3 How did Elisha hear about the king's plan to kill him? (God told him.)

The king's spies had followed the fleeing Syrian army 40 km to the Jordan River, and had seen their equipment strewn along the way.



CTS

CTU

Review game

Mystery points

Insert the point card into the review game folder and insert the flaps so that the card is fully covered.

Play this game just like “oil jar concentration” used in lesson 2 (see page 22).

- 4 What was God’s message that Elisha gave to the king? (The famine would be over the next day and food would be available.)
- 5 What was the message God wants you to tell your unsaved friends? (The message that Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin’s punishment.)
- 6 Why did the four lepers go to the Syrian camp? (They were starving and thought that if they gave themselves to the enemy they might at least get some food.)
- 7 When the lepers entered the Syrian camp, what did they find? (No one was there; but weapons, food, drink, clothes and other supplies were left behind.)
- 8 What scared the Syrian army out of their camp? (The sound of horses and rolling chariots.)
- 9 Why did the four lepers go to tell the other Israelites the things they found in the Syrian camp? (They realised that they had to tell the good news to their families and friends who were starving.)
- 10 Why should you tell others the good news of the Gospel and not keep it to yourself? (God’s Word commands us to tell others the Gospel so people will know that they need to believe in Jesus.)
- 11 Tell me some of the good news of the Gospel you can tell your friends. (All have sinned; God loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins; you need to be willing to turn from your sin; believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved.)
- 12 What must you do to be rescued from the punishment of your sin? (Be prepared to turn from your sin and believe - trust completely - that Jesus took your punishment for sin.)

If you have used the alternative application for the saved children, you could replace questions 10 and 11 with the following.

- 10 The greatest need that everyone has is to be forgiven by God and to have eternal life. What other needs do they have? (Food, clothes, water, home.)
- 11 How could you help to meet some of these needs? (Give money, a toy or other things; pray; be kind to needy children; maybe when you are an adult you could look after orphans, go abroad for a year to help feed the hungry, etc.)

Carry-over activity

Hand out ready-made invitations for the Good News Club in black and white and let the children colour one invitation each.

Encourage the children to think of one person to give their invitation to. Take some time in prayer asking God to lead more children to Good News Club through these invitations.

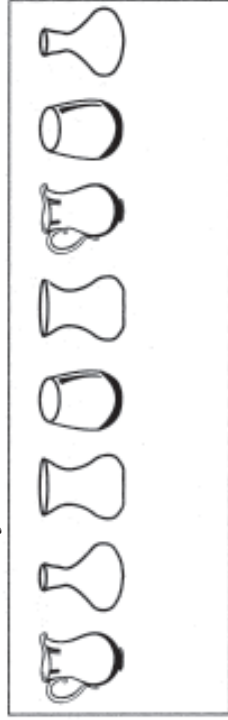
Folder for review games

Prepare a review folder to use through the “Elisha” series. A piece of board will make a durable tool. Cut four pieces of construction paper, 9 x 28 cm, to make review cards.

Lesson 1 - Secret Word



Lesson 2 - Oil Jar Concentration

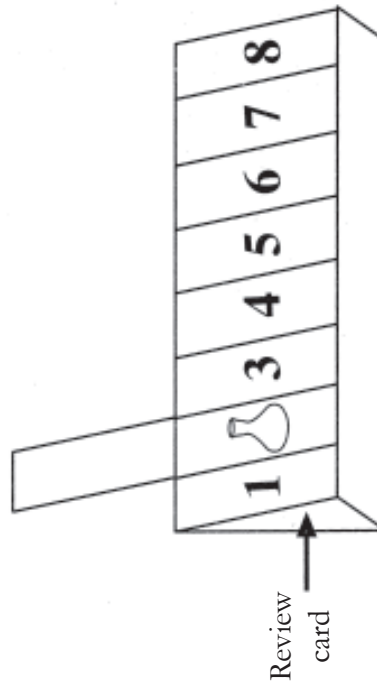
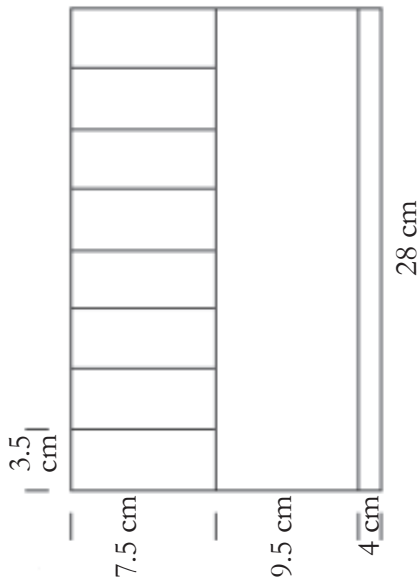
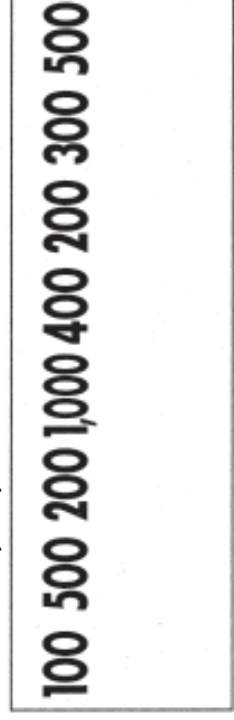


