

Elisha

BC20

Bible Verses: 2 Kings 5:1-15, 2 Kings 4:1-7

This session aims to teach the story of Elisha. To help the children to trust God for everything they need and understand God's kindness and care. To show the children that even a small girl can do big things for God.

Leader's notes

We recommend that, at the end of the session, leaders give their young people a "Take Away" question, found at the end of the plan.

Encourage the young people to think about the questions, and use them in your discipleship sessions or cell groups, or bring their ideas back next week.

Elisha was a prophet in Israel after Elijah. Elisha totally trusted God for everything. People saw Elisha doing miracles, but his faith was also miraculous.

Elisha believed God was kind and wanted to help. He trusted God to provide and give generously. Elisha deeply respected God and knew nothing was impossible for God.

In this module we focus on two miracles: the curing of Naaman, general of the Syrian army, and the woman and the jars of oil.

Naaman was an important man who was suffering from an incurable disease. He would become an outcast and lose his position of power. In Naaman's story a small girl slave told Naaman's wife about Elisha.

Although she was a slave and far from home, the little slave girl trusted Elisha could help. Naaman's wife told Naaman and he went to find Elisha. Naaman was willing to try anything.

When greeted at the door by Gehazi instead of Elisha, Naaman threw a temper tantrum. Wise words from his men made Naaman decide to do as he was told and wash in the Jordan river seven times.

After he was cured he returned to Elisha. Naaman wanted to reward Elisha with money for giving him back his life. Elisha wisely reminds Naaman it was God who was the most powerful and generous.

An important focus for the children is that a small child can share her good news with a general and save his life. She cared and, like God, wanted to help Naaman. It's important to share the Good News that God is a kind God who wants to bless His people.

God blessed the woman with the jars of oil by miraculously filling up all her jars with the little oil she had left. Again God generously helped her through Elisha. Elisha's total trust in God helped the woman believe and so she was blessed.

In the Bible story, the woman needs the money to pay off the debts of her late husband. We have made the story into a reader using some of the first 45 reading words so we have simplified the debt to being hungry.

We have also left out the section about the debt collector taking her sons into slavery as repayment for her debt. If you choose to include this information you may want to talk about modern child slavery to give the story a modern context.

Elisha knew it wasn't him that helped Naaman or the woman; it was God. This is why Elisha wouldn't take Naaman's reward.

Our challenge as Christians is two-fold. We need to understand that nothing is impossible with God. If we totally trust Him for provision, He will provide.

God is also kind. The little girl could have ignored or rejoiced in Naaman and his wife's suffering. Instead she shared her good news and Naaman was cured.

As Christians we need to do the same.

Chinese Whispers

Warming Up

5 mins

 Game

Sit all the children in a circle and tell them that you are going to whisper an important message to the child next to you. They will pass it on to the next child. The next child will whisper it to the next child.

The message will be passed round the circle until it is whispered back into the leader's ear. Tell the children what the message was and what it became. Keep the messages simple to help the children pass them on.

E.G. "I like chocolate cake", or "The sky is blue".

The Point: Just for fun.

Equipment

None.

Mud

Teaching Time

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

Before the start of the session cover the tables with paper. Sit the children down around the table and give them air drying clay and an apron to keep their clothes clean.

Explain to the children that they are going to listen to the story of Elisha. Elisha was a prophet of God. Prophets are wise men who care for their people and who talk to God. Elisha believed God would help when asked. Most exciting, a little girl just like the children was a big help!

Encourage the children to play with the clay. They can make a model, or flatten the clay and draw on it. They could create something they like from the story.

Tell the children the story of Elisha and Naaman. This story is well told in **The Lion First Bible** pages 248-255. Ask the children these questions:

Who told Naaman about Elisha? (His little servant girl)

What might have happened to Naaman if she hadn't told him about Elisha? (He might have died)

Did Naaman want to wash in the Jordan? (No, he wanted to do something grander, not wash in a dirty river!)

Did God heal him? (Yes because Naaman did what God told him to)

At the end of the story, go round and see what the children have made. Praise them and then line them up and wash their hands.

Tell the children Naaman was so pleased he tried to give a great reward to Elisha. Elisha didn't want it because God did the work.

So Naaman took home some clay to remind him to worship and give thanks to God. The children can take their clay home to remind them of the story.

