



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 57

Elisha and the Shunammite's Son

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8-37

Key Verse: 1 Peter 2:24, "Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to see that God does amazing things. God gives us life in our spirit. He did this by giving his Son Jesus to us. The kids will learn the Bible Event of how God used Elisha to give a son to the Shunammite woman and later restore him to life. This beautiful picture of God's healing power is true for them today spiritually. God gives us life by lifting off the curse of sin and death, and giving us the promise of living with him forever. God's word teaches us to rely on him. Kids will learn to call out to God for any need they may have and to cry out for the needs of others. They will learn to rely on God and see him do amazing things.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus restores us to the Father through his life, his death in our place, and his resurrection.

Jesus in us: Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us so our lives are fully restored to the Father. This is an amazing work of God.

Jesus through us: We are the body of Christ who take the message of God's amazing healing power to the world both physically and spiritually.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Do you want to see something amazing? Let's raise someone off the floor with only our fingers. I need a volunteer to come forward who can remain very stiff and perfectly still as if dead.

Choose a smaller boy for the activity.

I will also need seven more helpers to do this amazing feat.

Choose seven helpers.

I need one person to be at the head of our "dead" person, a person at each shoulder, a person on both sides of his lower back, and a person on each of his lower legs.



Before we attempt to lift our dead boy, I need to show you how to hold your hands. Fold your hands together like you are praying. Now, stick your pointer fingers out with thumbs up to make your hands look like a gun.

Have the volunteer lifters put their hands properly.

Now, I would like you to place your fingers under the area of the boy I have assigned you to---someone at the head, two at the shoulders, two at the lower back, and two at the lower legs. When I count to three, I would like our “lifeless boy” to become very stiff and our volunteers to gently lift up. I would also like the rest of you in the audience to say “a-maaaaaaaaz-ing” as this boy is lifted off the ground.

Are we ready? One, two, three, lift.

Have the volunteers lift the boy only a few inches off the ground. When this has been accomplished, gently put the boy down and have the volunteers return to their seats.

Isn't that amazing? Today we will see how God raised a lifeless boy from the dead. He is an amazing God! We are also going to find out how each one of us in our own spirit is lifeless until God raises us to life on the inside through his Son Jesus Christ. If we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are spiritually raised from the dead on the inside. That is truly amazing!

Let's worship our amazing God.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Have any of you ever had a hard time being good? Have you ever had a hard time obeying God? Maybe you have had a hard time obeying your parents or teachers? I think we can all raise our hands.

What are some ways that we might disobey God?

Take suggestions from audience.

Sometimes it is easy to disobey. That is because sin can be a powerful force in our lives. But the Bible says that we can defeat the power of sin in our lives. We do this when we hate sin, tell God we are sorry, and ask for the power of Jesus' forgiveness. We ask that he would be alive in us so we will not sin.

This is like (Make an imaginary gun with your hands like in the Attention Grabber.) **POW! –killing the power of sin in our lives. The Bible says in Romans 6:11, “So consider yourselves dead to sin’s power but living for God in the power Christ Jesus gives you.”**

Take your fingers out and let’s kill the power of sin. As I pretend to throw up a sin I want you to kill it. Here’s one... lying (have kids pretend to shoot the sin down with their finger guns)... **stealing...** (pause for kids) **dishonoring your parents... cheating... and more. Sin can destroy or kill or resist sin with Jesus’ power.**

Pretend to throw it into the air and have everyone shoot it. Continue to name sins or ask for others to name a sin and throw it into the air for all to “kill.”

Let’s pray.

Dear God, we want to kill the power of sin and not live for anything that displeases you. We are sorry for our disobedience and ask that you would take this sin away from our life. We are so thankful that you take away the punishment of sin through Jesus who gave his life for us. Help us to live for you in the power of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

How much money would you pay to bring someone back to life?

Take answers.

Some very wealthy people have spent a lot of money trying to figure out a way to have their bodies frozen when they die so they can possibly be brought back to life at a future time. This will never happen no matter how much money they spend trying.

Did you know that when you bring your offering to the Lord, that money can be used to bring spiritual life to people? It can help them trust Jesus as their Savior and, spiritually, they will be made alive instead of remaining spiritually dead. They will be able to live forever with God.

As the kids bring up their offerings, talk about the amazing things God is doing with the offering that is received. This could be mission projects or activities of the church where lives are being changed here and around the world.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Have kids get into groups and practice the “Raising to Life” game that was done in the Attention Grabber. Make sure the smallest kids are the ones that lay stiff on the floor. Only have the kids lift them a few inches off the floor. There should to be at least seven kids lifting, but there could be more. Have adults supervise.

Teaching Point:

Each one of us, in our own spirit, is lifeless until God raises us to life on the inside through his Son Jesus Christ. If we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are spiritually raised from the dead on the inside.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Option #1: Dramatic Storytelling

There was a Shunammite woman who lived during the time of the prophet Elisha. She had been married to a farmer for many years. Her life had been complete except for one thing. She had no children. She had come to the conclusion that not having children was God’s plan for her life.

The prophet Elisha would pass by the Shunammite’s home on his way to Jericho. Every time this woman would invite him to stay in their home. This family even built a special room in their home for him. They called it the prophet’s room.

Elisha was so grateful for the kindness shown to him. He asked the Shunammite woman, “You have been so kind to me. Is there anything I can do for you?”

