



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God in the Storms of Life  
Spring Year 4, Lesson 56

# A Widow is Rescued

**Primary Scripture:** 2 Kings 4:1-7

**Key Verse:** Philippians 4:19: “My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.”

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

Kids need to know that they can ask God for anything at any time—but especially when they feel desperate. Kids need to know from accounts in the Bible how God provided for people in the past and will still do so today. Kids need to learn to be faithful and trust God no matter what. As they do, their most important need—a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ—will be met every time. This should give them courage as they face challenges in their life today and in the future.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Through Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection, he has given us his presence and the power of his forgiveness. Every spiritual need has been provided for through the gift of Jesus.

**Jesus in us:** Through the saving grace of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we as believers have power in us to ask God to do great and mighty things in our lives.

**Jesus through us:** Just as God has met our needs in times of challenges or difficulties, so we can help others when Jesus works through us.

## 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.*

*Supplies: (optional) a headpiece or costume, picture, or any related prop to represent the three characters: Superman, Spiderman and Elisha*

*If you are using such props, a prop for Elisha could be a small oil jar.*

**Let's play the game "Guess Who I am."**

Show the corresponding prop as you describe each of the following:

#### Clark Kent/Superman

1. I work at the "Daily Planet."
2. Lois Lane is my girlfriend.
3. I live in Metropolis.
4. Who am I? (I am Clark Kent as an ordinary man but I turn into Superman.)  
Where do I get my super powers? (From the Red Sun of Krypton.)

#### Peter Parker/Spiderman

1. I am a photographer for a newspaper.
2. My aunt and uncle raised me.
3. Mary Jane Watson is my girlfriend.
4. Who am I? (Day to day I'm Peter Parker but I turn into Spiderman.) From what do I get my super power? (A spider bite.)

## Elisha

I am not Jesus but another Bible character.

1. I helped a widow provide for her family when she had nothing.
2. I raised a boy from the dead.
3. I cured a man of his leprosy.
4. Who am I? (*The Prophet Elisha.*) From whom do I get my super powers? (*God!*)

The first two characters talked about were from movies or comics. They were created from imagination and are not real people. But Elisha was a real person and he did things more astonishing than either of these fictional heroes.

Where did he get his power? He got it from God. That is what made him special. God is our super hero. God will use anyone who trusts in him in special ways, and God will help us in any of life's troubles. God's power will work in us as we trust him for our every need.

Listen to the Bible verse we want you to remember: *"My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19.) It goes on to say, *"Glory belongs to our God and Father forever!"*

Let's give glory to God for being the real super hero and rescuing us and meeting our every need.

## **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.*

*Supplies: a cross*

**This cross is a symbol of the greatest super hero of all time. Who is that? Jesus, right. Jesus is the most powerful super hero ever written about. Who is the enemy that he defeated? He defeated Satan, right. He also defeated the power of sin and death. How did he do it?**

Take answers.

**Yes, by giving his life for us on the cross. Did he stay dead? No, he rose again and is alive today. This proves that he won the battle. He is even with us today, although we do not see him. To have his super hero power, we must come to him and trust him with all of our needs.**

**Our greatest need is to make sure that nothing gets between God and us. Sometimes our sin can do that. Let's stop and pray about that now.**

**Jesus, we pray for your power. We pray that you will give us the power of your forgiveness. We don't want anything to get in between God and us. Take away the punishment of our sin. If we have done anything wrong this week, bring it to our minds so that we can bring it to you. We do not want to continue feeling ashamed or guilty. We aren't going to hide this sin, but we give it to you and ask for your forgiveness. We want to be free of sin and able to serve you with our whole lives. Thank you for being a super hero that meets all of our needs. Help us to serve you with all of our hearts. In your name. 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.*

*Supplies: a cross*

Place a cross in the middle of the offering basket and give the following invitation:

**Just as Jesus is the super hero that meets all of our needs, when we give an offering to the Lord, God can use that money to help other people meet their needs.**

Mention some of your mission projects that will use the kids' money to help others in need.

**We help others when we are a part of Jesus' super hero project.**



# 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.*

### Super Men against Wonder Women

#### Round One: Shaving Cream Tower

*Supplies: whistle, two cans of shaving cream, two tables, two large plastic bags or table coverings, (option: two capes)*

In advance, set up the two tables, each covered with a large plastic bag or table covering.

Divide the kids into two groups—boys vs. girls. Place a can of shaving cream at both tables in ready reach.