Lesson 4 - Wordless Book Concentration



Colour Colour Keep Colour Colour Colour Colour Colour Colour Colour
 Black Yellow White Black Red Yellow Red Red Red White

Lesson 6 - Mystery Points



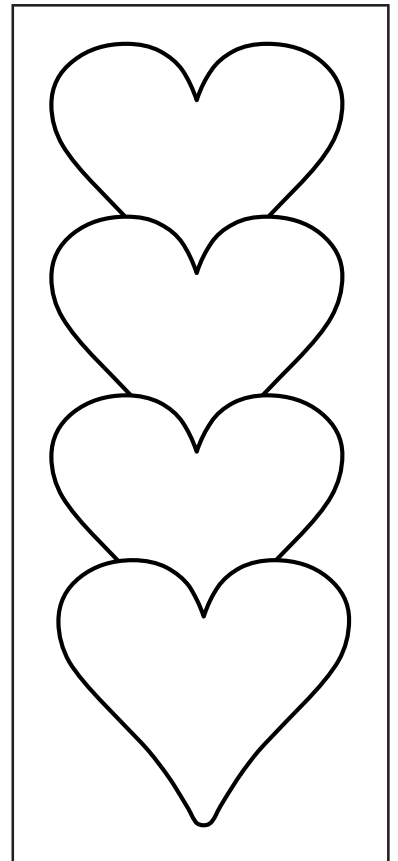
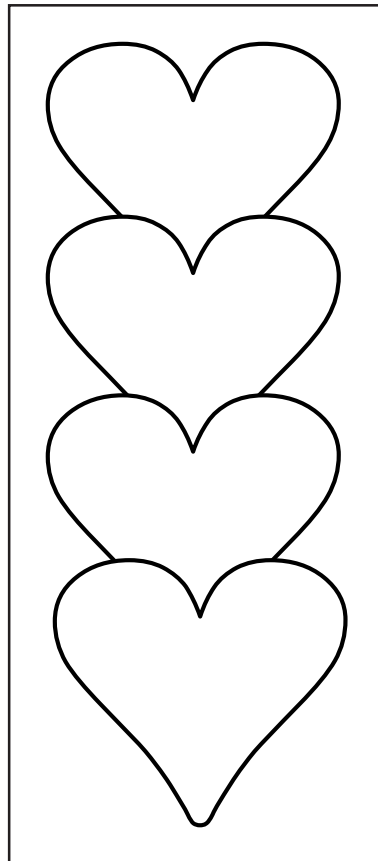
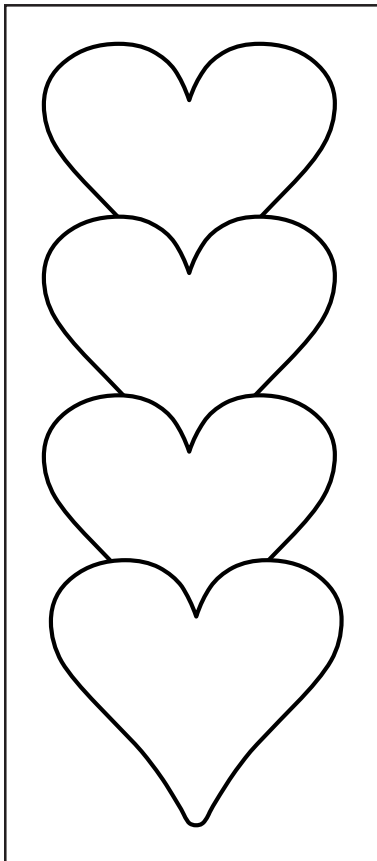
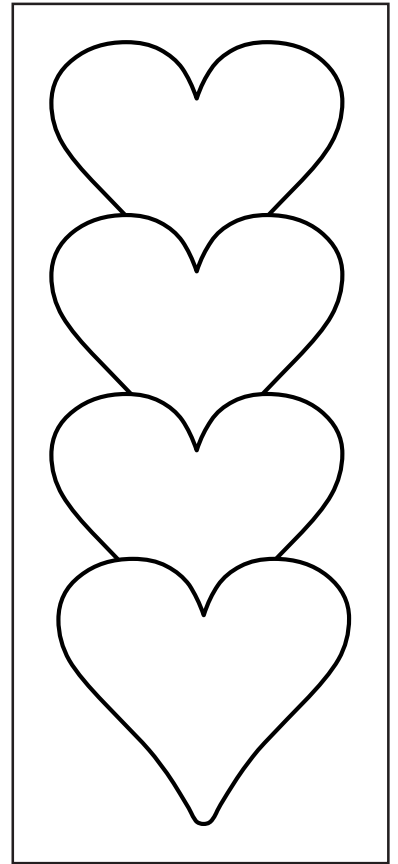
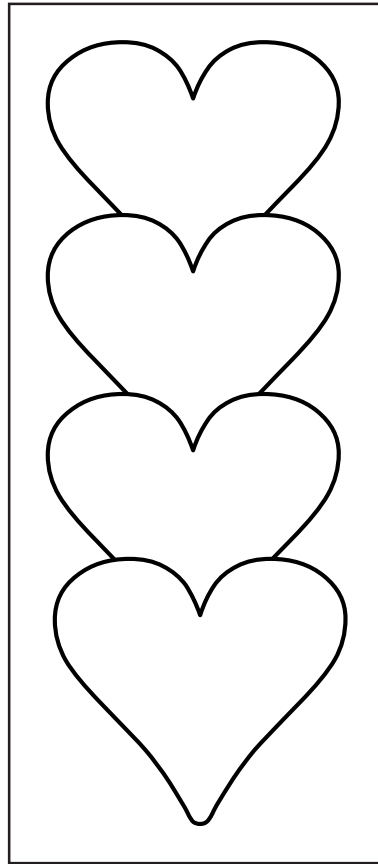
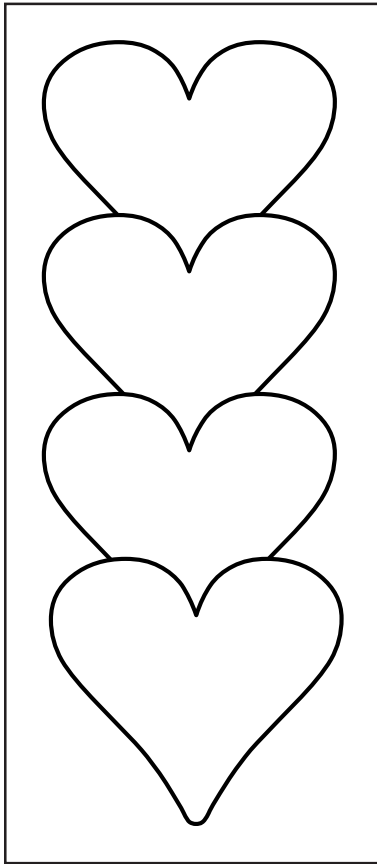
Promises

Review game - lesson 2

Hebrews 13:5 “[The Lord] will never leave you.”	Hebrews 13:6 “The Lord is my helper.”
Matthew 28:20 “[Jesus is] with you always, even to the end of the age.”	Psalms 4:3 “The Lord will hear when I call to Him.”
Psalms 37:3 “Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.”	Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”
Psalms 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”	Ephesians 1:7 “In [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
Psalms 50:15 “Call upon Me [God] in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”	Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”
John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life.”	Psalms 121:3 “He [God] who keeps you will not slumber.”

Bookmark

Carry-over activity - lesson 4



Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).