The Shunammite woman said she did not need anything. But Elisha’s servant pointed out that this woman had no children.

Elisha said a miracle would happen to the kind couple. They would have a son in the next year. What a shock that must have been to this couple! But sure enough, a year later a son was born to the Shunammite woman.

That was one miracle that God performed through Elisha. We are going to watch a video that will show another amazing miracle that happened to this Shunammite woman.

Show Video

Show the video *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Start the video when the child Micah is with his mother. She asks him, “Do you see him?” End the video when the boy is healed and walks into his mother’s arms. This is 3 minutes and 15 seconds.

Conclusion

We have seen a couple amazing miracles that happened in this kind woman’s life. Has God done any amazing things in your life? It is rare that God raises someone to life like he did for the Shunammite woman. Yet, there is another kind of life that is inside all of us—a spiritual life that we need to look at.

This is a life that God can give in our hearts that will let us live for him forever. This is the greatest life of all.

Option #2: A Visit From a Dramatized Character

The Shunammite Mother Tells Her Story

Supplies: costume for Shunammite woman, bag with candy

Introduction...Hospitality

Hello, I am the rich woman from the town of Shunem. I love to share with others. In fact, as I look at you, some of you are looking a bit hungry.

Why don’t you have a little snack while I tell my story?

Reach into bag and pull out candy and have volunteers pass it out to the kids.

I really love to share with the people of God. I lived many, many years ago during the time of the prophet Elisha. He was certainly God's prophet. Every time Elisha would come to our town, we would always invite him to have dinner with us. He became such a good friend that we made a special room in our house for him.

Elisha Promises a Son

I had a lot of money and many servants, but had no children. I came to the conclusion that having no children was God's plan for me and I was okay about it.

One day Elisha asked me, "You have been so kind to me. Is there anything I can do for you?" I told him I didn't need anything. He asked my servant what he could do for us. His servant Gehazi said, "She has no children."

Just like that, Elisha said, "A year from now I will return and you will have a son." I was shocked. I couldn't believe it! This would be a miracle!

Guess what? A year later when Elisha returned, I did have a son. Those were such happy years watching our little one grow. He was such a good boy!

The Boy Dies

One day something awful happened! My son got very sick. He was in the field with his dad when suddenly he put his hand to his head and cried out, "My head hurts! My head hurts!"

My servant quickly brought my son to me. I held him on my lap for a few hours. He was so still and quiet. I prayed, "God, please don't let him die."

Slowly his life passed out of him. He stopped breathing. My heart was broken.

I carried him to Elisha's room and laid him on the prophet's bed. All I could think about was finding Elisha. Maybe he could do something.

A Miracle

A servant went with me to Mt. Carmel to find Elisha. When Elisha saw me coming, he sent his servant to talk with me. But I only wanted to talk with Elisha.

I went right past his servant and ran to Elisha and fell to his feet. He asked me what was wrong. I cried as I said, “Did I ask for a child? I was afraid to because I knew my heart would be broken if I couldn’t have one. But through you, the Lord answered my prayer, and I received a son. But now my heart is broken! He has died. Why did you give me a son only for him to be taken away?”

Elisha’s Servant Goes Back

Elisha was sad. He quickly told his servant to go back to my home. “Make haste,” he said. “Don’t delay. When you get there lay my staff across the boy’s face.”

I knew that Elisha must come, too. I told him I wouldn’t go back with just the servant. Elisha had to come, too. He agreed, “Let me send my servant ahead and we will follow.”

The Healing

Elisha’s servant reached Shunem first. He found my son’s body on Elisha’s bed. He placed Elisha’s staff across my son’s face just as Elisha had said, but there was no sign of life. He met us back on the road with a very sad face. “I obeyed your words, but the child did not awaken.”

We hurried faster to my home. Elisha and his servant entered the room. It was very sad for him to see this once active boy now lifeless on the bed. He closed the door to the room and prayed that God would restore the child’s life.

After praying, he put his face on my son’s face and his hands on my son’s hands. Soon my son’s body became warm. Then there was an incredible miracle. The boy sneezed. He sneezed seven times. His eyes opened and he was ALIVE!

I was brought into the room. I picked my son up with joy and hugged him tightly. God had performed a miracle through Elisha. God did an amazing thing!

I bowed thankfully at Elisha’s feet before carrying my child to his father.

Conclusion

You can see how God has done amazing things in my life. But has he done amazing things in your life? It is very rare that God will raise someone to life like he did my son. Yet, there is another kind of life that is inside all of us—a spiritual life that we need to look at.

This is life God can give in our hearts that will let us live with him forever. This is the greatest life of all. I hope that you find this life here. Maybe one day all of us will be in heaven giving thanks to God who has done amazing things!

Application:

1 Peter 2:24 says, “*Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God’s approval. His wounds have healed you.*”

Just as Elisha brought the Shunammite woman’s son back to life and healed him, God heals us from the sickness and death of sin. When we believe that Jesus is our Savior, we have new life now on earth and forever in heaven. That’s amazing!



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Ask if anyone would like to tell about some amazing things God did or how he answered special prayers. Allow kids to share experiences.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Bible Presentation:

Option One:

- video *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment—order from www.nestfamily.com. Link to Children's Bible Stories in the left margin. Type "Elisha" in the search box and enter. Order as instructed.

Option Two:

- costume for character playing the Shunammite woman
- bag with candy

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