**Kids, do you remember how Superman said that he could leap the tallest building in a single bound? Well, let's have a contest to see who can build the tallest building. But we are not going to build with bricks, we are going to build with shaving cream.**

Have one volunteer boy and one volunteer girl come stand by a table to begin building a shaving cream tower. Say:

**Every time I blow my whistle, the ones working on the tower are to go back to their team and tag someone else to come up and build the shaving cream tower.**

**I will blow the whistle often so several people will get to participate. Remember to tag someone who hasn't had a chance to participate. At the end, I'll blow my whistle three times to indicate the end of the game. The tower that is measured the tallest at that time will be the winner.**

*Option: An interesting option to this is to give both teams a cape. Each contestant must wear the cape as he/she builds. When they tag the new "hero," the first contestant must help the second contestant put on the cape before he/she continues to build the shaving cream tower.*

Once there is no more shaving cream, blow the whistle three times. Inspect the towers with amazement and declare the winner for this round.

**I'm glad my house doesn't look like this.**

**It looks like the Supermen (or Wonder Women) have the tallest tower. But I wonder if they will be as powerful in the next round. What do you think?**

### Round Two: Ping-pong Ball Relay

*Supplies: two hair dryers, two ping-pong balls and two extension cords, four highway cones*

Set two cones to mark a starting line and two cones at the opposite end of the room.

Have a group of boys and a group of girls (who did not participate in the last round) each make a line behind one cone. Say:

**The object of this game is to balance a ping-pong ball in the air with the hair dryer and, at the same time, walk from one cone around a second cone and return. If the ping-pong ball is dropped during the journey, you must begin again. In order for a team to gain a point, the racers must complete a lap without dropping the ping-pong ball. After each player completes his/her lap, they will pass the ping-pong ball and dryer to another team member.**

*CAUTION: Be sure the direction and movement of the extension cords do not cause a tripping hazard to those playing. Make sure the cords are long enough to complete the obstacle course.*

After a limited amount of time, or one team uses all team members to play, call a finish to the game with your whistle.

### Round Three: Spiderman Shootout

*Supplies: two cans of silly string, two large plastic trash bags, two sets of eye goggles, two small plastic bags, two shower caps, and a plastic tarp or tablecloth*

Ask for one volunteer from the boys' group and one volunteer from the girls' to come forward for the last round of competition. Say:

**I always thought it was so cool that Spiderman could shoot webs from his fists. We can do that today with silly string. My two super volunteers won't be just like Spidey, they get to be the targets for target practice.**

Cut a hole in the top of the two trash bags to fit over each volunteers' heads. This will protect their clothing. You may want to cover their hair with a plastic shower cap. Then have the volunteers stand on a plastic bag, plastic tarp, or plastic tablecloth for easier cleanup.

**During this round, the team that does the best job as Spiderman wins—that is, the team that best covers their teammate in a web.**

**The first person from each team will start when I say, "Go." When I blow the whistle, those players put down the silly string cans and tag a new teammate to come and continue the web.**

**Ready, set, go.**

After a period of time, blow the whistle or say, "**Stop**" to complete the round. Take a count of points and declare the "super power." Congratulate the winners.

### Teaching Point

**It looks like the Supermen (or Wonder Women) are the winners. Way to go teams! But the contest isn't over yet.**

**How do huge towers, floating pin-pong balls and silly string remind you of God's power?**

Let the kids talk for a couple of minutes. Encourage responses by not criticizing their answers. Encourage further discussion by saying, "**I like the way you are thinking.**"

**Those were all great ideas. Do you remember the prophet Elisha? Although he did super hero things, his power wasn't his own. Elisha trusted completely in God and called on him to help others in desperate need. The things that God helped Elisha do were not just leaping over buildings in a single bound or wrapping up "bad guys" in spider webs, God wanted to help people in real need.**

**He will help us, as well. We need to come to God and trust that he will meet all of our needs through the riches that are ours through Christ Jesus.**

**Today we will watch a video about the prophet Elisha. Watch how God uses Elisha in the lives of needy people.**

# Bible Presentation:

*Supplies: The Animated Stories of the Bible: Elisha, produced by Nest Family Entertainment*

Watch the *Elisha* video. Cue the video to start after the Jordan River is parted and continue until the slave girl tells of how Elisha can help heal Naaman.

**Option:** Dramatic Storytelling

## A Widow's Son is Rescued

2 Kings 4:1-7

*This dramatic monologue is told in first person by a female costumed character.*

*Prop: vases, jugs or anything in which oil might be stored*

### Introduction:

**Boys and girl, I'm here today to tell that God has done amazing things. Oh, but first let me introduce myself. My story is in the Bible. The Bible is God's word and it is true. My name is not important but what God did for me is very important because God can do wonderful things for you, as well.**

**I lived many years ago, in the days of Elisha. It was a time when many of our people followed false gods because the kings of our day encouraged it. I knew for a fact that there is only one, true and living God and he did amazing things for me. You see, my husband was one of the prophets and as a young man, served the one true God. The saddest day of my life was the day he died. I loved him so.**

