

# Shunammite Woman Helps Elisha; Elisha Raises Her Son from the Dead

## 2 KINGS 4:8-37



Old Testament 7  
Part 2: The Divided Kingdom

## SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Kings 4:8-37

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Be kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so" (Proverbs 3:27).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["A Room for Elisha"](#)
- ["Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son"](#)
- ["O We Must Be Kind"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [The Divided Kingdom 1](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "O.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ["Map of the Divided Kingdom"](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Elisha A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
- Visuals to illustrate the songs



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will be unselfish, kind, and thoughtful of others.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we learned about a man named Elisha and how he helped a widow. Do you remember what a “widow” is? Can anyone tell me what Elisha did to help the widow? Today, we are going to talk about a lady who was kind to Elisha, and he showed kindness back to her, too. God is always happy when we choose to be kind to others.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

Ask the children to tell the class about someone doing something nice for them. Discuss how that made them feel—and how they feel when they do something nice/kind for others. (Try to focus on how they felt when helping others, not the specific thing they did.) God wants us to help others/be kind to others any time we can. In today’s lesson, we will talk about a woman who helped Elisha, and how they were both blessed.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Elisha, known to be a “holy man of God,” frequently passed through **Shunem** (2 Kings 4:9). One day a wealthy woman offered food to the weary prophet. After that day, she made sure that every time he came that way, she provided him with a meal. She even persuaded her husband to build a small room on top of their house for Elisha, complete with a table, chair, and lamp stand so that the prophet could stay there as often as he needed to.



**NOTE:** **Shunem** was originally part of the land given to the tribe of Issachar (Joshua 19:18). It was about seven miles from Mount Carmel. Like so many women in the Bible, we do not know this woman’s name, but she has for centuries just been called “the Shunammite woman,” i.e., the woman from Shunem.

2. Elisha was so very grateful for this woman’s kindness and generosity that he offered to do something great for her in return. His servant, Gehazi, told him that the woman had long wanted children, but had none. So Elisha promised the woman that the following year, at that same time, she would have a baby boy. At first she did not believe that could be possible (because her husband was old, and they had been childless so long). But just as Elisha promised, the next year she did have a baby boy!
3. The boy grew, and the woman and her husband were so happy. One day, when he was old enough to go to the fields with his father and the farm workers, the boy complained of a terrible pain in his head. He was sent back to the house, and later that day, the boy died—in his mother’s lap. Distraught and grief-stricken, the Shunammite woman went to find the man of God. At first, Elisha offered only to send Gehazi, telling Gehazi to place Elisha’s staff across the boy’s body. But the woman refused to return home without Elisha. So Elisha went with her to her house and asked God to bring the boy back to life. [Give as much detail here as you think

appropriate about how Elisha got on the bed with the boy and laid on top of the boy's body, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands, until the boy's body grew warm.] Elisha got very close to the boy on the bed, and he prayed. He then turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed again. Suddenly, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[What About ‘Out-of-Body Experiences’?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the claim that one can die, leave his body, and still return to his body in modern times.

4. Elisha's prayers were answered, and the woman was called into the room to find her precious son alive again. She was so grateful that she bowed down at Elisha's feet in awe and gratitude.
5. Because of her unselfishness and her kindness, the Shunammite woman was blessed with two miracles: the birth of her son and the raising from the dead of her son. She had much for which to be grateful. Elisha was also unselfish and kind. He was willing to use the abilities that God had given him to help this woman of faith.
6. Like Elisha and the Shunammite woman, we all have many reasons to be thankful to God and many opportunities to be unselfish and kind to others.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS** (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- “[Elisha Raises a Boy Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- The Sharing Game: Cut out circles from colored construction paper or posterboard, two per child. On one half of the circles, draw a “happy face.” On the other half, draw a “sad face.” Put a happy face and a sad face back-to-back and glue them together, along with a craftstick handle. Write the following statements (or make up your own) about sharing/not sharing on slips of paper (example [statement cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets). Fold the slips of paper, and put them in a basket or small container. As you take out each slip of paper and read each statement, ask the children to use their happy/sad faces to show if each situation describes sharing (happy face) or not sharing (sad face). Examples:

Would you like a cookie?	That's mine!
Go home!	Come to Bible class with me.
Do you want to play with me?	I'll go first.
I want that!	Why don't you sit by me?
- Ask the children to sit in a circle. Roll a ball to a child, and ask him/her to tell one kind thing he can do for someone else. He then rolls the ball back to you, and you roll it to someone else. Do this until everyone has had a turn.
- “Bee” necklaces: Make a bee cutout for each child in your class (“[Bee Necklace Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets). On each one, write “I will ‘bee’ kind to others” and/or the memory verse. Punch a hole in the top of the cutout, and let each child put a piece of yarn through it (long enough to wear around his/her neck).
- Bring a baby doll and play a review game where the teacher asks a question from the story and

the child holding the baby gets to answer. Pass the baby around so everyone gets a chance to hold the baby and answer a question.