For leaders' reference the passage being studied is **2 Kings 5:1-15**

The Point: To teach the story of Elisha and challenge the children to help when they see someone needs, even though they are young.

Equipment

Air drying clay, table coverings, art aprons, bowls of clean water.

Order The Pictures

Teaching Time

20 mins

Illustrations

Print out the story of Elisha and the prophet's widow. They are numbered one to six. If you have a big group you may want to print out more than one copy.

Lay the pages out on the table but mix them up. Tell the children we are going to work out a story about God's friend Elisha. Show them which picture is the first one and read the writing on it. Ask the children to see if they can work out the correct order for the

pictures to go in. When they are in the right order, read the story aloud.

Ask the children these questions about the story.

Why did the woman ask Elisha for help? (Elisha trusted God to help anyone who asked. The woman needed money to eat.)

Why did the oil fill up all her jars? (God made the oil increase so she had enough to fill all the jars)

Will God help us when we ask? (Yes, it's called provision and God loves helping the people he loves.)

For leaders reference the passage being studied is **2 Kings 4:1-7**

The Point: To teach the story of Elisha and help them to trust God loves them and wants to provide for them.

Equipment

A print out of the six pages supplied.

Totally Trust God

Response

10 mins

 Prayer

Remind the children that Elisha totally trusted God. He trusted God to provide and give generously. The little girl trusted Elisha would help Naaman. The sad woman trusted Elisha would help her.

Elisha knew it wasn't he who helped Naaman or the woman, it was God. This is why Elisha wouldn't take Naaman's reward.

We can trust God to help us. Ask the children to think of one thing that God could help them with and then pray with them asking for God's help and His blessing.

The Point: To remind children that we can ask God to help us and He will.

Equipment

None.

The Lord's Prayer

Response

15 mins

 Memory Verse

"Our Father God, we want you to be our King forever. Then everyone will live as you want. Give us each day all that we need. Forgive us for the wrong things we do, as we forgive people who hurt us. Help us stop wanting to do bad things. And keep us from all harm. Amen."

Matthew 6:9-13, Children's Bible.

Before the session write out a card template with the Lord's Prayer on it. You will need enough templates for all the children to see at the same time. An excellent version for children is found in **The Lion First Bible and Prayer Book p124.**

Rule lines on the blank card so the children can copy the writing. Here is a recommended spacing for a plain four sided card:

Front of card: Our Father God,

We want you to be our King forever

Then everyone will live as you want

Inside left: Give us each day all that we need

Inside right: Forgive us for the wrong things we do, as we forgive people who hurt us.

Back of card: Help us stop wanting to do bad things. And keep us from all harm. Amen.

If the children find writing difficult you could give them printed copies of the verses so that they only have to cut them out and stick them on the right part of the card. Ask the children to draw pictures on each page to show what the verses mean.

At the end have the children repeat the prayer back to you line by line. Explain that God wants to give us good things and we need to trust he will look after us.

The Point: To learn Scripture by heart.

Equipment

A4 or A5 card, enough paper templates for the children to copy, pencils and rulers, felt pens. (Optional) the words of the verse ready printed out, scissors and glue.

Daily Bread

Take Away

15 mins

 Food And Cooking

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:



Before the start of the lesson set out trays with buns first, then some butter and knives, and the filling. You may want to check for food allergies and substitute the appropriate fillings and rolls.

Sit the children down and explain we are going to make ham rolls. You have a set of rules on how to make a ham roll. First you open out the bun, put on the butter and put ham in the bun.

Make up a bun to show them. As the children make up their buns ask the children to talk about the story of Elisha and the woman and the oil. What do they remember? What bits did they like best?

As they are making a bun ask them these questions.

What did God give the woman? (Oil, which she sold to buy bread)

Do we need bread? (Yes, to eat!)

Does God want to give us good things? (Yes, He has a prayer to remind us He wants to give us good things)

(You could print off the story pictures from the Order the Pictures item above and staple them together as a small reader book the children.)

Say the Lord's Prayer. An excellent version for children is found in **The Lions First Bible and Prayer Book page 124**. The children can eat their buns and point out that God likes giving people good things to eat. The woman trusted God and so did Elisha and she was able to buy bread.

For leaders' reference the passage being studied is **2 Kings 4:1-7**

The Point: To teach the story of Elisha and God provides. The children need to trust His provision.

Equipment

Bread buns, butter or margarine and ham or cheese. Safe knives for spreading the butter or margarine.