### A creditor comes:

**But at least I still had a family. I had our two sons but there was no one else to take care of us. You see, in my day, widows often had no one to look after her—especially if they had no other family. There was trouble in our land and many people were poor. Food was scarce and I had no way to make a living.**

**One day, one of the men came to my house to collect the money my family owed. I had no money to give him. I didn't even have money for food. What could I do? He had the power of the law on his side. He said he would give me a few days to get the money together and would return. If I didn't have enough money, he was going to take my sons to be his slaves.**

## Who do I turn to?

What could I do? It was impossible for me to earn so much money. I had no one to borrow from. Where could I turn? “Lord,” I cried, “What shall I do?” I remembered the prophet Elisha. I hurried to him and told him my story. Elisha was a kind and wise old man. He knew how my husband had loved and served the Lord. He knew how desperate I was. He knew that God could do anything. God could provide for my needs.

## A solution found:

So Elisha asked a simple question. “What do you have in your house?”

“I have really nothing at all... only a small pot of oil, ” I replied.

I saw a twinkle in his eye. He said, “That will be enough if you do what I tell you. Go home, and borrow from your neighbors all the jars and pots and bowls that they will lend you. Take these containers to your home. Gather as many containers as you can. After you have closed your door, take your little jar of oil and pour from it into all the pots that you have borrowed. When one is full, set it aside and fill another.”

“What?” I thought to myself. How can one small jar fill so many others. But then again, this is the prophet, Elisha. I must believe the prophet has heard from God. God can do anything. Maybe God has a special miracle for me.”

So I ran and borrowed as many jars, pots, and bowls as I could find. My boys and I brought them all into our house. We closed the door. I picked up the small jar of oil in one hand.

“Mother,” my boys asked, “What are you going to do with all these jars and pots and bowls?”

I told them about my visit with Elisha and what he told me to do. I was determined to obey what the Lord had told me through Elisha. I told one of my sons, “Bring one of the empty jars to me.”

## The filling:

A jar was brought to me and I started to fill it up with my little jar. We continued to pour and pour and pour some more, until it was filled! My boys, laughed with excitement. As each jar was filled and set aside, our hearts were filled with joy and thankfulness.

**“Fill this one, too, Mother,” said my oldest son. So I continued to pour, and pour, and pour until it, too, was filled. Another and another and another were filled. We filled them all. Jar after jar was filled. Pot after pot was filled. Bowl after bowl was filled. And still my little pot of oil was just as full as when we first started.**

### God’s glorious riches:

**Once all the containers were filled up, I hurried to Elisha to tell him what had happened. Elisha told my sons and me to sell the oil and pay our bills. You see oil was very valuable. People used it to burn in their lamps, cook in their food and use on their skin. It paid off all my debts. I was so thankful. My boys and I were so happy as our family would not be separated. God had provided more than we could ever imagine. More than ever, I trusted in God and gave thanks to him.**

### Our “super hero” fills every need:

**Now what about you? Do you think you will ever need to be rescued in such a way? Yes, some day you will need God’s help. Not necessarily by filling jars with oil, but God will meet your need. He has shown that he will meet the needs of anyone who calls on him.**

**You see, many years after I lived, God fulfilled his promise to send a Messiah to my people... and not only to my people but to all people. His name is Jesus! Jesus poured out his life for us when he went to the cross. There he paid the price for all sin—past, present and future—so that we could be forgiven and be made friends with God once again.**

**So, in Jesus’ name, you have the God’s power. He will meet all of your needs. Just as it says in the Bible verse, “*My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 4:19.)**

## **Application:**

**As you saw, Elisha was an ordinary guy who had extraordinary gifts through God’s power. Do you think that you have access to this kind of power, too? As a child of God, you do!**



## 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.*

Let each child who wants to share, talk about special ways God has met his/her needs or how they would like God to help them.

## 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:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- *option:* a headpiece or costume, picture, or any related prop to represent the three characters: Superman, Spiderman and Elisha

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- a cross

## *Offering:*

- a cross

## *Learning Game:*

### *Round One:*

- two tables
- plastic table coverings
- two cans of shaving cream
- *option:* two capes

### *Round Two:*

- two hair dryers
- two ping-pong balls
- two extension cords
- four highway cones

### *Round Three:*

- two cans of silly string
- two available trash bags
- two sets of eye goggles
- two small plastic bags
- two shower caps
- a plastic tarp or tablecloth

## *Bible Presentation:*

- *The Animated Stories of The Bible: Elisha*, produced by Nest Family Entertainment. Order from [www.nestfamily.com](http://www.nestfamily.com). Go to the link “Children’s Bible Stories” in the left margin. Type in “Elisha” in the search box and enter. Order as instructed.

### *Option:* Dramatic Storytelling

- biblical costume
- many jars, pots and bowls that would be suitable for oil

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