### 1st-2nd Graders:

- The Sharing Game: Give each child a circle of construction paper or posterboard. Ask them to draw a smiley face on one side and a frowning face on the other. On slips of paper, write the following statements (and/or make up your own) about sharing/not sharing (example [statement cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets). Fold the slips of paper, and put them in a basket or small container. When you read each statement, ask the children to show their happy faces if the statement describes “sharing” or their frowning faces if it describes “not sharing.”

Would you like some cookies?	No, I’m going first!
Do you want to play on my swing?	Give it back to me!
I don’t want you to have that.	Have some popcorn.
Let’s look at this book together.	Let’s paint together.
You can use my marker.	Go home!
Let’s sing together.	I want that!
Have some French fries.	Let’s go outside and play.
Do you want to ride my bike?	Why don’t you sit with me?
Come to Bible class with me.	Here’s one for you.

- Play “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into groups. Give each group a set of letters. Call out main words from this and the previous three lessons. Students race to see which team can spell the word correctly. The team that finishes first tells the importance of the word.
- Sword Drill: Before class, look up verses that use the word “kind” or “kindness.” Write a verse on the board, and tell the children to find it as quickly as possible. The first one to find it must raise his/her hand, and then read it out loud. (If you have students who do not know how to use their Bibles well or who don’t come to class often, make sure they are paired with someone who can help them be successful. The object of the exercise is not to make any student feel incompetent or stupid.)
- [“Being Kind to Others Matching Game”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Play “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into groups. Give each group a set of letters. Call out main words from this and the previous three lessons. Students race to see which team can spell the word correctly. The team that finishes first tells the importance of the word.
- Bible Concordance Challenge: Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a concordance. [Children’s versions of Bible concordances are usually available from Bible bookstores. If you have access to computers or iPads in your class, concordances are also available on-line.] Make sure everyone has a Bible. Ask the children to look up the words “kind” and “kindness” in their concordances. Let each group choose two or three verses to read out loud to the class.

- Sword Drill: Before class, look up verses that use the word “kind” or “kindness.” Write a verse on the board, and tell the children to find it as quickly as possible. The first one to find it must raise his/her hand, and then read it out loud. (If you have students who do not know how to use their Bibles well or who don’t come to class often, make sure they are paired with someone who can help them be successful. The object of the exercise is not to make any student feel incompetent or stupid.)
- [“Being Kind to Others Matching Game”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
  - 2 Kings 3-4
  - *Don’t Stop...Fill Every Pot!* by Marilyn Lashbrook, Me Too! Books
  - *The Berenstain Bears: Kindness Counts*, by Jan and Mike Berenstain

## SONGS:

### “A ROOM FOR ELISHA”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See [Sing a Story: Volume I](#), by Jewel Kendrick)

### “ELISHA RAISES THE SHUNAMMITE’S SON”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See [Sing a Story: Volume I](#), by Jewel Kendrick)

### “O WE MUST BE KIND” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: Chorus of “Blessed Be the Name”)

O we must be kind, O we must be kind,  
 O we must be kind, kind to all;  
 O we must be kind, O we must be kind,  
 O we must be kind, kind to all.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.





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## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will be unselfish, kind, and thoughtful of others.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)

Elisha warned the Shunammite woman that a terrible famine was coming to their land. So her household and she left their home and their land for seven years. When she returned (from Philistia), she tried to reclaim her land and house from people who were living there illegally. Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, was in the king’s palace (we are not told for what reason), and the king asked him to tell about the great deeds of Elisha. When Gehazi told King Jehoram the great things Elisha had done for the woman, the king ordered that all her land be returned to her and that she be paid for anything that was grown in her fields while she was gone (2 Kings 8:1-6). Elisha’s reputation as a man of God had spread far and wide. The good deeds we do for others, the kindnesses and unselfishness that we show, will not only help us to have a good reputation, but will also give glory to God, as all the miracles of Elisha did.

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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